



Cool and collected

A couple's professional interest and private passion for modern art and design are spectacularly displayed in their refurbished London house. By **Nicole Swengley**. Photographs by **Mel Yates**



The hall and living-room Handmade Moroccan tiles inspired by the Victorian house's hexagonal originals brighten the hall. New rear windows are reflected in Damien Hirst's *Butterflies*. The double living-space to the right is dominated by a bespoke Ron Arad fireplace with a patinated steel shelf and stainless-steel crushed uprights. Above it is a Claude Lalanne mirror decorated with bronze branches and copper leaves. Another Ron Arad piece, a London Pappardelle bronze chair with 'carpet', is just inside the door. Re-covered 1950s chairs centre on Moroso's pink velvet ottoman (moroso.it); a silk Tai Ping rug (taipingcarpets.com) covers oak floorboards.



marble-topped island table. Despite these changes, most of the original fireplaces, mouldings and stained glass in the front bay windows have been retained. 'We wanted to keep the integrity of the house because its bones were very good,' Guinness says. As fans of Ron Arad's work, the couple have mixed their soft upholstery with his sculptural, hard-edged designs – a polished stainless-steel Rolling Volume chair, a carbon fibre Little Heavy chair, stainless-steel Boop table and bronze London Pappardelle chair. 'We love the sculptural nature of Arad's work and the way it blurs the distinctions between art and design,' Brown says.

This focus on contemporary art and design permeates the whole house, from the Campana brothers' stuffed-toy chair on the top-floor landing to Candida Höfer's imposing *Fontainebleau* photograph in the basement. Guests dine surrounded by Arad's stainless-steel Loop Loop chaise longue, a 1960s Gio Ponti table and a vast paint-and-candle-soot painting, *Matador*, by the German-Czech artist Jin Georg Dokoupil. A triptych by the Japanese photographer Hiroshi Sugimoto graces the second-floor master bedroom.

As champions for their respective interests, Guinness and Brown are taking adjoining booths at the forthcoming Pavilion of Art & Design show in London. It will give them ample opportunity to indulge the passion that underpins a home where art and design, as Guinness says, 'are part of everyday life'.

'Working with artists and being part of the creative process is very exciting,' Guinness says. 'At PAD I'll display the new designs on plinths as if they were museum pieces. The pieces are produced in very small editions, signed and numbered like artworks. I want people to think of artist-designed jewellery as modern sculpture.' louisaguinnessgallery.com; benbrownfinearts.com. *The Pavilion of Art & Design, October 10-14, London W1* (padlondon.net). *The first 30 readers to email padlondon@pad-fairs.com will win tickets for two for one day at the fair (enter Telegraph Reader Offer in the subject line)*

'We love the sculptural nature of Ron Arad's work and the way it blurs the distinctions between art and design'

The basement playroom Louisa Guinness and Ben Brown with their children, Alfred, seven, Hector, eight, and Tatiana, five, on Mah Jong seating by Roche Bobois (roche-bobois.com). On the wall is Ron Arad's sinuous Bookworm shelving made by Kartell (kartell.it); an Eames RAR rocking-chair by Vitra (vitra.com) is in the corner. A drop-down screen turns the room into a cinema.

The master bedroom A Victorian desk inherited from Guinness's father doubles as a dressing-table, spread with her grandmother's enamel-backed hairbrushes and other vanity items that pack into the leather travelling case on the floor. Above the bed is *Tyrrhenian Sea*, a triptych by the Japanese photographer Hiroshi Sugimoto, its colours reflected in the Tapis Grappe rug designed by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, which was bought from Galerie Kreo in Paris (galeriekreo.fr).

The basement Candida Höfer's *Fontainebleau* is at the foot of the basement stairs. This newly built floor houses a nanny flat, wine cellar, playroom-cum-media room and a cloakroom with an orange silicone basin found in Italy by Studio Seilern (studioseilern.com), which carried out the refurbishment.