

# OBJEKT<sup>©</sup> INTERNATIONAL

56 LIVING IN STYLE

**THIERRY DESPONT**  
GOES INTERSTELLAR

**4 STRONG DESIGN**  
WOMEN

PATRICIA URQUIOLA  
JADE JAGGER  
LORI WEITZNER  
KELLY HOPPEN

**SPIJKERS+SPIJKERS**  
DUTCH FASHION STARS

**PHILIP JOHNSON'S**  
GLASS HOUSE

**PARIS**  
CAPITALE DU MONDE  
DÉCORATIF

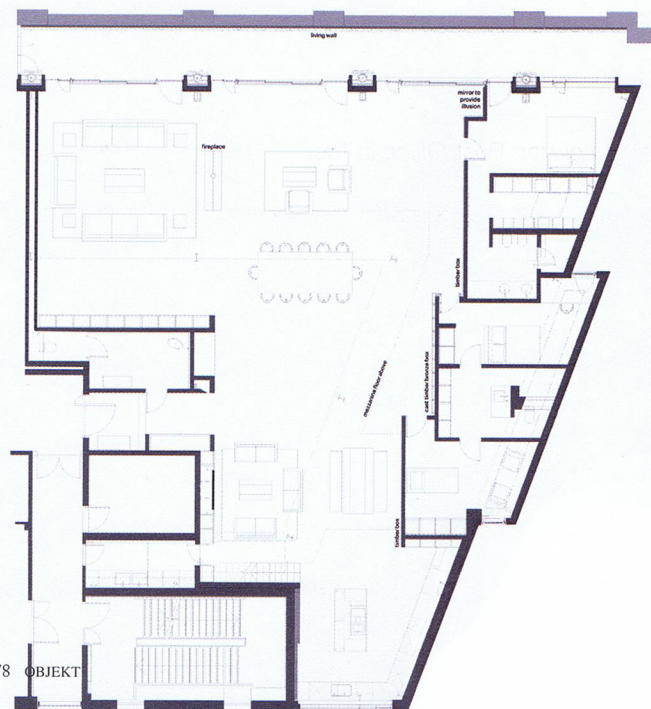


us \$9.50 can \$11.50 australia \$14.95 uk £7.95  
italy-spain-belgium-france € 9.90 europe € 12.20

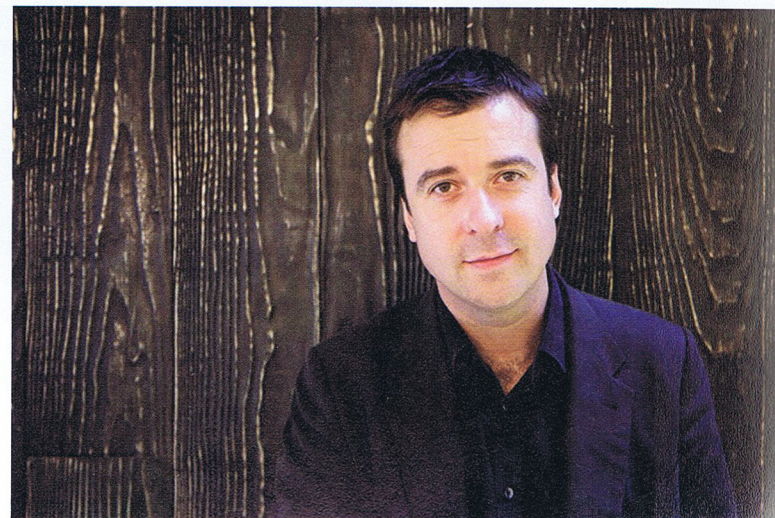


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Above; the double-height penthouse on top of the Central London Post Office and Phillips de Pury art auction house in Victoria, London, designed by Paul McAneary Architects Ltd. The ambience is largely created thanks to textured timber (including 200-year old teak from Rhodesia and sandblasted oak beams) in an open design. Left: the floor plan of the ground floor in the penthouse. Below: architect Paul McAneary. The bedrooms and bathrooms are suspended in floating wooden boxes. Top right: the roof garden with a 21-metre long vertical, 'living' plant wall.



text: Raphaëlle de Stanislas  
photos: Paul McAneary Architects Ltd

## TEX-TONIC HOUSE ONE

It is a penthouse built on top of the Central London Post Office in the capital of the United Kingdom. Here the architect Paul McAneary and his team designed a completely open dwelling with a floating mezzanine floor that cuts through the space like a knife.

The use of old, rough woods makes for a rustic yet elegantly dramatic ambience, which extends to the long roof garden. The architects have named this penthouse space Tex-Tonic House One, having developed mixed material tectonics for the project, with emphasis on the texture of the varieties of timber combined with cast timber-texture bronze.





The penthouse has a floor plan that covers 470 m<sup>2</sup> in a double-height space – in the heart of London. The brief for Paul McAnearney Architects was to design a loft-like space with the emphasis on modern comfort and functionality. The clients also wanted to retain the sense of space of the double-height part and achieve optimum transparency.

The architects derived inspiration from the fact that the penthouse is on the top floor of a post office, and so created allusions to the postal delivery system. They based their design on a series of large boxes in natural materials, floating in the space. To that end, they devised a structure suspended from the steel roof joists in which the boxes have been constructed. The thickness of the floor has been kept at the absolute minimum, thus reducing the weight of the boxes.

These boxes accommodate the master bedroom and en-suite bathroom, plus two additional bedrooms, a walk-in closet and a second bathroom. The chilled wine store is also housed there.

The private accommodation spaces are relatively modest in size compared with the overall space, to provide a large living space, in accordance with the clients' wishes, where all the everyday functions could be united in an open floor plan. Large skylights allow an abundance of natural light to flood into almost all areas.

The design of the house is based on texture, particularly that of wood. The floating boxes have been made from sandblasted oak sections joined together in authentic artisanal fashion. For the central box, the architects developed a new technique involving transforming the texture of the wood into cast bronze. The intensive preparation process produced a 'mould' which was used to give the surface of the bronze the desired structure. The furniture is simple, with the free-standing fireplace forming an eye-catcher – as does a table in 200-year old Rhodesian teak. The large front door is made from the same old wood.



Top left: the large open-plan living space, with the fireplace as its centrepiece, which is pivotal for the overall effect. Above: the relatively simple but functional kitchen with automatic wine-dispenser is situated at one end of the penthouse. Kitchen appliances by Gaggenau.

Adjoining, far left: the chilled wine store with special lighting on the first floor which gives the wine bottles an even more attractive appearance. Beside that: a detail of the traditionally-treated joints in the wooden cladding of the boxes, and the passage floating in spectacular fashion in the space.

Also: the special box in cast timber-texture bronze, for which the architects developed an entirely new method, and the guest WC with walls in lava stone cut in strips.