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REACH FOR THE SKY

GAVIN WOODFORD, OF WOODFORD ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIORS, TAKES US BEHIND THE SCENES OF THIS TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED PENTHOUSE IN DEVON



UNUSUALLY WE WERE contacted to be part of a limited competition of design practices to create plans for a new contemporary penthouse apartment. We have an outstanding portfolio of projects that we have worked on in Devon and Cornwall where we have showcased our skills in working with Listed and more traditional properties, and this project offered an opportunity to demonstrate our skills in designing a modern home.

We prepared a detailed concept design, and there was a considerable amount of client liaison to ensure that the information package of plans, details and materials selection was as complete as possible before work started on site.

Probably the biggest obstacle we had with this project was the time-frame for completing the work; this is perhaps best explained by the clients' review of our involvement in the project. "The deal was entirely dependent on Woodford Architecture and Interiors producing detailed design plans and specifications to very tight deadlines indeed, in the face of a somewhat sceptical contractor. There is no doubt whatsoever that had Gavin Woodford and his staff not worked seven days a week for several weeks we would not have been able to meet our contractual commitments. They are to be congratulated on a remarkable job well done."

On this project, the latest mod-cons were very much part of the clients' brief. We were tasked with designing a home that was not only outstanding, but one that was forward looking and technologically advanced. This home incorporates a complete home automation solution – this is where lighting, blinds, audio visual equipment, ventilation and security can all be controlled from handheld devices. There are pop up televisions where a television is hidden within a piece of custom made joinery, picture lift mechanisms where a television is unseen behind an artwork, and a drop down concealed projector system. In the bathrooms we have incorporated electrochromic glass: this is glass that at the push of a button will change from clear to opaque to provide privacy. James Bond would be proud to live here.

The open plan kitchen, living and dining spaces are all about creating a light contemporary space that takes advantage







of the views. A suspended fireplace divides the dining room from the lounge – this also serves as a cinema screen with movies and television projected onto the chimney wall. The dining area incorporates a stunning illuminated dining table that appears to float. Large glass sliding doors with minimal profile glazing connect the living spaces to the terrace and al fresco dining area and the outdoors beyond.

There are three bedrooms and each has been individually styled and are accessed through secret doors. Each of the guest bedrooms has its own generous shower rooms and bespoke joinery, which has been styled individually to suit each room. The master bedroom is a sanctuary with highly refined contemporary joinery, detailed with selected veneers, incorporating a dressing area, wardrobes and niches, to display some of our client's glassware collection.

A spa-like relaxation space is exactly the feel that we were looking to achieve with the master bathroom, somewhere at the end of a day where you can relax and unwind. We wanted to make the bath and vanity to appear to be floating, and the shower area has been designed to give the feel of standing under a cascading waterfall with a rain drench shower. Wellness and spa spaces are a feature of many of our projects where we consider wellbeing, along with relaxation.

The clients love and truly appreciate one off unique pieces of art and commissioned the fabulous feature light over the dining area by a glass artist. The lighting scheme performs various functions depending on the area where it is used; in the main living area we wanted the light fittings to be almost invisible while achieving dramatic lighting effects. In the entrance hall where we have created a dramatic gallery space, the lighting here is about showcasing our clients' personal collection of photographs, and in the master bedroom there is a delicate mix of mood and display lighting.

We work very hard on each of our projects to try and deliver exceptional homes. Each project has its own complexities and focuses and actually that is what makes working on them so interesting, dealing with and solving new challenges to leave our clients delighted.

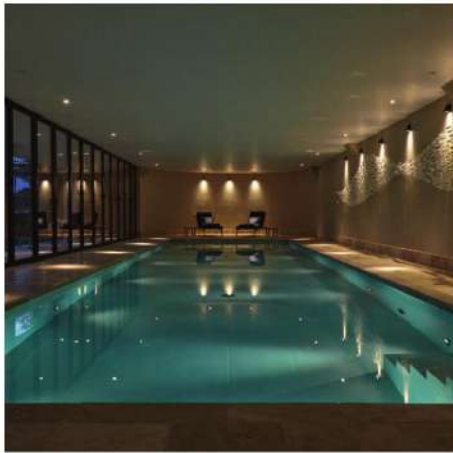
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ARCHITECTURE | INTERIOR DESIGN



RIBA 
Chartered Practice



AFFILIATE



We believe that architecture and interiors have the power and potential to enhance our wellbeing, the visceral experience is not to be underestimated and is something we consider throughout the design process.

We have established a reputation for highly refined design, understanding our clients needs and surpassing our clients expectations. We are proud to have built up a portfolio of some of the finest houses in the West Country.

