

HOMES | HOME TOURS

## Home Tour: A Calming Apartment in London With a Peaceful White Living Room

By Hong Xinying | May 04, 2021



**COVER** A gold-leaf side table by Clotilde Ancarani adds a glamorous touch to the monochromatic living room

**This duplex apartment in London features an ethereal interior that soothes the spirit and makes worries drift away**

“My intention was for the entire home to feel like a cloud when you step into it,” says interior designer Rebecca James and the founder of her eponymous studio.

Indeed, looking at the [4,000sqft duplex apartment](#) in its present state, it’s hard to imagine that this enchanting abode was once a dark and cluttered office. Left untouched for over two decades, it has a [narrow, elongated layout](#), with a pitched roof vaguely reminiscent of Parisian-style [Haussmann apartments](#). Instead of seeing these features as design limitations, the studio cleverly used these French cadences as a source of inspiration.

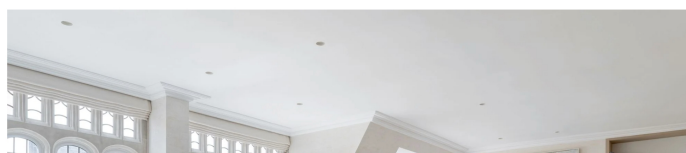
*See also: [London is the Most Popular City to Purchase Ultra-Luxurious Residential Property: Survey](#)*

### Our Newsletter

Sign up so you don’t miss out on exceptional stories from across Asia



By signing up, you agree to our [terms](#) and [privacy policy](#)





**ABOVE** Beige, cream and off-white tones contribute to the lofty look of the living room

“Our vision was to create a contemporary Parisian-style apartment with reined-back luxury, layered with textures all working together in harmony,” says James. “Our clients tasked us with designing a family apartment with a contemporary and timeless feel. They wanted a home that was pretty and feminine with soft colours, and to fit in as many beds as possible for their grandchildren.”

*See also: [Home Tour: A Parisian Apartment That Elegantly Combines Vintage Finds With Modern Design](#)*



**ABOVE** A gold-leaf side table by Clotilde Ancarani adds a glamorous touch to the monochromatic living room

Being located on the fourth storey, the apartment also presented many practical challenges. Most of the furniture and heavy items such as the marble slabs had to be manually carried up the narrow stairwell, as they could not fit into the petite elevator. The windows on the front-facing facade were also too small for the team to crane-lift furniture through them.



**ABOVE** An abstract work by UK artist J R Swaby livens



**ABOVE** Hints of soft green and pink lend a welcoming

up a corner of the living room

air to this cosy nook

“The project was a bit of a logistical nightmare,” admits the designer. “Each piece we proposed had to be carefully considered before ordering as it risked not making it up the stairs (if it was too large).”

Gone are the heavy furniture and draperies of the old interior—the team replaced these with furnishings in creamy shades and pastel tones. The ethereal effect is most apparent in the monochromatic living room, which features bespoke sofas and a sectional upholstered in off-white fabric. Crafted from Cordova shell limestone and white oiled oak, the round Concho coffee table by Yucca Stuff and a dappled rug from Tai Ping ground the look of the living area.

See also: [Zen Zone: How to Make Your Living Room Feel More Relaxing](#)



**ABOVE** British interior designer Rebecca James

The neutral palette continues further into the home, with each area differentiated by its accent colours. In the formal dining room, grey tones on the curtains and Ruby dining chairs by Fiona McDonald echo the colour scheme of the cloud wallpaper from Zoffany.

This area is among the designer’s favourite rooms in the apartment. “I love the wallpaper as it gives the room a cloud-like appearance,” says James. “The Hans-Agne Jakobsson chandeliers were sourced quite late (in the renovation process), but they really elevated the overall vibe of the room.”



**ABOVE** The colour scheme of the dining area references the grey tones of the cloud wallpaper from Zoffany



**ABOVE** A herringbone-patterned backsplash and Grigio Tunisia marble flooring contribute to the layered look of the kitchen’s neutral scheme

The kitchen sports an earthy scheme with marble flooring, peppered with a hint of green on the accent cushions and upholstered banquette seating. Woven textures of the wall-hung Binga baskets from Zimbabwe and Cane-Line chairs contribute to the relaxed look of the secondary dining area, which serves as a cosy nook for breakfast.

Overhead, a Stilux vintage lighting piece and a Fontana Arte light by Max Ingrand float above the West Elm dining table and bespoke kitchen island.

See also: [10 Inspiring Display Shelf Ideas for a Stylish and Organised Kitchen](#)



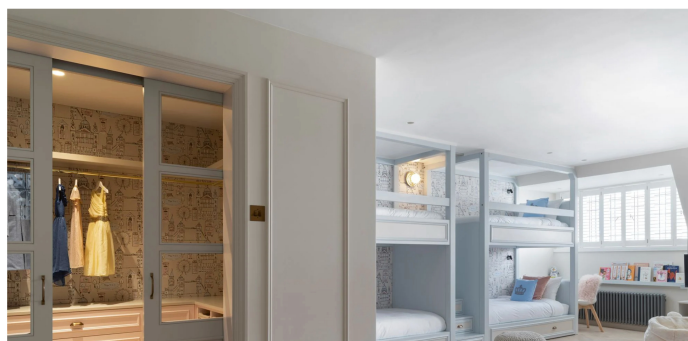
**ABOVE** The master wardrobe features custom cabinetry with a dreamy pattern inspired by cloudy skies

The master bedroom on the top floor similarly employs a light palette, with the ceiling and walls all painted in dove white, accentuated with pale pink dressers and a headboard from Elizabeth Eakins in a charming floral pattern. A dressing table and furry stool from Felice James, the designer's namesake brand, soften the angular proportions of the room.



**ABOVE** The master suite is furnished with bespoke nightstands, a white light fixture from The Lamp Workshop and an armchair by Gustav Bengtsson, designed in the forties

To welcome the couple's troop of visiting grandchildren, the team created custom bunk beds for the little ones, making it a safe haven and venue for slumber parties. Bespoke wallpaper featuring the landmarks of London brings a playful touch to the space.





**ABOVE** The grandchildren's shared bedroom features bespoke wallpaper that depicts landmarks in London

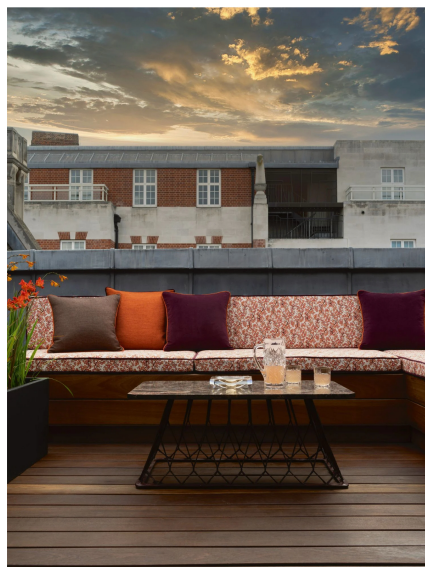
In contrast to the understated palette in the rest of the home, the guest bedroom and adjoining balcony are dressed in rich sunset hues, presenting a more decadent look. "Fabric and textures play a pivotal role in my designs, and they are usually my starting point (in any project)," shares James.

See also: [House Tour: A Strata Bungalow With Tropical Accents And Colourful Spaces](#)



**ABOVE** The guest bedroom features wallpaper from Elitis, a headboard upholstered in Lizzo velvet fabric and pillows in various fabrics by Jab and De Le Cuona

Classically trained as a ballet dancer, James had previously pursued a career as a fashion model. Yet interior design has always been her calling—it took a much-praised renovation of her personal home to spur James into finally starting her namesake firm in 2006. Her team has since crafted a bevy of beautiful abodes in London and beyond, as well as a resort on the Amalfi Coast in Italy.



**ABOVE** This balcony echoes the rich hues of the adjoining guest bedroom with colourful accent cushions and the botanical-patterned upholstery of the bespoke bench

"I had always planned to be an interior designer from an early age, but the timing had

to be right," she says. "I actually did an interior design degree while working in fashion, so the career switch was always on the cards."

Although the challenges of this project were numerous, the end result appears almost effortless; a testament to the firm's design savvy. The renovation was completed in thirteen months. "My clients are ecstatic about their new home, and I believe we surpassed their expectations," says the designer with pride.



**ABOVE** Floral cushions add a colourful touch to this outdoor area

*This story was first published in the April issue of [Tatler Homes Singapore](#); the issue is available with our compliments on [Magzter](#) until 31 May 2021.*

## Credits

*Photography* Rich Gooding

## Topics

interior design

home decor

london

apartment

apartment design

HOMES | HOME TOURS

# Home tour: A Johor family home's bold take on modern living

By Rohan Yung | Jan 15, 2025





**COVER** Low-slung sofas in plush upholstery create an inviting conversation pit beneath the sweeping curved ceiling

NEW +

**In a rush?**

Read the AI summary

TRY NOW

**Supernormal Design Studio worked around structural constraints by incorporating unconventional design elements for this Johor family home**

**J**ohor-based [Supernormal Design Studio](#) has been steadily making a name for itself on Malaysia's design scene. From corporate offices to private residences, the studio has reliably brought a sense of [quirky originality](#) to the task of formulating innovative

VIEW FULL ARTICLE

## Our Newsletter

Sign up so you don't miss out on exceptional stories from across Asia

By signing up, you agree to our [terms](#) and [privacy policy](#)

SIGN UP NOW

HOMES | HOME TOURS

# Home tour: A luxurious Burj Khalifa apartment with panoramic views of the Dubai skyline

By Celine Dabao | Jan 15, 2025

