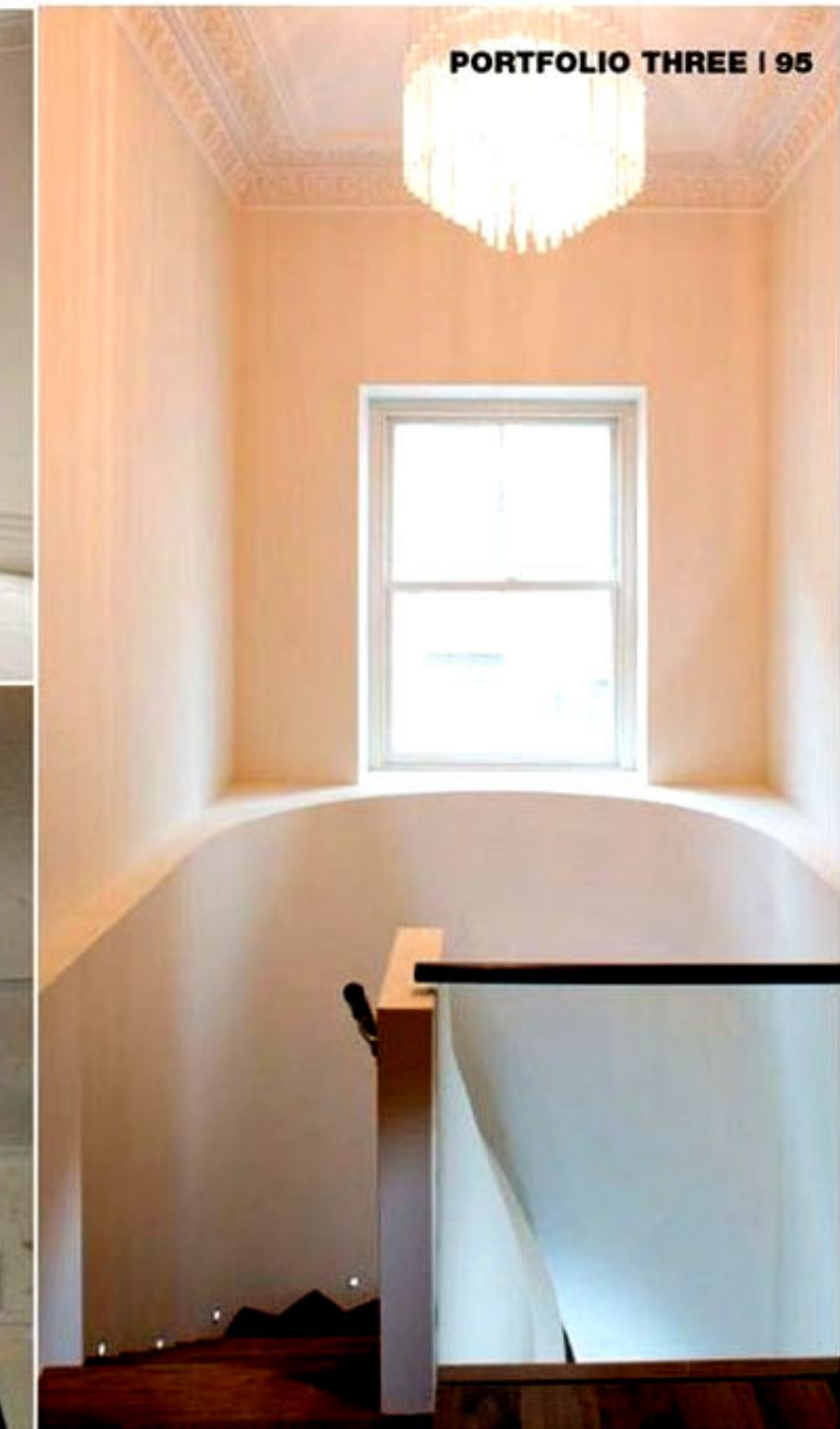


This three-bedroom apartment atop a South Kensington townhouse has a harmonious interior that blends subtle period styling with luxurious contemporary fittings

Words REBECCA HOH Photography RICHARD WAITE

# SUBTLE SOPHISTICATION



**GILT TRIP**  
The convex sunburst mirror in the living room is a replica of an art-deco classic. The striped upholstery fabric on the sofa is by Romo

**SMOOTH OPERATOR**  
The walnut-and-glass staircase has a smooth contemporary finish. The bedroom cabinetry was custom made in walnut by Proline

**TAKE A SEAT**  
Seating in the sleek Pedini kitchen is provided by bar stools from Dwell

**SPLASH OUT**  
Crushed-glass mosaic Bisazza tiles sparkle in the master bathroom

From the outset, period and listed building specialist Northbeach imagined its Queen's Gate Place development in South Kensington would attract two distinct types of buyer. 'The first was an investor looking for a prime freehold investment building, finished to a very high standard, which would result in a solid rental income and long-term capital growth,' says Adam Blaskey, founder of Northbeach. The second would be an individual wanting a second home, either for family use (possibly for children studying in London) or as a base for when working in the UK.

Major renovation was required to turn the five-floor, 1880s townhouse into five luxury apartments. The interior of the building was demolished, leaving just the four exterior walls, and the roof was removed to add an additional floor. Apartment Number Five, the three-bedroom penthouse occupying the top two floors, has been given a very subtle art-deco interior that also contains a few contemporary twists to catch the eye of the prospective buyer.

Much of the apartment has engineered black American walnut flooring and, in the living room, one entire wall is clad with glass panels. These, from Brompton Glass, have a distressed antique mirrored finish and bevelled edges to create a 1920s feel.

The master bathroom, however, has a more contemporary look, with Bisazza tiles (Grace Mix on the walls and Codex Ghiacco on the floor), a freestanding bath by Philippe Starck and taps by Hans Grohe. More design names are checked in the kitchen, where the team worked with Pedini to create a slick scheme including an island unit with a stone-granite composite worksurface.

The bedrooms have a lighter colour palette with all ceilings, walls and joinery painted in Stone from Paint and Paper Library. One of the apartment's most contemporary features is the bespoke walnut and glass staircase, with risers and handrail by Essex Woodcraft and a steel structure by architectural metal worker Weldwide. Its slick good looks harmonise with the walls of the stairwell, which have been smoothed and curved for a contemporary look.

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 » **Dwell** [www.dwell.co.uk](http://www.dwell.co.uk) » **Essex Woodcraft** [www.essexwoodcraft.co.uk](http://www.essexwoodcraft.co.uk) » **Northbeach**  
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 » **Proline** [www.prolineinteriors.co.uk](http://www.prolineinteriors.co.uk) » **Romo** [www.romo.com](http://www.romo.com) » **Weldwide** [www.weldwide.com](http://www.weldwide.com)