



This page The living area is flooded with natural light thanks to the large windows. Lattice metal room dividers create intimate areas in the expansive space. Modular sofa was made to measure and upholstered in Robert Allen 'River Current' fabric. Silk rug from Stark. **Opposite page** In the hallway two gold artworks by Victor Vasarely complement the Pedro Friedeberg 'Hand' chair.

GUILTY PLEASURES

High-octane luxury and glamour were the prerequisites for the London home of swimwear designer *Melissa Odabash*.

Photographs and words MICHAEL PAUL



These pages A rare black and gold Willy Rizzo coffee table that opens up as a bar takes centre stage in the living room, flanked by two vintage ottomans reupholstered in a Pierre Frey fabric. An artwork (artist unknown) that Caroline found in Miami blends with the graphic palette. The knotted rings sculpture is from a Palm Beach vintage store. Gold vase is from Absolute Flowers & Home. The white sofa is a vintage find which was reupholstered in a Robert Allen fabric.

“I was looking for that glam look that echoed my style and the beach hues that have made my brand successful,” says Melissa.

This page In the large media room is a vintage Eero Saarinen 'Tulip' table and stools which were found on 1stdibs. Caroline had the stools and the bench seat upholstered in a chocolate-coloured faux suede. The gold pendant lights are from Birgit Israel. **Opposite page, from top** Black lacquer cabinet from Absolute Flowers & Home. Jonathan Adler lamp. Slipper chair covered in a Robert Allen fabric. In the entrance, a black and chrome cabinet from Martin Rooney at Alfies Antique Market is flanked by vintage 'X' seats in a snakeskin print, found at Showplace Antique & Design Center in New York. The ball sculpture is from Barcelona. The vases are from Absolute Flowers & Home. Artworks are lithograph prints by Miró, Basquiat, Dubuffet and Picasso.

American-born fashion designer and former model Melissa Odabash is very glamorous and, as you'd expect, has a lifestyle to match. As the designer of an exclusive swimwear range, her job takes her tripping around the world from Miami to Monaco with regular photo shoots on tropical beaches. Add to this a considerable celebrity following, with her designs worn by Kate Moss, Beyoncé, Rihanna, Sienna Miller and the Duchess of Cambridge. So when it came to refurbishing her London home in Connaught Village on the north side of Hyde Park she wanted something very different. "I was looking for that glam look that echoed my style and the beach hues that have made my brand successful," she says. Enter London-based, Belgian-born interior designer Caroline Legrand, known for designing sumptuous, sophisticated interiors with a timeless appeal.

Introduced by a mutual friend Caroline and Melissa hit it off from the start. "I had been a big fan of Melissa's swimwear so I was excited to meet the woman behind the brand," says Caroline. Armed with Melissa's well-defined brief Caroline set about producing a series of mood boards, initially for the main bedroom, living room, media room and guest bedrooms, though that soon expanded to include the whole house.

"Right from the start I fell in love with the house," says Caroline. "It's a unique London home over four floors but very spread out – not the usual vertical London house. What I loved was the energy that Melissa and her family radiated. Even before the work began it had a very cool vibe with beautiful light and good bones."

The first room Caroline worked on was the main bedroom. She chose dark, moody colours because the room needed something a bit more sultry than just white walls. "I went for a rich mink colour and wallpapered the ceiling, then added vintage smoky mirrors to provide that luxury feeling," she says.

Completed in just four weeks Caroline then went to work on the remaining rooms. The designer is known for finding interesting pieces – vintage furniture, eye-catching wallpaper and seductive fabrics – and putting them together in the most unexpected way. "I am lucky that I travel a lot with my job and have built up a network of international suppliers who I work with regularly. They keep me up to date with new stock and unusual finds," says Caroline. Together with Melissa she spent considerable time sourcing furniture, though she did re-use some existing pieces and reupholstered sofas.

Perhaps the biggest challenge was the large media room that took almost a year to finish. The proportions were challenging and Melissa naturally wanted to keep it light and spacious. Caroline's solution was to line the walls in a textured white wallpaper; she also added shutters to the windows and created a large sitting and dining area. "It was not easy to find the right lighting and art that would go with the look of that room but we finally hunted it down," says Caroline. "It works so well now as we have made it practical yet retained the spaciousness and the feel of the rest of the house."

The same disciplines were applied to the large terrace on the first floor where Caroline chose a French grey palette. West facing, it's the perfect spot for an evening cocktail or relaxing with a good book. The terrace is accessed via Melissa's snug-cum-TV room that Caroline decorated in soft creams and vert d'eau with sumptuous faux fur throws on the Minotti sofa. "This is now my favourite room in the house to really chill out," says Melissa.

The work complete, the house now personifies the glamour and luxe that Melissa sought. But above all it is comfortable and has a sense of calm – really, what a home is all about. **15**

For more go to carolinelegranddesign.com; odabash.com.





This page, from top In the main bedroom, a vintage smoked mirror creates an opulent backdrop. Mirrored lamps from Julian Chichester. Stools from Talisman. A faux fur throw adds to the sense of luxe. The first-floor terrace has been turned into a relaxing outdoor room. Custom-made upholstered benches and low tables. Hermès throw. Opposite page The snug-cum-TV room has been decorated in cream and vert d'eau. Modular sofa from Minotti has a cream faux fur throw bought in New York. Two artworks by Félix González-Torres bought at the De La Cruz Collection Contemporary Art Space in Miami hang above a vintage bronze table.



SPEED READ

» Swimwear designer and jetsetter Melissa Odabash called on interior designer Caroline Legrand to refashion her London home in a glamorous and luxurious style. » Caroline tackled the main bedroom first, transforming it into a sultry, moody haven with dark colours, smoked mirrors and sumptuous fur throws. » Caroline then addressed the living spaces, adding lots of gold and lacquered furniture, metal screens, artworks and sculptures as a luxe backdrop to reupholstered sofas and new finds from diverse sources such as 1stdibs and antique markets.