

## designer's profile ALMAS SHAMSEE



Almas Shamsee is the founder and creative director at Maisha Design. Originally trained as an economist, and after almost ten years working in the financial services industry including five years at Goldman Sachs, Almas decided to pursue her passion for interior design. Having completed a number of personal projects, as well as commissions for family and friends, Almas formalised her training at the prestigious Chelsea College of Art and Design and formed Maisha Design in 2008.

Maisha Design is a London-based design practice specialising in bespoke interior and spatial design. Their aim is to create timeless interiors that are both functional and beautiful. They believe that each project is unique and we work tirelessly with our client to tailor-make a solution which we follow through from initial concept through to final installation.

Chelwood House



## CHELWOOD HOUSE

designed by ALMAS SHAMSEE  
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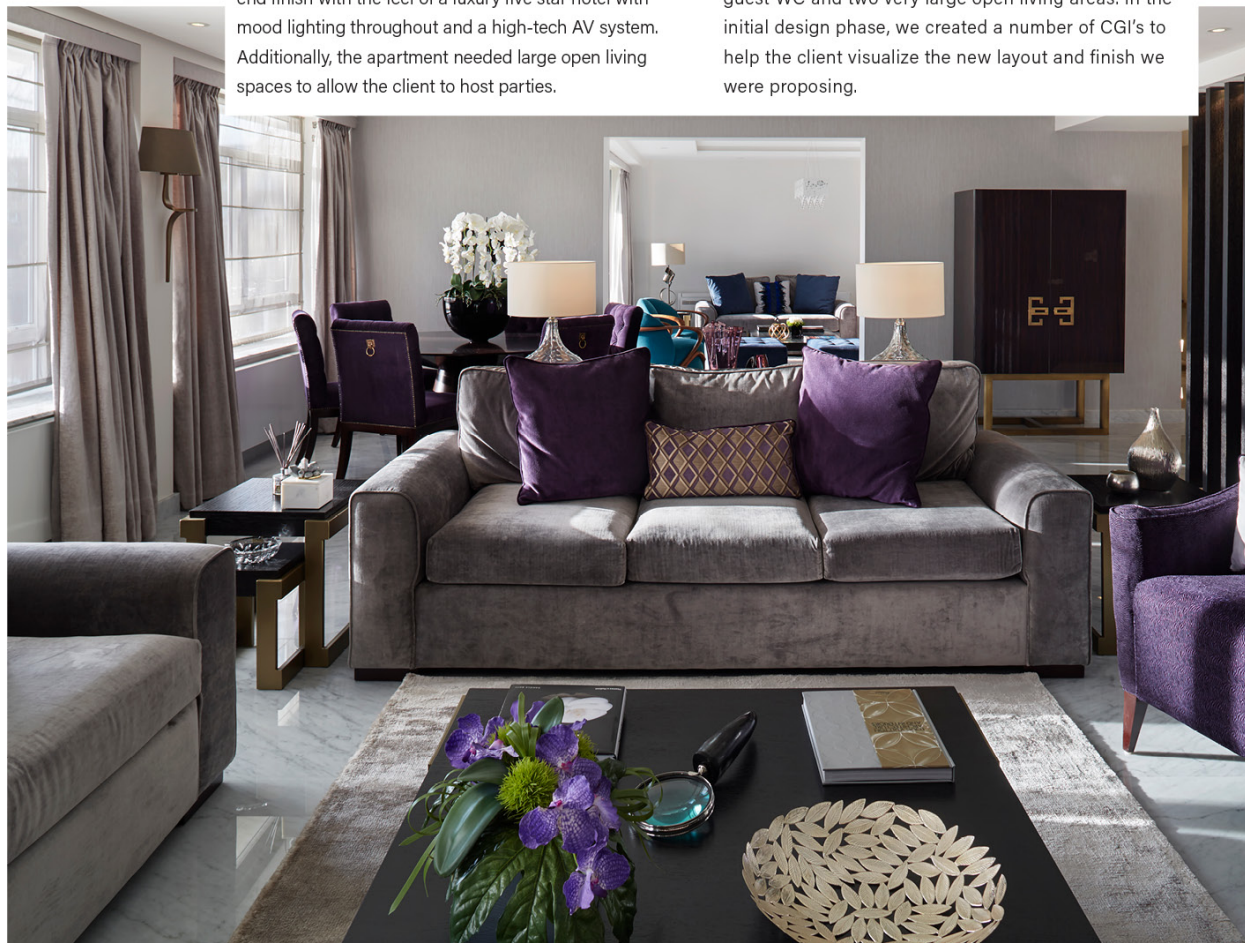




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The property, a lateral apartment on the Hyde Park Estate, is the London base for a wealthy overseas client - his wife and four children - whose main residence and work office is in the Dubai Marina. They asked for a very high-end finish with the feel of a luxury five star hotel with mood lighting throughout and a high-tech AV system. Additionally, the apartment needed large open living spaces to allow the client to host parties.

The apartment needed complete modernization and reconfiguring. It was originally arranged as a boxy five bedroom, three bathroom apartment. We reconfigured it to create four large bedrooms, four bathrooms, a guest WC and two very large open living areas. In the initial design phase, we created a number of CGI's to help the client visualize the new layout and finish we were proposing.





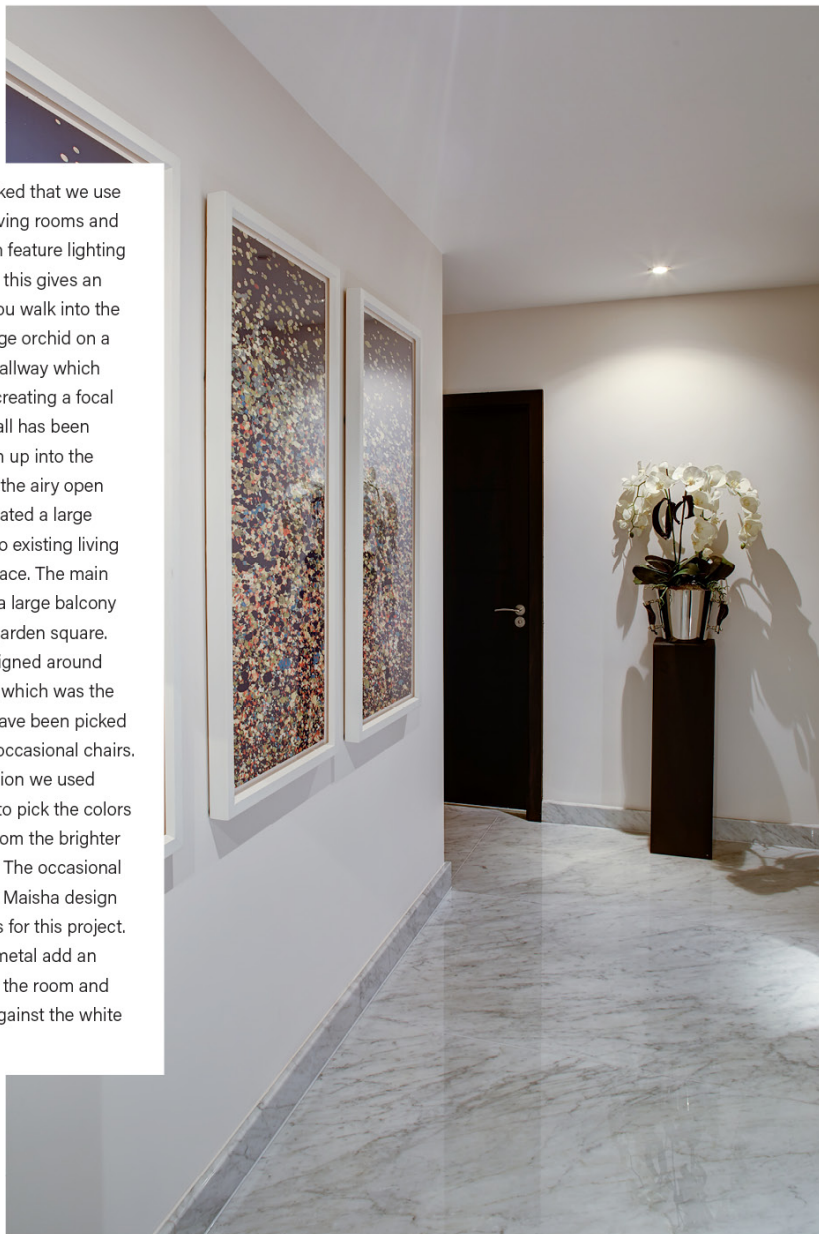


The seven month project saw the apartment reduced to a shell before being reconfigured and rewired.





The client specifically asked that we use marble throughout the living rooms and hallways. Combined with feature lighting and interesting furniture, this gives an instant 'wow' factor as you walk into the apartment. There is a large orchid on a plinth at the end of the hallway which draws the eye down by creating a focal point. The living room wall has been knocked through to open up into the hallway, again adding to the airy open feel. Additionally, we created a large opening between the two existing living rooms to open up the space. The main living room opens up to a large balcony overlooking a beautiful garden square. The living room was designed around a beautiful blue painting which was the client's own. The blues have been picked out in the cushions and occasional chairs. In particular, on the cushion we used feathers that were dyed to pick the colors in the painting – going from the brighter blue to a very deep blue. The occasional tables were designed by Maisha design and bespoke made by us for this project. The dark wood and the metal add an understated opulence to the room and an interesting contrast against the white marble floor.



The kitchen, although small (as this is not their permanent home and the client didn't want to have a large kitchen), is bespoke made out grey gloss lacquer. It has been cleverly designed to maximize storage. Hidden LED lighting throughout highlights key features such as the book-matched statuario marble splash back. As there is no space for a proper breakfast bar, we had a slim console table made with a couple of stools so that there is space to have a quick breakfast if needed.





The master bedroom itself needed a sense of luxury. The huge oversize bed with a deep-buttoned headboard in off-white velvet combined with pearl colored silk carpet oozes luxury! The wardrobe doors have been made in the lacquer to match with chrome detailing. As a contrast, a

black gloss lacquer with chrome inlay has been used for the bedside cabinets and desk to balance the scheme. The deep 'wine' red was as an accent color to added to lift the scheme.



In the second bedroom, we used black furniture teamed with white linen and decorative accessories. Black can be a very cold and stark color but it can also add a sense of drama and create a very striking space if used correctly. It's important to add a few contrasting textures and maybe a small pop of color to lift the space. In this case, the cushions on the bed were a mix of faux snake skin, white crisp cotton and velvet. The textured silver wallpaper and

shag-pile rug add further texture and the artwork adds color.

The third large bedroom, was creating by knocking together two small bedrooms. This room has a softer color scheme in beige and a very soft pale blue. Again, an oversize deep-buttoned headboard adds a sense of boutique hotel style luxury.



For the master bathroom, the client asked for a 'wow' factor. For this, Bianca Onyx has been used as a feature in the shower and the vanity counter. The onyx was back-lit to highlight its beautiful texture and create a sense of drama in the shower/steam room. With the main lights dimmed and the onyx lit the bathroom as a very therapeutic 'spa' feel.

