

REAL HOMES



PROPERTY

LIFE

MY SPACE

Side table I bought this Art Deco table in a flea market on 26th Street in New York. It was only \$40, but I've had it for years. The metal bands holding the legs together are brass, but they've tarnished over time to look like silver

Bar We do a lot of entertaining, so I wanted to have this accessible, with a sink, freezer, glassware and drinks to hand, rather than running up and down stairs

Fireplace My signature style is modern and sleek, but it's softened at home. It's about balancing textures, like the silky suede that's covering the chimney breast and the stainless steel surround and metal mesh curtains. It's a fine line, though: too many textures can look over-the-top



Chair Our dining table extends to fit 14 people, but it's lovely when people spread out after dinner, with some moving over to this area in front of the fire. I designed this chair specifically with a low seat so that you can see across the room. It doesn't block anything – or anyone – off

Rug This is a silk and wool blend, designed by Philippe Starck. The silk is very slightly reflective, so when the fire and candles are lit, it shimmers. It's very subtle, but lovely

HOME AWAY FROM HOME MANUELA HAMILFORD: INTERIORS & JEWELLERY DESIGNER

My husband and I bought our home in Holland Park three years ago, after looking for the perfect place for two years. We've spent most of our lives living in hotels, from New York to Moscow, because we were travelling for our work.

I always loved that feeling of opening the door to a really special hotel room, kicking off my shoes and flopping down in a place that is all about maximising your comfort. When we settled here, I wanted to recreate that atmospheric, relaxing luxury hotel feeling in our home – even down to the bar!

It's not like the typically narrow Georgian house; it opens up into a wide V-shape towards the back. It's a perfect open-plan space for parties and for working at home.

I take the same approach to interiors as I do to jewellery, using fewer elements, but ones that are chunky and striking and delight the eye. I like people to feel comfortable, though – that means that nothing should glare; they should walk in and feel that they never want to leave.

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