

# HOMES & GARDENS

**HOUSES THAT CELEBRATE THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING**

**INFLUENTIAL GARDENERS SHARE THEIR SECRETS FOR SUCCESS**

**MORE IS MORE INNOVATIVE GLASS EXTENSIONS**

## OUTSIDE & IN

H&G MAY 2020

DEFINING STYLE FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS

Nº 11 VOL 101



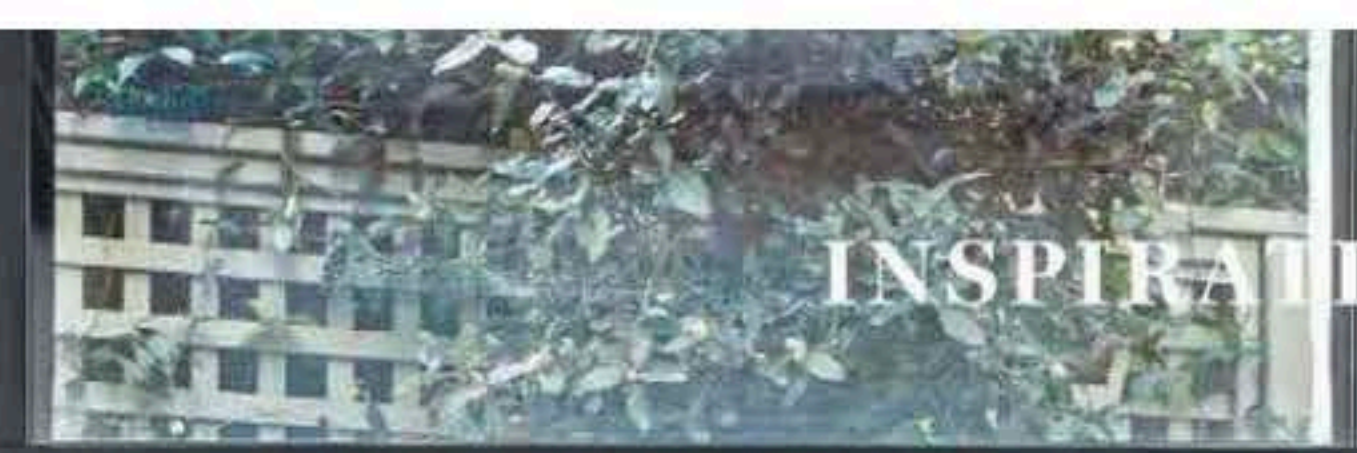
# REFINED LINES

Gemma Gordon-Duff's redesign of this Chelsea townhouse dovetails its Georgian elegance with cool, contemporary shapes

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WORDS JO LEEVERS PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID BUTLER





**GARDEN**  
A meticulous balance  
of hard and soft shapes,  
in both furniture and  
planting, creates a  
beautiful and intimate  
outdoor space.  
**Garden design**, Stefano  
Marinaz Landscape  
Architecture. **Garden  
furniture**, Ethimo



**SITTING ROOM**

With sumptuous velvet in soft pinks and greens and flashes of brass in striking geometric forms, this scheme exudes art deco glamour.

Cubist chandelier, Kelly Wearstler at Circa Lighting. Bespoke sofas and table, Gordon-Duff & Linton. Table lamps, Bella Figura. Rug, The Rug Company





**INSIDER INSIGHT**

Gemma Gordon-Duff shares her style vision

**SECRET ADDRESS** Novocastrian does wonderful metal furniture designs and makes pretty much anything we want.

**INSPIRATION SOURCES** Travel, gazing at floor plans, talking to clients and exchanging ideas with other designers. Inspiration also strikes when I'm in the shower!

**FAVOURITE BUILDING** I'm a member at the V&A – a beautiful building with so much inspiration in every gallery.

**WHAT'S ON YOUR COFFEE TABLE** Art and design books, Diptyque candles, a Turkish decorative bowl, potted plants and the remote controls – all three of them.

**YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS** Eclectic, tailored and practical.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY** This too shall pass... especially on difficult days.







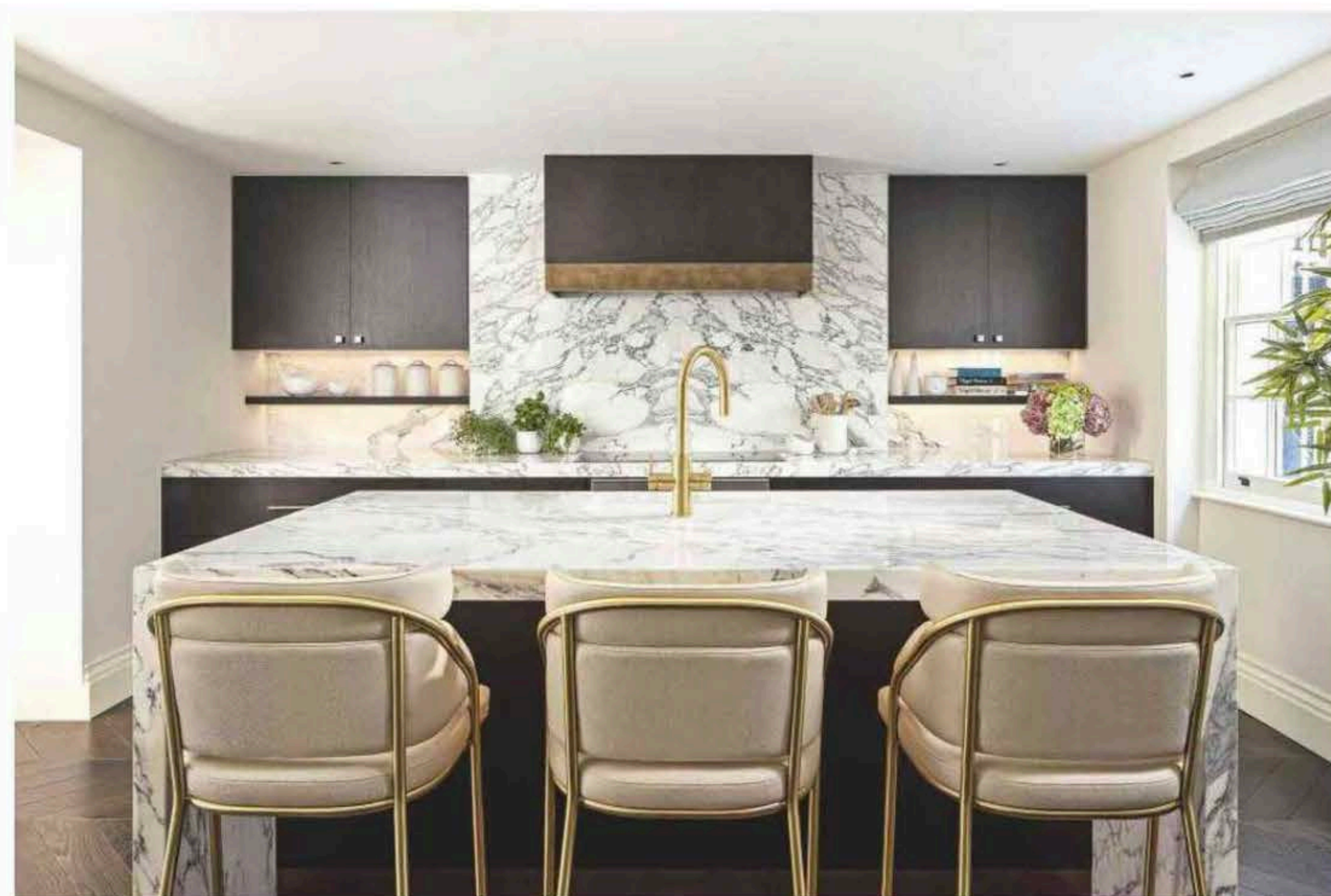
#### STUDY

Furniture with a slimline profile and bespoke joinery make the most of an unusual corner space. Delphine **desk**, Rider dining **chair**, Charade slipper **chair**, all Jonathan Adler. Side **table**, Gallotti&Radice

#### KITCHEN

The trend for deep-veined marble moves here from the bathroom, with a dramatic island and splashback. Bespoke **kitchen**, Gordon-Duff & Linton. Bar **stools**, Hyde House. Mixer **tap**, Zip





**A**s she redesigned the interiors of this Chelsea home, the fine lines of its Georgian architecture were never far from Gemma Gordon-Duff's mind. 'The form and proportion of the house, the light and period detailing are the natural stars of the show,' she says. But Gemma, who is managing director of Gordon-Duff & Linton, has built on that heritage to take this home into the 21st century.

With lighting that cuts a dash, art-deco motifs and herringbone flooring, Gemma's schemes are all about creating visual interest with the 'harder' elements of design. 'By this I mean we played with the intersection of shapes and geometry in the joinery, lighting and statement rugs, rather than adding pattern via fabrics and wallpapers,' she says.

The owners were carrying out a full refurbishment of the Grade II-listed property, including a top-floor extension and the addition of a garden room at the

back, which was managed by Jo Cowen Architects. Of course, any changes to its fabric had to minimise heritage conflicts and several traditional features were even reinstated during the work.

Gemma's sensitive approach shines through most notably in the living and dining rooms, where she deftly combines decorative traditions. Twin dazzling cubist chandeliers by Kelly Wearstler set the tone in the double-aspect space, announcing that while tradition is at the heart of this home, its owners aren't afraid to have fun with more modern forms. Similarly, Porta Romana wall lights introduce art-deco shapes (with a hint of 1970s abstraction) and The Rug Company's Suzanne Sharp's designs reiterate the graphic theme. An antique dining table and flowing sofa shapes act as a counterbalance in the scheme.

With its scalloped outlines and deep fringing, the seating epitomises deco decadence, reinforced by the velvet upholstery in powdery pink and green. 'Film →





**MASTER BEDROOM**  
Brass details continue here, accentuating this serene retreat bathed in shades of muted green. Bespoke chandelier, Phillips & Wood. Wall light, Porta Romana. Bespoke chest of drawers, Gordon-Duff & Linton

star glamour and quiet opulence were definitely some of our watchwords for this home,' Gemma says.

Soft versions of green, pink and blue – the clients' favourite colours – formed the basis of the palette, which has been used to create rooms that are, by turn, serene then more uptempo. 'These versatile shades were a joy to work with and show the clients' playful side,' says Gemma. 'I love that we didn't go for grey, beige or even the ubiquitous greige,' she says.

The kitchen, which was reinstated in the lower ground floor, has a simple yet sophisticated style with an emphasis on luxe textures, from marble to creamy soft leather on the bar stools. The brass trim on the cabinets links with living and sleeping spaces above, where chandeliers, chair legs and decorative finishes on storage have been fashioned from this metal.

Much of the furniture was made bespoke, enabling Gemma to subtly repeat motifs and tailor shapes and proportions to the spaces. She also integrated

antiques into the schemes. 'I love it when a client has some well-loved works of art and antique furniture to incorporate, as it gives their home a unique personality. I balance these with more contemporary pieces to add interest,' she says. For example, the brass frames of an armchair and footstool in the garden room have been forged to resemble slender lengths of bamboo, giving the design a refined 1920s feel. The arms of a bespoke brass chandelier in the master bedroom have a similar bamboo-like look.

Gemma hopes that these pieces, which have been crafted in a traditional way and reference the best of design from previous eras, 'will become the antiques of the future'. By creating spaces where shapes dovetail with the classic lines of Georgian architecture, Gemma has honoured this house's past while considering the continuum of design ideas into the future. 📸

■ Gordon-Duff & Linton, [gordondufflinton.com](http://gordondufflinton.com)