

BANKING ON N1

Exquisite Georgian details and excellent commuter credentials in this Islington abode made for a potent, power-house mix for Stephen Gough, discovers Dominic Lutyens

PHOTOGRAPHY: BEN ROBERTSON. STYLING: EMILY HENSON



WHO LIVES HERE?

In a small office off the living room in this elegant, four-bedroom Islington home, a blown-up film still showing a dapper Sean Connery in Dr. No's casino scene gives a witty nod to owner Stephen Gough's high-powered job. He's a hedge fund analyst, who along with his girlfriend Nicola, divides his time between here and Birmingham, where she's a GP. 'One reason I moved here was to be near Euston station,' he explains. 'It only takes us two hours to get to Birmingham. Plus my journey work in Green Park takes just 25 minutes.'



This impressive Georgian property has much more going for it than its commuter credentials though. Its gracefully glamorous interior is the work of Nicola Pratt, owner of local interior design firm Life Style. Undoubtedly, the house's elegantly high, ornate ceilings made her job a bit easier. Her touches are considered and coherent: the walls throughout are in white, cream or subtle sage green and she's introduced handsome pieces such as the green Chesterfield-style sofa and a Vivienne Westwood design rug. With each piece, Nicola would email Stephen a picture for his approval. →

‘WE CHOSE DIFFERENT SHADES OF PUTTY AND PARCHMENT TO BOUNCE SOFT LIGHT AROUND THE BASEMENT KITCHEN’



GROUND CONTROL

The basement boasts a well-appointed kitchen, although Stephen admits the swanky range and island were here when he bought the house in 2012. Here again, there are hero pieces that take pride of place – like the impressively large farmhouse table bought online from a shop in France. ‘Tables like this are more commonplace there, so they’re cheaper than they are here in the UK.’ However the surface beauty belies a troublesome past. ‘When the survey was done I was told there was mild damp in the basement,

but between exchanging contracts and completing, I discovered there was a big pool of water there. It cost me £40,000 to get it tanked and the floor changed. This cancelled out the fact that I’d managed to get £5,000 of the asking price.’ Despite his spacious kitchen, Stephen admits he rarely cooks but says he’s well catered-to by his favourite local restaurants, including family-owned Italian Antonio’s Ristorante on Upper Street and Frederick’s on Camden Passage. ‘Frederick’s has a lovely garden in the summer, the service is great and the food good value. →



IT'S OH SO QUIET

In the main bedroom on the first floor, there's a quirky, upholstered headboard shaped like a gigantic wing chair. 'It's very comfortable to lean against when sitting up in bed,' says Stephen. And comfort's indeed important to him – determined not to be disturbed by noisy traffic outside, he had special acoustic glass fitted to the window to soundproof it as double-glazing wasn't an option in this conservation area. But while he prefers calm inside, he adores the bustle of Islington itself. 'I prefer it here to Battersea and

neighbouring Chelsea. I'm just a 10-minute walk from Angel and its fantastic gastropubs.'

Lofting Road, N1, £1,900,000

This is an exceptional four bedroom end of terrace Georgian house set on a desirable road in the Barnsbury area of Islington.

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