



# DOWN TO PARTY



*Gold isn't just for Christmas  
in this hedonistic London  
townhouse that pays homage  
to some of the fashion world's  
most glamorous designers*

**WORDS** CLARE SARTIN  
**PHOTOGRAPHY** KATE MARTIN

**Hallway** The Phillip Jeffries wallcovering bleeds to gold at the top, where it blends into the hand-applied gold-leaf ceiling. It's a colour scheme that was inspired by the *Bending Light* artwork by Michael Brown. The sideboard is a bespoke piece by French sculptor Erwan Boulloud; on top is a vintage 1970s sculpture picked up in Paris at the Marché aux Puces de Saint-Ouen ►



**L**ondon's Maida Vale, famously home to Abbey Road Studios, has a luxurious new bar and nightclub. There's no intimidating door staff, but you're still unlikely to make it inside. That's because this is the most exclusive hangout going, located two levels below ground in a private home that astounds at every turn.

It's a property masterminded by Trilbey Gordon, an interior designer who formerly worked as a writer for *Vogue* and who, with a knowingly deft and playful touch, loves to pull influences from the most glamorous excesses of the fashion world. Talk to Trilbey about this project and she'll namecheck Halston's apartment in New York, Yves Saint Laurent's spectacular homes and Coco Chanel's decadent Parisian pad. 'They wanted a showstopper of a house,' she says of her clients, a newly married couple looking for a home that exceeded expectations. Walk in and you are instantly dazzled. The entrance is 'a jewel box', complete with gold leaf on the ceiling and a bespoke sideboard that brings to mind the opulence of Gustav Klimt's *The Kiss* – the owners are prolific art collectors, so artistic influences and gallery-quality pieces abound here.

So expansive is this home (with four above-ground floors and two more subterranean ones) that rooms need to make a serious impact to stand out. That's why Trilbey has created memorable set pieces like the dining room, with its lacquered walls and ceiling that took six months to complete. 'I wanted it to look like you were underwater, in a stormy sea,' she says of the effect, which is emphasised by a bespoke mica chandelier, lacquered in the same hue, and a resin-topped table by the studio Based Upon, which looks like a starry night sky reflected in water when you gaze into it. Elsewhere, the sparkle is subdued but still very much present (there are delicate brushstrokes of gold in the plaster on the living-room walls and twinkling lighting throughout). It's when you head underground, though, that things get a little sexy.

Here, Trilbey has orchestrated a giant architectural intervention, transforming what was once a warren of spa-like rooms around a central lightwell into an open-plan party area and adjoining swimming pool with a giant oculus at its centre. Featuring inset lighting, the new window was inspired by the work of artist James Turrell and, in the evening, it creates a magnificent glow that washes across the Patagonia marble-topped bar below. Nearby is the alpaca-fleece-covered conversation pit that Trilbey admits is 'a bit James Bond'. 'Nowadays, everyone is looking at their phones, and I really wanted a place where people would actually be forced to chat,' she says. 'I just really hope nobody spills anything on it!'

She may be influenced by the trends of the season's runways, but for Trilbey, her projects need to have permanence and longevity. 'I want this home to look as current in 10 years' time as it does today,' she explains, noting how the appeal of interiors by her heroes, Halston and Saint Laurent, has endured. Luckily, she adds, 'opulence and glamour never go out of fashion'. [trilbeygordoninteriors.com](http://trilbeygordoninteriors.com)

**Entrance** Trilbey intended this to be somewhere the owners would want to hang out, instead of a simply liminal space where the winding staircase and internal lift meet. The moiré wallcovering is by Dedar and the Sputnik chandelier is a custom piece by Charles Burnand. The artwork above the fireplace is by Based Upon, while the sculptures either side of it are by Isabelle Thiltgès. A small seating area comprises of a vintage 'Camaleonda' chaise longue by Mario Bellini for B&B Italia and Maison Rapin brass 'Cloud' side tables on a vintage rug. The flooring is 'Versailles' parquet from Ark One and the curtains were made using a Jim Thompson silk ►

## THE ENTRANCE IS 'A JEWEL BOX', BRINGING TO MIND THE OPULENCE OF GUSTAV KLIMT'S *THE KISS*





**Living room** The owners wanted to keep their existing vintage 'DS-600' sofa by De Sede, so Trilbey reupholstered it in a sky-blue mohair-velvet fabric from Dedar, basing the colour scheme around this statement piece. The armchairs are mid-century designs by Guy Rogers and the brass coffee table is a bespoke piece called 'Fragmented Crack' by Based Upon, which can be pulled apart – Trilbey had the inside painted Yves Klein blue (her favourite colour and artist). An alpaca rug from The Rug Company adds texture and decadence, the curtains are made from 'Kubus' fabric from Pierre Frey, and the raw-plaster finish on the walls is flecked with streaks of gold leaf. A commissioned blue art piece by Based Upon hangs above the fireplace. The bar in the corner of the room (opposite) was pimped by Trilbey, who has turned it into a statement piece beside an artwork by Sophie Bouvier Auslander ➤







**ROOMS NEED TO  
MAKE AN IMPACT  
TO STAND OUT,  
WITH MEMORABLE  
SET PIECES LIKE  
THE DINING ROOM  
TAKING MONTHS  
TO COMPLETE**

**Dining room** 'Beetle' chairs by GamFratesi for Gubi surround a bespoke 'Twist' table by Based Upon, which seems to hold the mysteries of the night sky in its surface. The walls and ceiling here were coated in more than 30 layers of lacquer to create an astounding depth of colour and reflectiveness that becomes even more magical by candlelight (the candleholders are from The Invisible Collection). Trilbey collaborated with Charles Burnand to create the bespoke chandelier ►





**Conversation pit** The floor, bespoke curved seating and even the steps that lead down to it are coated in alpaca fleece. The walls and ceiling, meanwhile, are clad in patterned brass panelling by Based Upon, while the amazing chandelier is 'Fragile Future' by Studio Drift (for more about the creation of this piece, see our next issue). Above it, there's a circular painting intended to look like the centre of a tornado – 'very rock'n'roll', says Trilbey. Below is a coffee table by artist Sam Orlando Miller ►

**UNDERGROUND,  
THINGS GET  
A LITTLE MORE  
SEXY – WITH A  
CONVERSATION  
PIT THAT IS 'A BIT  
JAMES BOND'**







**Bar** Situated beneath a giant oculus, this bespoke bar is topped in Patagonia marble, while the shelving is backed with aged mirror to reflect the light. Trilbey commissioned Studio Arricale to create the bar stools, which reference a 1970s design she had seen, while the wall lights are vintage, sourced from a dealer on west London's Golborne Road

**Swimming pool** The surrounding walls are clad in wood that's been charred in the style of Japanese *shou sugi ban*, while the artistic installation by Based Upon above the water can come alive with movement and light ►



**Detail** This mid-century door, created for a home in Palm Springs during the 1970s, signals you're entering the more louche levels. The walls are clad in hammered metal

**Office** Inspired by the leopard-print paper and painted butterflies on the walls of Italian design trailblazer Carlo Mollino's house in Turin, Trilbey chose animal-print Pierre Frey wallpaper to pair with a Damien Hirst artwork. The office chair already belonged to the client but was reupholstered in a matching Pierre Frey fabric. The desk is topped with a vintage lamp, and a 'Love Handles' vase by Anissa Kermiche sits on the shelf opposite. The vintage chandelier was an eBay find

**Bedroom** Leopard print reappears on the bedding and curtains, which were created using Pierre Frey's 'Gloria' fabric. The navy hemp wallpaper is by Phillip Jeffries. Placed at the foot of the bed, a bespoke sofa designed by Trilbey has been upholstered in bouclé wool from Pierre Frey. The rug is a custom design by Atelier Février and the light is a vintage piece **See Stockists page for details ED**



**FROM HALSTON  
TO CHANEL, THIS  
HOME PULLS  
INFLUENCES  
FROM THE MOST  
GLAMOROUS  
EXCESSES OF THE  
FASHION WORLD**

