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SINGING THE SAME TUNE
 Amy Macdonald worked closely with a designer on her Glasgow home

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THE GLASS CEILING

A striking extension transformed this Georgian townhouse Page 16 »

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Outside space: One of the three planted roof terraces

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE

The unremarkable façade of this London home conceals a stunning interior, says **Oliver Stallwood**

STAND outside this handsome Georgian property and even by Clerkenwell prices, it's hard to see why it carries an £8million price tag. But step inside and you can see where the name Infinity House comes from – it seems to go on for ever. The five-storey, six-bed Georgian townhouse was built in 1716 in what is now the hub of London's design district. It comes as no surprise to discover that it is owned by two internationally acclaimed artists. Before extensive renovations began in 2012, the entire garden was a 20th-century industrial workshop. This has since been demolished, with a three-storey extension now standing in its

place and a basement dug, along with a sub-basement for a wine cellar. The rest of the house was also extensively renovated. It was, thanks to limited access at the rear, 'very much like building a ship in a bottle', according to David Ellis of Spaced Out Architects (spacedout.co.uk), which carried out the work. 'We could only access the site through the house or via a rear passageway, through a standard-sized door,' he says. 'The team was forced to use a mini piling rig for the foundations, as it was the only equipment that would squeeze through the door.' Of course, there are some things that just won't fit through a doorway.

'We had to close the road twice to crane materials in, such as steel and glass. This was a nail-biting experience, as large weights were suspended above the Grade II-listed building, but everything went to plan.' The dramatic transformation is completely masked from the street; visitors can see the new spaces only once they've stepped through the front door. The classic section of the Georgian townhouse has been seamlessly linked, vertically and horizontally, to new spaces. The connection has been completed sensitively, with minimal glass detailing, the glass roof soaring four metres above the floor. The kitchen features a walk-on glass floor, with the swimming pool below. The new living space is on the first floor and the extension is clad in black glass, providing a reflection of the

Georgian architecture visible from the rear. The swimming pool has a built-in Jacuzzi with swim jets and sits alongside a sauna and spa, as well as a wine cellar and a large Boffi kitchen, all controlled with a Crestron home-automation system. The massive 53ft kitchen/dining room has a glass-panel ceiling that can be frosted with the touch of a button via your smartphone. The panels of glass are punctuated by bespoke lighting expert Ecolod's Deco-Line striplight range, made up of ultra-slim veins of LEDs, subtly enhancing the architectural details of the new extension. Ecolod's elegant LEDy table-light pendants, suspended above the kitchen counter, also reflect the linear design that underpins the interiors, giving the illusion that delicate streaks of light

uppermost providing views of St Paul's Cathedral and The Shard.' Although natural light penetrates all levels through extensive roof and floor glazing – even as far as the subterranean swimming pool and spa – great attention has been paid to the internal lighting. The panels of glass are punctuated by bespoke lighting expert Ecolod's Deco-Line striplight range, made up of ultra-slim veins of LEDs, subtly enhancing the architectural details of the new extension. Ecolod's elegant LEDy table-light pendants, suspended above the kitchen counter, also reflect the linear design that underpins the interiors, giving the illusion that delicate streaks of light



Unusual: LEDs are used to highlight the cantilevered oak staircase



Stylish: The spacious and light living space is on the first floor



Sweet dreams: One of the six lovely bedrooms in the property



PHOTOS: JOSH PULMAN



Innovative: The glass floor in the courtyard section of the kitchen...



... which forms the roof of the swimming pool, sauna and spa below

WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY



Plush: The swimming pool has a built-in Jacuzzi

- Six bedrooms and three reception rooms
- An alarm system is installed throughout the property, including CCTV cameras
- Fully sound-proofed and air-conditioned cinema room with projector screen and surround sound system
- Hidden wine cellar that retains an ambient consistent temperature throughout the year
- Excavated basement that has a swimming pool with a skylight, which also acts as a glass floor in the courtyard section of the kitchen. Pool also has a Jacuzzi function
- Three roof terraces, one with spectacular views of St Paul's, The Shard and the roof tops of Clerkenwell



Facade: The exterior belies the extensive space inside

Modern: The 53ft kitchen/dining room has a glass-panelled ceiling that can be frosted

are hovering mid air. Miniature uplighters in the floor ensure that the heritage of Infinity House isn't forgotten, throwing splashes of light on to the walls and drawing attention to the exposed sandstone brickwork of the original building, while LEDs are used to pick out the treads on the cantilevered oak staircase. 'The lighting works to accentuate the shape of the property,' explains James Cadisch of Ecolod. 'The lighting is

layered, which means that different lights in the same space are controlled separately. This allows the user to dim some lights, while others remain bright. The layering means that the atmosphere of the space can be altered according to requirements and is reflective of the resident's desired mood.' Each of the linear lights had to be cut according to the intricate shapes of the extension, a process that alone took a week to complete.

Ultimately, what started as a blank canvas is now pure theatre. Everything from roof garden to swimming pool fits into the 5,570sq ft space like a giant jigsaw puzzle, utilising every last square inch. It may be too stark for some, but for those who want to just let the architecture do the talking, this house couldn't speak more clearly. **Infinity House is on the market for £7,999,950 at hamptons.co.uk**

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