



TRADITIONAL & CONTEMPORARY

A traditional library has been decorated with a combination of contemporary and vintage pieces, textures in muted shades, and wooden tones, creating a calm, balanced and welcoming atmosphere where old meets new.

In the Highgate Ponds and Hampstead Heath area of London, a substantial detached 1920s family home occupies extensive grounds with spectacular far reaching views over the woodland and 791 acres of open heathland.

The spacious seven-bedroom property is very much a traditional country house located in north London. While embracing the character and traditional elements as well as a certain quirkiness of the house, the client was keen to turn the property into a contemporary family home. Architecta lead designer and director Dorothee Junkin was brought in to devise an interior scheme as well as numerous extensions of the existing building.

Careful consideration of the steps in the design process was necessary to ensure that the traditional elements such as dark wooden panelling, feature fireplaces, and ornaments would become a harmonious backdrop for an eclectic mix of contemporary and vintage furniture. The library, a fully panelled room with shelving

covering the walls all around, is where the family love to read, and often congregate here in an informal setting, entertaining guests and friends.

To off-set the dark and heavy woodwork, a lighter zone was introduced in the centre of the room and an alcove in darker shades would offer a cosy corner to retreat to in front of the fireplace. A large lounge sofa is a contemporary approach to the classic Chesterfield and was custom designed by Dorothee Junkin, who worked closely with the upholsterer on every detail to ensure the expensive piece would be a success. Two large seats of solid cedar wood, which emit a delicate woody aroma, and an understated cast iron table, complete the central seating arrangement.

To soften the space, a contemporary Persian silk and wool rug, sheepskins and subtle wool and linen cushions are placed strategically to create a warm and comfortable atmosphere. For the fireplace alcove, the idea of a set of traditional leather chairs



was disregarded in favour of a pair of bold and expressive custom-made hide-covered chairs. Various side tables, like the petrified wood trunks, an antique Asian stool and a little tripod tray table, can be moved around and placed wherever needed.

The lighting consists of an eclectic mix of a contemporary glass and bronze chandelier, a corrugated cardboard floor lamp, shelving lighting as well as hidden accent lighting in the fireplace alcove that allows for various mood settings via a Lutron lighting system. Accessories, including an Indonesian offering tray, African money keys and spears, an old Spanish trunk and an antique ship storm lantern, add individual accents to the room.

Avoiding traditional furniture was a bold move, but the courage was rewarded by a stunning room set, which creates a welcoming atmosphere due to the subtle variation of earthy and wooden tones and a balanced composition of traditional and contemporary elements.

MEET THE DESIGNER

Dorothee Junkin - Founder and director, Architecta Ltd

Having completed her preliminary Architectural degree in Germany, Dorothee gained her first professional experience on commercial projects in New York.

In 2004 she continued her studies in Switzerland and finished in 2006 with a Master's degree. Shortly after, she joined acclaimed international architects Foster + Partners in London to work on a five-star hotel of the Abu Dhabi World Trade Centre and on Munich's Lenbachhaus Museum.

Since 2009, when Dorothee formed her own design company, she has worked on a number of high end private residential projects. Her aim is to create unique environments based on diverse narrative concepts and the client's individual needs and aspirations – spaces where every detail matters as a part of the overall composition of materials and light, and to give each and every space its deserved individuality.

Architecta Ltd

www.architecta-interiors.com

* CONTACTS

Linen cushions

Price from £160. www.delecuona.co.uk

Tahiti swivel armchair

Limited edition, carved in one piece from solid cedar wood and hand finished. Price from £5,925. www.riva1920.it

Chandelier

Arctic Pear chandelier by Ochre, available in standard diameters of 21cm, 45cm, 60cm, 90cm and 120cm with patinated bronze or nickel frame. Price from £1,400. www.ochre.net

* GET THE LOOK

Card lamp

Corrugated cardboard has been used to make these lamps, designed by Giles Miller. www.farmdesigns.co.uk



Cowhide rugs

Cowhide rugs add texture and a bold pattern to a room, continuing the earthy colour palette. www.johnlewis.com

Chesterfield style

The elegant Embassy sofa from designer Giovanni Pesce has embedded Swarovski crystals. Price £3,275. www.beautifulmodernthing.com

