

Interiors

The drama in the detail

This year's WOW!house demonstrates the extent to which interior designers are upping their game, says Giles Kime

THE words 'interior design' mean different things to different people, from colour, comfort and curtains to fabrics, finishes and floor plans. Yet a visit to WOW!house that opened its doors last week demonstrates that in the right hands it can actually be a form of alchemy that magically fuses all these elements together to create spaces imbued with soul. Atmosphere is there from the start in the Hector Finch Garden Folly; the Size Group Façade designed by Darren Price; and the Artorius Faber Entrance Garden by The Gardenists, where the poise and balance of classically inspired form are built on a foundation of handcrafted materials as well as finishes in the form of Hector Finch's new verdigris that elevates these distinctive spaces with a sense of timelessness.

The alchemy recurs throughout the spaces: the Turnell & Gigon Drawing Room by Albion Nord top lit by a magnificent cupola; the Benjamin Moore Minhwa Salon by Young Huh, inspired by the Millions Room at the Schönbrunn Palace; and the Salvesen Graham The Collection Primary Bedroom, which oozes both classic comfort and transatlantic glamour.

An enduring memory of this year's WOW!house will be spaces that resonate with a sense of drama, not only in the atmospheric celebration of decoration, as in the Schumacher Dining Room by Max Rollitt, but also where you might least expect them, such as the Ca' Pietra bathroom by De Rosee Sa and the moody half-light of the hidden bar behind the Romo Speakeasy Salon by Studio Duggan. ➔

A pair of octagonal windows set high in the walls enhances the architectural feel of the Schumacher Dining Room by Max Rollitt, as fabrics in wool, mohair and silk enrich its tactile quality





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The Salvesen Graham The Collection Primary Bedroom proves the whole is infinitely greater than the sum of imperceptible parts, from Forbes & Lomax dolly switches labelled with their function to classic detailing that elevates elements such as pelmets and walling



Left: The Zardi & Zardi Withdrawing Room by Sean Symington combines transatlantic influences to create a cosmopolitan, eclectic feel. Right: The Turnell & Gigon Group Drawing Room by Albion Nord offers a glimpse of bold architectural elements and layered interior design →



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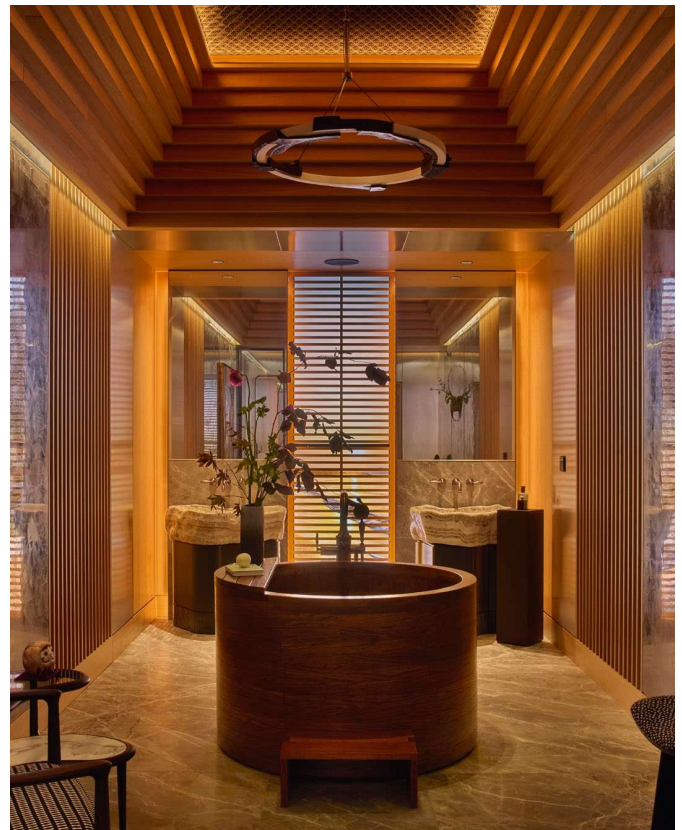


The Benjamin Moore Minhwa Salon by the New York-based firm led by Young Huh combines a variety of influences, notably miniature paintings depicting the lives of Mughal rulers in the Millions Room at Vienna's Schönbrunn Palace—as well as *minhwa*, Korean folk art. As with many of spaces at this year's WOW!house, the ceiling has not been overlooked and here a coffered design adds a layer of depth →

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The Ca' Pietra Bathroom by De Rosee Sa evokes the mood of a Mediterranean-inspired space awash with early-summer light



Left: The Black Edition at Romo Speakeasy Salon expresses Studio Duggan's ability to create practical, liveable spaces that blend eras, styles and textures. Right: The Samuel Heath Primary Bathroom by Rigby & Rigby is a 'tranquil space to encourage imagination' →

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The texture of Artorius Faber's handcrafted British stone provides a foil to the clean, classic lines of the elegant Size Group Façade by Darren Price of Adam Architecture, which welcomes visitors to WOW!house. A feature of the external space was the Artorius Faber Entrance Garden, designed by The Gardenists

The Garden Folly Façade by Darren Price of Adam Architecture and Hector Finch adds an exciting new dimension to WOW!house. In the tradition of follies, it is a 'moment of pause, surprise and delight'. Within, Studio Enass has evoked the escapism of an island hideaway 🏝️

Where WOW!house, Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour, London SW10

When Monday–Saturday, until July 2

Entry Morning/lunchtime (10am–2pm) or afternoon (2pm–6pm). Final entry is recommended by 5pm

Tickets Individual £28; two tickets for £45 on weekdays (£40 on Saturdays); concessions from £15. A portion of proceeds will go to charity partner United in Design

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