

# THE OTHER HOUSE

South Kensington

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Tearing up the rulebook with an entirely new way of staying,  
'It's your other house for as long as you're in town' ...

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Hotel service, club facilities and apartment-style living – think pied-à-terre meets private club.

This July, in London, The Other House opened the first of its new Residents' Clubs, The Other House South Kensington. This pioneering concept provides all residents with apartment-style living, club facilities and hotel services on tap.

The concept, shaped through a residential lens rather than a conventional hotel approach, offers something completely unique for those wanting to live like a local, to feel it is their 'other house', whatever the length of stay – be it a day, month or year.

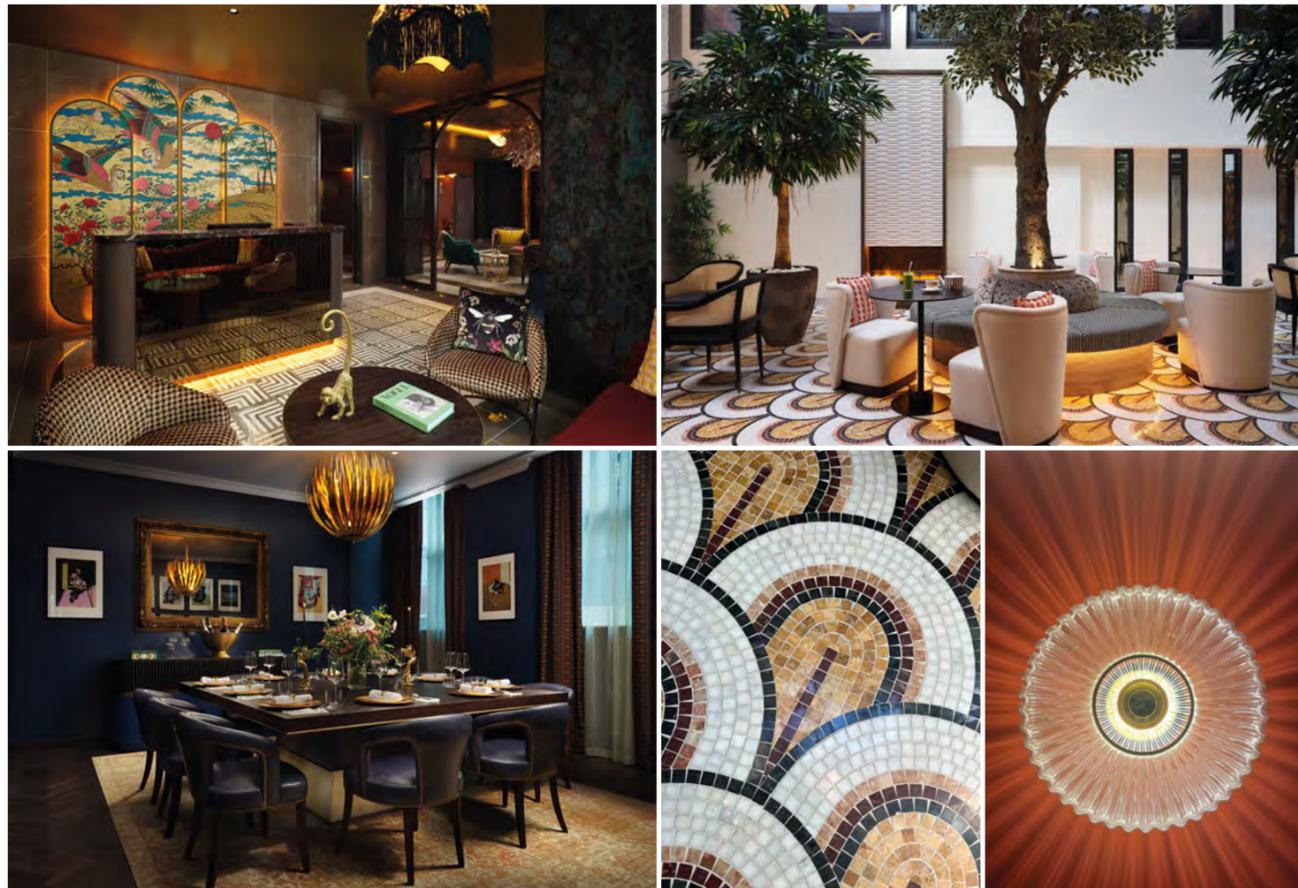
Located on leafy Harrington Gardens, South Kensington, behind the impressive facade of

11 grand Victorian townhouses, the interior has been completely renovated and reconfigured. It now houses over 200 Club Flats, private meeting and dining rooms and event spaces. Its Private Club for residents includes two bars, a screening room and extensive wellness and wellbeing spaces – named The Other Space – including a vitality pool, state-of-the-art gym and a meditation hub. For a more local vibe, there is an all-day street café (The Other Kitchen), and a signature cocktail bar (The Owl and Monkey).

Naomi Heaton, co-owner and CEO at The Other House, who has helped mastermind the project and brings extensive property restoration and rental know-how from London Central Portfolio (LCP), a leading real estate

investment advisory, which she founded over 30 years ago, comments: "Working with heritage architecture brings its challenges and there have been unexpected discoveries as well as some delightful surprises – in many cases not uncovered until the strip-out process in the early stages. Restoring historic buildings is incredibly rewarding and is what will make our Residents' Clubs individual, unique and embedded with history. Given my background, we are acquiring assets in the very heart of central London that are generally in need of refurbishment and reorganisation. This enables us to make our vision a reality while minimising environmental impact and breathing new life into these dilapidated buildings."

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— CHELSOM —

EST. 1947



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### Design

Marie Soliman, of interior design studio Bergman Interiors, worked in partnership with CEO Naomi Heaton on the design concept for this residential-style property. The inspiration for the interiors was derived from the local culture of South Kensington – a unique area brimming with art, design and tradition. The spirit of whimsy and English eccentricity was the starting point for the design – guided by beguiling gardens, interesting architecture, the language of arches and the nearby Gloucester Road tube station. This narrative is echoed throughout the entire building, connecting spaces leading residents from one experience to the next. The result? A voyage of discovery, a world that is fantastical and flamboyant, but also relaxing and comforting in equal measure, and all brought to life by the very best of British craftsmanship.

The whimsical aesthetic begins on arrival, where visitors on both business and pleasure trips can start on a journey through interconnecting spaces which bask in soft light and reveal hidden depths, created through a focus on materiality, an artful interplay of finishes, furnishings and unexpected touches.

In the Lobby, where formality is dispensed of, comfortable seating areas welcome guests to relax. Inspired by the bustle and liveliness of London's streets – think streetlights on walls – the playful design brings elements of the outside in, with trees, botanical themes and lighting crafted like hanging plants, which mesh with rich colours and intricate fabric designs.

Going past the comfortable leather chairs and deep-red walls in the library to the fantastical destination bar, orchid-inspired lights crafted from glass and brass ensure a

playful way to highlight each space, reflecting onto the cut-mirror glass walls all around. Wallcovering, murals and seating fabric draw on a mythical world of flora and fauna in an eclectic and playful manner.

Throughout, Bergman has furnished the spaces in an uncompromising style that cleverly walks the line between old and new. In the atmospheric vaulted Club bar, an artful mix of modern design sits alongside old masters with a contemporary twist, and one-off antique finds.

The Other House's signature Club Flats – each with their own unique 'address' – are saturated with bold colours, and layered with velvets and British tweed and wool. Designed to be lived in, each flat is complete with fully fitted kitchens, separate living and sleeping areas separated by specially commissioned screens featuring art deco tree and leaf designs.

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### Sustainability

Sustainability underpins every decision that is made at The Other House, and to this end initiatives have been implemented from construction through to operations – with the aim of achieving the BREEAM Excellent category, representing only the top 10% of buildings. From using materials with a low environmental impact to carrying out lifecycle assessments to inform selection, it is committed to sourcing products from verified environmentally friendly suppliers, and supporting local artisans and craftsmanship. Furniture, fittings and fabrics throughout the Residents’ Clubs from the front of house to the Club Flats are from British leading suppliers, Chelsom, Curtis Furniture and Hypnos to name a few.

### F&B

The Other Kitchen is an all-day street cafe offering a casual breakfast and lunch, with coffee and homemade cakes in the afternoon. Just off the bustle of South Kensington’s Gloucester Road, it strikes a balance of informality and glamour with a signature approach to constantly changing meat, fish and vegan ‘pots du jours’.

### The Owl & Monkey

Stirring up the South Kensington cocktail scene, The Owl & Monkey will open daily from 6pm until late, and promises to be the stand-out, go-to destination bar in the neighbourhood. Featuring opulent interiors alongside treetop views over an impressive internal glazed courtyard, the design is only rivalled by the

signature cocktails created by the expert team of mixologists.

### Wellness

Following the launch of Residents’ Club, The Other House has introduced a new wellness retreat, The Other Space, a place dedicated to self-discovery and exploring the ‘other’ side of oneself. Available to The Other House residents and members, The Other Space features a dedicated wellbeing area which offers a uniquely curated menu of spiritual, alternative and holistic treatments to rebalance and restore the body and mind. These include a regular schedule of group, on-demand and private sessions.

[www.otherhouse.com](http://www.otherhouse.com)

[www.bergmandesignhouse.com](http://www.bergmandesignhouse.com)

Since its inception in 1928, the legendary Beverly Wilshire hotel, which sits at the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and Rodeo Drive, has been a preferred address for celebrities, royalty and the international elite. Boasting a glittering history and a starring role in a host of blockbuster films, the A-list Four Seasons property was constructed by real estate developer Walter G McCarty on the site of the former Beverly Hills Speedway. The original E-shaped structure, now known as the Wilshire Wing, is built in Tuscan stone and Carrara marble in an Italian renaissance style, while the newer Beverly Wing was added in 1971, doubling the size of the hotel.

Tasked with redesigning and refurbishing existing rooms and suites in both wings, David Collins Studio masterminded a refined concept that unifies these areas while at the same time bringing the hotel into a new

era. "We'd talked to Four Seasons before, but had never really found the right project to collaborate on," says Simon Rawlings, creative director at the internationally renowned design studio. "What was brilliant about the Beverly Wilshire is that it was about reinvention – taking something with a rich history and giving it a reawakening, which is what we love to do, so it feels like a contemporary hotel within a historic envelope."

In advance of starting the project, Simon spent time at the property, observing the neighbourhood and understanding how people were using the rooms, from family vacations to business trips to awards season stopovers. "It appeals to many demographics, and what I saw was that it wasn't attracting the type of clientele you might expect at a grand dame hotel," he says. "It was edgy, younger and more vibrant, and that influenced

what we wanted to create."

Taking initial inspiration from British interior designer Syrie Maugham's 1934 art deco white drawing room, which layered mirror and shades of ivory to great effect, the team then brought in other understated shades in the form of textiles, upholstery and artwork. "We wanted to evoke a sense of quiet luxury," says Simon. "For us, it was about a holistic experience – creating rooms that feel amazing, rather than centring around a feature wall or a statement armchair. So we took that white room concept and added touches of pale blue or platinum, tobacco or rose gold, for a really fresh feel. Everything melds together as a complementary, tonal scheme. It's about texture, reflection and a calm opulence."

To this effect, walls are lined in an ivory wallcovering with a distressed horizontal stripe,

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# BEVERLY WILSHIRE, A FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

Beverly Hills, California

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Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel - has unveiled a series of new suites, guest rooms. Designed by the iconic and award-winning David Collins Studio, the guest rooms and suites will offer hints of drama and old Hollywood glamour, with an inspired contemporary twist.

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while the abstracted geometric carpet focuses on the idea of movement and how it can be transferred onto background surfaces. At the windows, full-length curtains are a shimmering wool/silk mix. “The idea was to limit the cover and celebrate the transition between outside and in,” explains Simon. “The original hotel had layers and layers of drapes, so this time we wanted it to be very tailored. On smaller windows we opted for blinds, which gives an elegant simplicity.”

Also a key influence was glamorous 1920s and 30s Hollywood, a mood evoked via bespoke elements including open closets and beautifully lit drinks cabinets. “We wanted to work in the magic of awards season, so along with built-in storage, we introduced an open wardrobe too,” says Simon. “The idea is that your gown hangs in a nook with beautiful marble and lacquered

timber shelves, and there’s a dressing table for hair and makeup, and full-length mirrors everywhere. We also created drinks cabinets with pre-mixed cocktails and incredible glassware, so it feels much more than a minibar. If you’re entertaining or want to kick back, everything is to hand.”

Additional custom pieces come in the form of opulent lighting by Chelsom, luxurious marble-topped tables, kidney-shaped mohair sofas and platinum-stained timber and lacquer furniture, all of which are a subtle nod to the Hollywood Regency period, while walls are hung with oval seascapes by Greek artist Efi Haliori and photography by Berlin-based Maryam Keyhani, as well as custom palm leaf sketches. “These are positioned asymmetrically and sometimes overlapping to bring a sense of informality to the spaces,” says Simon. “We

wanted it to feel very personal, and this was a way of achieving that.”

Moving into the opulent bathrooms, the team embraced the existing marble and teamed it with oversized mirrors, wet and dry vanity areas, custom perimeter lighting and reeded glass wall sconces. “We were cautious about not being wasteful, so we looked at things we could reuse,” says Simon. “It was important for us to ensure the bathrooms were light and bright, so the linen wallcovering has an amazing pearlescent quality, which by day reflects the light, and by night sparkles a little bit. Just by repolishing, refinishing and adding new lighting and hardware, we were able to bring everything up to date. Now these spaces feel seductive, exclusive, and, above all, glamorous.”

[www.fourseasons.com/beverlywilshire](http://www.fourseasons.com/beverlywilshire)  
[www.davidcollins.studio](http://www.davidcollins.studio)

## PRESENTING VETRO FROM CHELSOM

Chelsom likes to give interior designers plenty to play with, and, amongst many things, Edition 27 offers the brand's most diverse range of ceiling lights to date.

Every hotel or cruise ship needs a statement chandelier, says Chelsom, and this eclectic collection has been carefully created to cater for all budgets and applications, taking design aesthetics to the next level without compromising on function and efficiency.

The impressive Vetro is a hero ceiling light from Chelsom's current collection. Slender disks in brushed brass and sculptured glass create a timeless, elegant design that makes the range extremely versatile for any application in hospitality and marine environments.

This striking pendant dramatically illuminates the surrounding area, with each facet of the sculpted glass catching the light, creating a dazzling light effect that is a statement in itself.

Pendants are available as a trio of disks or individual drops as standard, with wall light options also included in the range.

[www.chelsom.co.uk](http://www.chelsom.co.uk)



## THE CALA DI VOLPE RUGS

"What is most valuable to us with ICE, beyond their incredible level of know-how, is that they care. Their attention to detail, like ours, is extremely high. When projects force us to step out of a certain comfort zone, to explore unexpected aspects, we know that they will be there, ready to answer, precisely, helpfully, and carefully." Bruno Moinard and Claire Betaille – Moinard+Betaille, Paris

For the Cala di Volpe Hotel Sardinia interior designer Mr. Bruno Moinard wanted to translate his refined

water-paintings into rug designs. Mr Moinard shared his paintings with the ICE design team and after discussing his ideas, the ICE team developed a concept design. The biggest challenge was to create a very subtle gradation. Gradation is one of ICE's specialisms. Together they selected the best colours and materials. Samples were created and soon the production could start. All rugs and carpets for this iconic hotel were delivered and installed on time.

[www.rugs.nl](http://www.rugs.nl)