

MADE TO MEASURE

Inside and out, the bespoke and crafted elements of this Lisbon abode make for a home like no other



OUTDOOR SEATING AREA

The textured finish of the bench is one of the brighter moments in the apartment, setting off the greenery planted against the wall. 'The big garden was one of the things that drew the client to buy this apartment,' says designer João.

Armchairs, Fermob.

Side tables, Area.

Cushions, Teresa Gameiro

POOL

In reworking the original pool, Studio Gameiro partnered with Portuguese studio Viúva Lamego on these bespoke tiles. 'We collaborated with them to create a specific colour for us – Klein Blue meets ocean blue,' says João. To create an oceanic feeling, custom angled tiles allow the water to lap right to the edge on three of the pool's sides.

Handmade ceramic **tiles,** Viúva Lamego

PHOTOGRAPHS Francisco Nogueira
WORDS Ellen Finch







LIVING SPACE

A broken-plan layout between living and dining areas stays true to the original floor plan of this apartment. 'We made the archway taller because it was low, so there was not much connection between the rooms,' says João. 'The client likes hosting friends, so he wanted to enhance that relationship without losing the notion of the dining room.'

Tapestry by Cruzeiro Seixas; manufactured in Portalegre, Portugal.

Butterfly **chairs**, Arne Jacobsen for Fritz Hansen. Bespoke **fireplace** and **shelving**, Studio Gameiro

KITCHEN

Catering for the client's love of cooking, baking and hosting - with a central island that guests 'flock around' - this space features some design trickery. Colour and pattern is contained to the bottom half of the cabinets to draw the eye down and prevent the kitchen from getting lost in the high-ceilinged room. 'The geometric base cabinets contrast with the organic texture of the granite, so your eyes are drawn to that first section of the kitchen, not to the upper cupboards,' says João.

Custom **kitchen**, Studio Gameiro. Ceramic **pot**, Marta Raimundo



at first glance, the Canadian granite kitchen splashback of this Lisbon home is simply a beautifully carved piece of stone. Actually, it's been shaped to reflect the sound waves of the owner's voice – one of the magical intricacies of this apartment, and a testament to both the creativity of its designer, João Gameiro, and the power of a great designer-client relationship. The story of the splashback was a long-running joke during the project. 'The client had certain sayings he would repeat, such as, "Trust doesn't avoid control",' says João. 'We recorded it and modelled the splashback on the sound waves.' In the garden, a column is modelled on a recording of the studio's name. 'We wanted to add in these little surprises – elements that no one would know about unless the client told them.'

Drawn to the historic 19th-century apartment building in Lisbon's Príncipe Real neighbourhood, the client asked Studio Gameiro to enhance original features and create a home fit for the client's pets, as well as a new baby on the way. One of João's first tasks was to remove cement-based repairs and apply a lime and clay-based stucco, closer to what would have been used originally. 'The client didn't know if it was worth the investment, but the stucco became one of the highlights,' says João. As well as addressing the practical, family-proof point of the brief – you can rub out light scratches with a finger – it changed the atmosphere of the space, adding the warmth that the client was keen to introduce.

Creating a connection to the garden and pool was another key tenet, achieved through the use of materials and shape. Soft curves appear throughout, not least in the fireplace by Studio Gameiro with slabs of travertine like oversized pebbles and a 'hut'-shaped hood, a nod to the style original to these buildings. The shapes are mirrored in the steps to the pool.

João saw craftsmanship as a means to create a connection to the building and its history. The home had undergone an unsympathetic renovation in the mid-2000s in which ornate ceilings were covered up and frescoes painted over. 'We wanted to work with the original materials and introduce a contemporary take on craftsmanship inspired by the old elements,' says João. The studio drew on the wood mouldings of the windows, for example, when they designed the hand-carved headboard in the main bedroom. The bathroom basins reference stonework in local buildings. 'They were originally made with a stone called Lioz,' says João. 'We used Rose of Fatima, modelling the sinks in 3D and sending them to be cut. Then a craftsman perfected by hand the areas the machine couldn't. This combination of craftsmanship and modern tools is the way forward.'

There is so much to see in this Lisbon home before you even get to the art – the owner is a keen collector – but the point of João's interventions is to make these personal additions stand out. 'Even where we've used different colours in rooms, it's all seamlessly connected,' he says. 'What we create with our projects is a beautiful backdrop.'

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THE DESIGNER

João Gameiro, founding architect of Lisbon-based Studio Gameiro. He was asked to rework this apartment by his client, a former hospitality executive manager and art collector, who had moved to Lisbon from Paris with his two dogs and two cats. At the time of the project he was also expecting a child, now aged two.

THE PROPERTY

Set in a 19th-century building in the neighbourhood of Príncipe Real, the apartment had been renovated in the mid-2000s. Entering the U-shaped layout from the middle, to the left are three bedrooms, two bathrooms (including the main en suite), a TV room and an office. To the right are the kitchen and the broken-plan living-dining room leading to the garden with sitting and dining areas, a pool, an outdoor shower and a laundry room.



THE COLOURS THAT
WE CHOSE FOR THE
ROOMS EXPRESS
THE DIFFERENCES IN LIGHT
- THE WARM TONES
REPRESENT A SUNSET
LIGHT AND THE BRIGHTER
TONES SYMBOLISE
DAYLIGHT

x

OFFICE

With the client and his then-partner split between style preferences, this is a room of two halves, with more modern shelves and lighting out of view. 'One loves antiques and inherited a lot of these paintings, while the other was a lot more contemporary,' says João.

Vintage Fauteuil de Bureau mod. 932 **desk chair** by Ole Larsen and Jørgen Lund; similar, 1stDibs. **Chair** by window: Untitled (Concrete Chair) Version 1.0 by Magnus Pettersen. Similar **wall sconce**, Ashby Lighting. Similar antique **desk**, Selling Antiques. Similar vintage oil **paintings**, Vinterior

ENTRANCE

A Studio Gameiro design, the console table sets the tone for the rest of the home. 'It has these elements of stone and rock and natural, simple composition that we also have in the exterior

with the piled rocks by the pool,' explains João. 'The hammered texture celebrates the craft that only skilled people can do. It says, look, there are elements here to disrupt the simplicity within this apartment.'

Console table, Studio Gameiro. **Artwork** by Amande Haeghen, Ojo Gallery

BATHROOM

A singular type of marble used across countertop and floor creates a backdrop for the carved sink to shine.

Bespoke marble **basin**, Studio Gameiro. Handmade brass **door handle**, Maison Vervloet. Similar bathroom **fittings**, try Dowsing & Reynolds. Similar **mirror**, ABI Interiors





MAIN
BEDROOM

The play of contrasts that runs through the apartment continues here, with the organic, hand-crafted nature of the headboard set against a dainty but angular pendant light.

Bespoke hand-carved headboard, Studio Gameiro. String hanging light, Flos. Similar bedding, The White Company

THE NEW BESPOKE PIECES LIKE THE
HEADBOARD MAY LOOK MODERN BUT THEIR
CRAFTED NATURE IS A NOD TO THE PAST

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