



Decor decoded

Modern luxe

Interior designer Charu Gandhi on bringing warmth and contrast to a new Knightsbridge development

Charu Gandhi, the founder and director of the interior design studio Elicyon, describes her recent project in Beaufort Gardens, a development in a garden square in Knightsbridge, central London, as “purposefully restrained, not minimalist, but very warm, very considered”.

An architect whose early career included working on One Hyde Park, Gandhi practises origami and the Japanese art of kintsugi (repairing broken pottery with lacquer or gold) and she brings a meticulous eye for detail and a love of crafts to her luxe schemes.

At Beaufort Gardens she wanted to celebrate the grand proportions of the 19th-century stuccoed building while creating lively, chic interiors with elements to surprise.

1 We intentionally left the walls of the dining room pared back, with simple panelling in a plain paint finish. The large scale and

repetition of the panelling are calming and create a rhythm to the room.

2 We sourced the plant in the far right corner from New Covent Garden, with its earthenware planter. The rustic texture is a contrast to the sleekness of the room. We love it when something has a bit of otherness. It’s where it shouldn’t be, but it still works.

3 The entrance into the dining space is framed by an archway, either side of which sit these handmade metal Capricorn plinths by Tom Faulkner. The dark, patinated finish is quite industrial, and throughout the project we’ve juxtaposed sleekness with more earthy finishes.

4 We found the vintage dining table on 1stDibs; the curve of the legs speaks to the curve of the plinths.

5 We’ve brought in subtle colour with glassware, ceramics and the Picasso cushions on the chairs. There has been a real revival of artist-inspired decorative

accessories — it’s a bit of a trend that’s quite fun.

6 Many of the accessories are vintage. On the mantelpiece are two glass jugs from the Old Cinema in Chiswick, and a sweet pair of candleholders from Alfies Antique Market in north London. On the GioBagnara drinks trolley the 1960s candleholders are by English manufacturers.

7 The rug is a bespoke piece by Jennifer Manners, hand-knotted in silk and wool. The painterly design, in teal and ivory, brings a softness and a movement that contrast nicely with the room.

8 The glass globes of the chandelier, by Giopato and Coombes, have this ephemeral quality, like soap bubbles floating in the air. The dining table is quite monolithic, and the light, with this slender, elegant connection to the ceiling, seems to hover above.

Interview by Katrina Burroughs
Property prices from £2.45 million to £25 million; beauchamp.com and harrodsestates.com

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