

HIGHGATE

BY DOROTHEE JUNKIN WWW.DJDS.US

DOROTHEE JUNKIN IS THE CREATIVE FORCE OF DJDS, CREATING UNIQUE DESIGNS WITH HER KEEN EYE AND INTUITIVE SENSE OF STYLE. DOROTHEE'S THOROUGH TRAINING AND DIVERSE EXPERIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN ENABLES HER TO SEE SPACE IN ITS ENTITY AND THE CONTEXT OF ITS SURROUNDINGS. SPECIALIZING IN INTERIOR DESIGN ALLOWS HER TO DO WHAT SHE IS MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT AND TO CREATE UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS THAT UTILIZE ALL OF HER SKILLS AND TALENTS.



In North London, England's fashionable residential area of Highgate, a private client of Dorothee Junkin of DJDS had purchased a substantial detached 1920's family home. The residence with its extensive grounds overlooks the famous Highgate Ponds, offering spectacular far reaching views over the 800 acres of Hampstead Heath. The spacious seven-bedroom property is very much a traditional country house located in close distance to Central London.

While embracing the character and traditional elements as well as a certain quirky character of the house, the client's aim was to turn the property into a contemporary family home to which his family could retreat at the end of the day from their fast paced and international lifestyles.

Dorothee Junkin was brought in to devise an interior scheme, as well as adding numerous changes and extensions to the existing building. At this point the client had already moved into the property with just a few furniture pieces and was relying on the designer to fully furnish and accessorize the home in close collaboration with his wife. After outlining a general design direction and priority of rooms to be looked at first, the actual design work began. Careful consideration of the steps in the design process were necessary to ensure that the traditional elements such as the beautiful dark wood paneling, feature fireplaces and decorative plaster ornaments would become a harmonious backdrop for the eclectic mix of contemporary and vintage furniture. The work schedule of the contractor and all other suppliers had to be carefully arranged around the client's travel and presence at the property to inconvenience the life of the family as little as possible. Parallel to the interior design process, a fully coordinated system of the latest audio and visual technologies were installed in a thoughtfully concealed way to offer all of the amenities of a contemporary luxury home without attracting unwanted attention in the carefully balanced interiors.

Highgate was particularly interesting and at the same time sometimes challenging project for Dorothee. It was a wonderful process to work hand in hand with the client to furnish the home, while at the same time construction and refurbishments had to happen in short time windows during the client's travels. The moment a room was fully completed and ready for the daily use of the family were particularly rewarding, as the client's livable home expanded month by month and it was wonderful to share the excitement along the way.

The kitchen

is another variation of a floral theme, inspired by contemporary English country kitchens as well as Scandinavian patterns in reference to the client's heritage. With large windows and panoramic views onto the terrace and into the garden, this room is the cheerful centre of the house.





The living room, clad with intricately woven legacy wall covering, was a space the lady of the house was particularly interested in, and for which she was envisioning a floral theme. Dorothee advised on a layered floral design in subtle hues picking up on the cool colour tones of the wallpaper to add detail while at the same time avoiding to overwhelm the space with pattern.



The rather traditionally panelled library

was one of the first rooms to be looked at. It was furnished with a combination of contemporary pieces like the oversized bespoke lounge sofa, eco wood lounge chairs, a designer Persian silk and wool rug, and vintage and antique African collectibles. With the clients being passionate readers and book collectors, this room offers a calm, balanced and welcoming space to read and gather as a family or with friends in an informal setting.



For the master bedroom and bathroom,

both overlooking the lush green woodlands of the Heath and gardens of the property, shades of green became the leitmotiv of the interior concept. The client had asked for a calm and uncluttered design of the master bedroom and thus the décor reflects a rather understated elegance, paying close attention to the soft furnishings in silk and fur to soften the overall feel of the room.