

# Head in the clouds

When you get an invitation to be the first to have a peek at a newly redesigned penthouse on Park Lane, it's hard to resist. The words "Park Lane penthouse" suggest two things: very good views, and very expensive interiors. And with 9ft windows, a new Jacuzzi and a design that took 20 months to complete, we had a feeling that The Penthouse at Fountain House wasn't going to disappoint.

## Make an entrance

The lift opens straight into your own private marbled lobby, screened off from the rest of the apartment by magnificent glass doors that turn opaque at the press of a button (for added privacy, apparently). When the doors whiz open, it's advisable to make sure you're not holding breakables – you're liable to drop them when hit with the stunning views of Hyde Park facing you from floor-to-ceiling windows opposite (all 2.86 metres of them).

Once you've got over that, take a look at the artwork competing for attention: bonafide Bob Dylan prints, and statuettes by Lorenzo Quinn (art dealers from Halcyon gallery in Bruton Street were brought in to offer their suggestions). A silver-leaf desk with creamy leather-lined drawers also awaits, ready for you to turn this into a New-York-style study.

## A warm reception

The whole point of a penthouse is the view, so the floor-to-ceiling-glass theme continues in the main reception room which, like the rest of the pad, is decked out in cool shades of grey and blue. Get a closer look from the terrace, which wraps around the whole front of the apartment, and you can see the fountain after which the building is named. In case the weather threatens to spoil your visual pleasure, there is outdoor heating and a wind-sensitive awning that pops out, not to mention the Jacuzzi to warm you up.

Still cold? Head back inside, pad across the 100 per cent silk carpet and recline on the bespoke cashmere-upholstered sofas, which have drop-down arms for converting into chaise longues. From there you can press a button on the Crestron control pad and order the lights to dim, black out blinds to drop and a giant projection screen to emerge from the ceiling, transforming the room into your own private cinema.

## Dine in

If you've bought this apartment you can probably afford your own live-in chef, but if you fancy cooking then the industrial-strength extractor fan in the kitchen means you can do so as badly as you wish without the risk of smells seeping through the enormous, electronically controlled double doors from the living room. It might take you a while to work out where the Gaggenau appliances are, so artfully have they been hidden behind bespoke cabinetry. We're sure we didn't spot a single tap, but water did magically appear from somewhere. (If you'd rather play cocktail-maker, there's a very cool custom-designed bar in the corner of the reception room, where you can mix it under a genuine Miro print.)



WITH STUNNING VIEWS OVER HYDE PARK, BESPOKE INTERIORS THAT WERE NEARLY TWO YEARS IN THE MAKING AND A ROOFTOP JACUZZI, THIS PARK LANE PENTHOUSE MIGHT JUST BE THE HOTTEST PROPERTY IN MAYFAIR



## Suite dreams

Round the corner is the master-bedroom suite, with an opulent 2.2 metre master bed and the biggest suede headboard you've ever seen in your life, framed by hand-stitched and painted Fromental silk wallpaper.

Walking into the master bathroom is disconcerting, partly because, with its huge, painstakingly book-matched marble slabs (no tiles here) and art deco-style mirrors, it's absolutely stunning; and partly because the toilet seat raises automatically as soon as you walk past it.

The toilet is also a bidet in disguise, which can wash and massage your nether regions, and – men – there is no longer any need to put the toilet seat back down since it comes with its own, very large, remote control. Ladies: the Big Rain monsoon shower can apparently be programmed so that you can shower without getting your hair wet.

If you're feeling friendly, two can bathe side by side in the double bath, above which the steam-resistant heated mirror handily transforms into a TV screen.

## Guest appearances

Up the stairs, past a beautiful hand-etched glass panel depicting Hyde Park, there are four more bedroom suites for your extended family/hangers-on. Three bedrooms in the flat have views over the park, and oversized leather seating areas from which to enjoy them. We particularly liked the beautiful, white oval bath off bedroom two, placed perfectly under a window.

If your guests have to stumble to the loo in the middle of the night, there's low-level LED lighting around the cabinets so they don't stub a toe. And let's face it, if you live here, you won't be short of visitors.

The Penthouse at Fountain House is available for £19.5 million, through Knight Frank (020 7499 1012) and Wetherell (020 7529 5566).

## Behind the scenes

Family-owned prime-residential property developers Luxlo have been quietly putting their stamp on local properties since 2007. Based just behind Berkeley Square, the company has kept a low profile, but now they've finally come out of the bespoke woodwork. Luxlo was set up by two Indian families, who began by renovating their own residences, one of which is in Mayfair. Its managing directors are brothers Amit Chadha, who has over ten years' experience in high-end property, and Rohit Chadha, who has 20 years' experience looking after high-net-worth customers for private banks. Shan Soni, patriarch of the Soni family, is chairman. Their other current projects include an apartment in Hereford House, North Row – more family-oriented than Fountain House, but equally opulent (£7.75 million through Knight Frank and Wetherell).

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