

DOUBLE THE STYLE

Creative ideas with light enabled Natalia Miyar to seamlessly merge two spaces into one

WORDS VIVIENNE AYERS PHOTOGRAPHY SIMON BROWN

SITTING AREA
Skylights allow light to pour into the space, while white walls maximise the fresh, airy feel.
Walls in Pointing, Farrow & Ball. Bespoke sofas and ottomans, Natalia Miyar Atelier. Oba coffee table, Christophe Delcourt. Lamp, Tyson.London



Two into one does go as Natalia Miyar discovered when she worked on a project that was originally two separate apartments in a 19th-century building in London's Knightsbridge. The owner wanted a masculine, clean, bright and airy space. Key to the renovation was the addition of a roof extension with an open-plan layout. 'It felt like a bitty apartment previously,' says Natalia, who worked closely with the architect and engineer to mould the interior architectural identity of the property. 'We were able to add a second floor and create wonderful spaces,' says Natalia. 'The apartment felt small at the start but then it doubled in size.'

Natalia adopted an unorthodox approach to the living accommodation, creating a space with two sitting areas, kitchen and dining area on the second floor, with skylights and five windows overlooking a square, plus a terrace. 'The space is flooded with light – it's wonderful,' says Natalia. Bedrooms are located on the floor below. 'Bedrooms don't need skylights and terraces, so it works well,' she says.

The owner's brief was for a very neutral interior scheme. 'The white palette forms a good backdrop for his collection of modern art,' says Natalia. 'I wanted to introduce a little more interest – the owner would have been happy if the apartment was all white, but he let me play with colour and pattern.'

Fabrics and furniture choices combine to create a contemporary scheme. 'In spite of these crisp modern lines, the apartment has warmth,' says Natalia. 'I've introduced tactility and texture with fabrics, variegated stone and linen wallcoverings. My work is about juxtaposing materials. For instance, the copper hood in the kitchen contrasts with the pale wood cabinets and the marble worktop and splashback. The interplay of materials works really well – the decor is cohesive but has personality.'

Linen wallcoverings in the bedrooms add an extra dimension of texture and softness, with wardrobe panels covered in the same material to provide a

tailored feel. Natalia has also used timber flooring throughout for a streamlined, unified look.

Storage was a careful consideration. 'We wanted the apartment to feel uncluttered, so the bedrooms have fitted joinery and the sofa has storage in the base.' No space was left unused. In the void between two structural columns in one of the sitting areas, a study space was created. The extension meant that the owner was able to create a roof terrace, adding valuable outdoor living space. 'From the terrace you have a London skyline view,' says Natalia. 'It's a charming little space in the middle of the city and can be used year round.' 📸

■ Natalia Miyar Atelier, 020 8629 5510, nataliamiyar.com.

INSIDER INSIGHT

Designer Natalia Miyar shares her style tips

GO-TO COLOUR Blue in any shade, from cobalt to dusty blue. Every room I design has an element of blue in it.

SECRET ADDRESS Ilinka Collection for linens – Ilinka is a great collaborator on bespoke projects; she has a wonderful eye and implements my ideas beautifully.

ADMIREDESIGNER Dior today combines innovation and design anchored in traditional designer craftsmanship. Pieces feel both timeless and forward-thinking.

FAVOURITE BUILDING The Chrysler Building in New York. It is simply so elegant, from the proportions to the detailing. It is as appropriate today as I imagine it was when it was built in the late Twenties.

YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS Glamorous, relaxed, tactile.



KITCHEN
A copper hood adds drama and contrast to the pale scheme. Bespoke cabinets, Natalia Miyar Atelier

INSPIRATION



MASTER BEDROOM

Fabric-covered wall panels add to the sumptuous feel.

Bespoke **wall feature** in Candice by Pierre Frey, Natalia Miyar Atelier.

Wallcovering, Jaipur linen, Stereo. Custom-made **floor treatment**, Stark Carpet

MASTER BATHROOM

Luxurious Bianco Lasa marble features on the walls and floor of this generously sized space.

Geneva medium **wall sconces**, Ralph Lauren at Circa Lighting



GUEST BEDROOM

Once again, Natalia has created a striking effect with a bespoke wall feature and injected colour with eye-catching accessories.

Bespoke **wall feature** in Coffered Wood in Polare by Phillip Jeffries, Natalia Miyar Atelier.

Wallcovering, Scope linen, Arte. **Lamp**, Tyson.London. Bespoke **shade**, Natalia Miyar Atelier