

HOME TRUTHS

DESIGNER Mark Smyth of Bua Studio (studiobua.com)

PROPERTY A four-bedroom, 1920s semi-detached house in southwest London

WORK Extension and reconfiguration to enlarge the ground-floor living space, while adding a main suite and larger family bathroom above

Well connected

Architect Mark Smyth has worked wonders in this 1920s home, introducing a series of interconnecting spaces that are perfect for family life and parties

FEATURE KAREN WILSON | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ANDY MATTHEWS

SUNKEN SEATING AREA

The wall dividing this space and the kitchen has a three-sided fireplace that can be enjoyed from each room.

Walls and ceiling in 70BG 07/086, from £42.30 for 2.5ltr, Dulux Trade. Fire Maestro 75XTU, £5,247, DRU



KITCHEN

Off-the-shelf units have been sprayed in a bespoke colour. This allowed money to be spent on taps, worktops and brass details. Luca units, from £1,980 for a small kitchen, DIY Kitchens. Liquid brass finish on doors and splashback, from £400sq m, Quirky Interiors



HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT?

We were recommended by a friend of our clients, Lisa Conway-Hughes, a financial adviser (misslolly.com) and Toby, a film editor. They wanted to move from Wimbledon to a bigger 1920s house in nearby Raynes Park and asked us to view the property prior to purchase. It was a total wreck, untouched since the 1960s, with only small openings to the rear. However Toby and Lisa loved the large garden and could see its potential.

HOW INVOLVED WERE THE HOMEOWNERS? They were very involved at all stages. We put together

a thorough package of information and selected all the finishes. It was kept to a tight budget, with Lisa sourcing much of the lighting and period-appropriate items, including reclaimed stainless-steel 1920s art deco fireplaces in the study and music room.

WHAT WAS THEIR BRIEF?

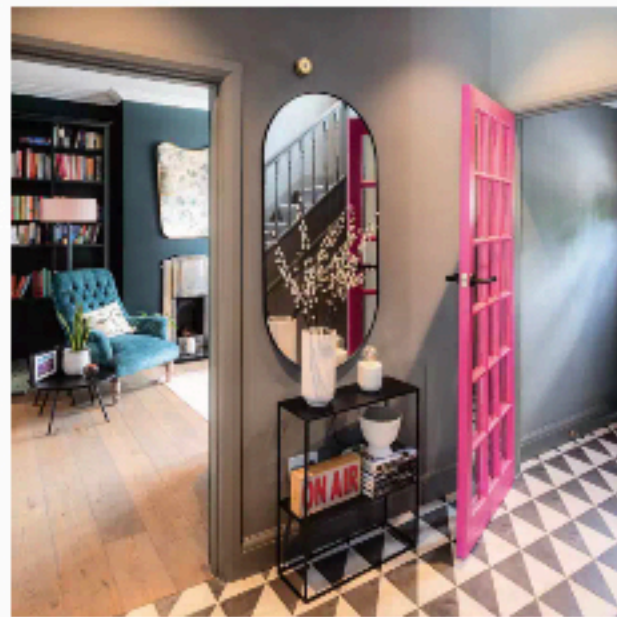
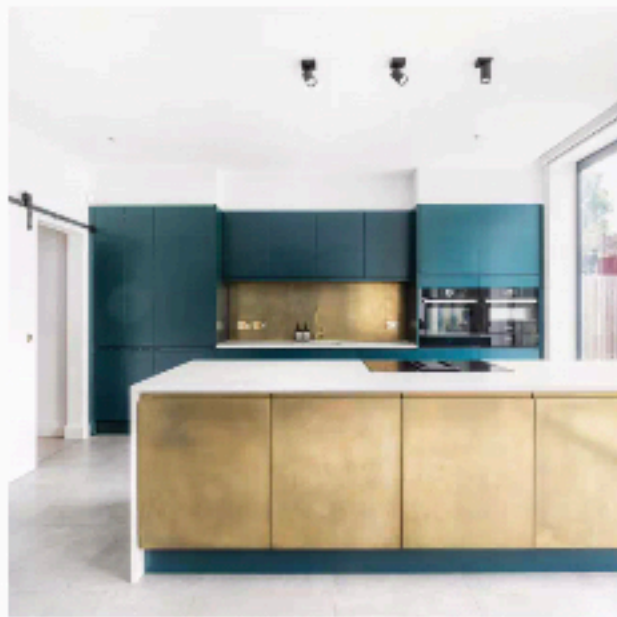
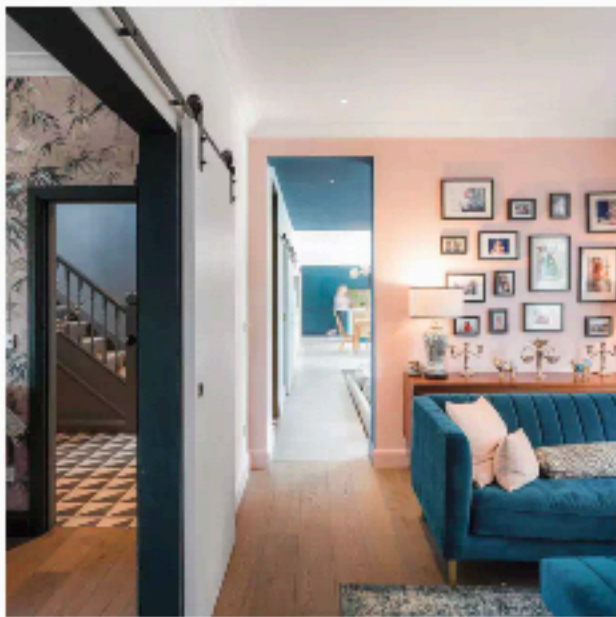
To add a generous main suite, larger family bathroom and enlarge the ground floor to accommodate a study, playroom and utility room. The clients love to entertain and have two young children, so they wanted a series of interconnected rooms giving greater flexibility and character than the ubiquitous open-plan extension. The spaces needed to

be impressive without feeling oversized with a clear definition to each space.

HOW WAS THE SPACE RECONFIGURED?

At the centre of the new plan is a sunken seating area, which has been stepped down to give extra height and grandeur. A sunken terrace extends this room into the garden. It's separated from the kitchen-diner by a screen wall featuring a three-sided fireplace, a homework area and media unit. Sliding barn-style doors between the old house and extension allow the clients to separate the zones if required.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE COLOUR PALETTE? The scheme



DESIGN TIP *'Create zones to prevent open-plan spaces from feeling too open'*

SITTING ROOMS

The sliding barn-style door (above) can be easily closed to get two separate living spaces. Amicie three-seater sofa, £725, Made. Coordonne Garzas Mural Rose wallpaper, £55.60sq m, Beut

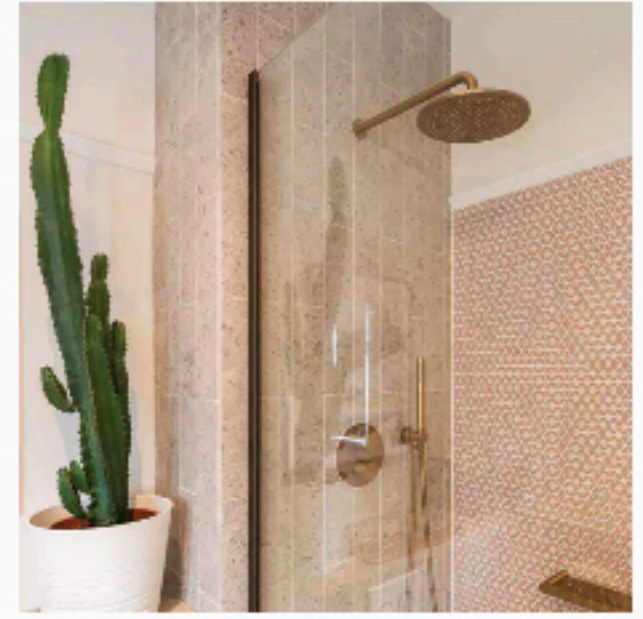
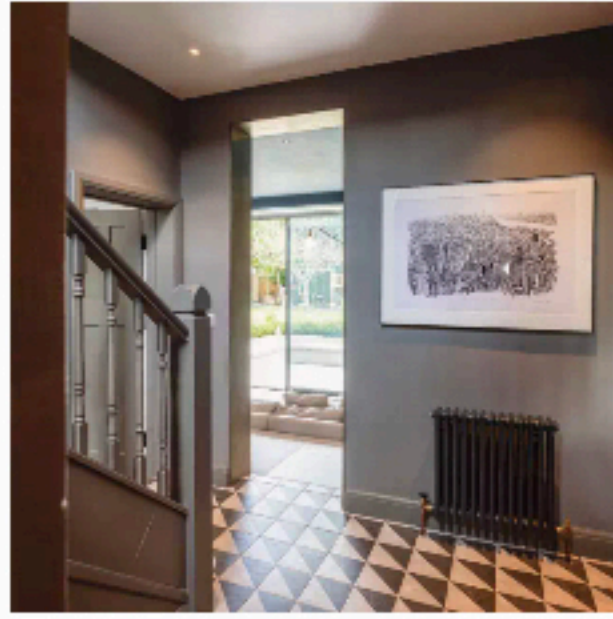
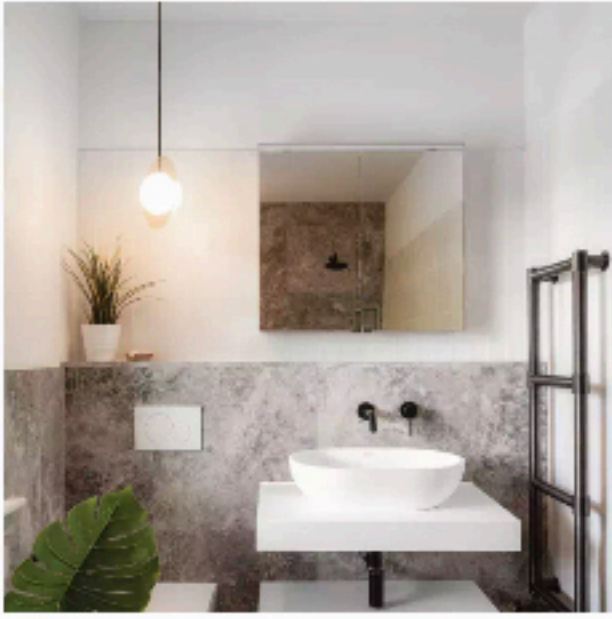
HALLWAY

An existing door was painted hot pink to add a pop of colour. Similar Peony Aura eggshell, £34.75 for 0.94ltr, Benjamin Moore. Casablanca mono decor 12/12 floor tiles, £44.40sq m, Mandarin Stone

DINING AREA

A homework space for the children was built into the dividing half wall. Similar Ercol Windsor chair, £445, Heal's. Berlin Globe 8 in amber glass, £2,400, Holloways of Ludlow





INSPIRATION *'The colour palette was influenced by vintage travel posters'*

EN SUITE

All lights and tapware are either brass or black, giving consistency throughout the house.

Stone Silver Emperador honed marble, £76.75sq m, Mandarin Stone. Picasso countertop stone basin, £198, Lusso Stone

HALLWAY

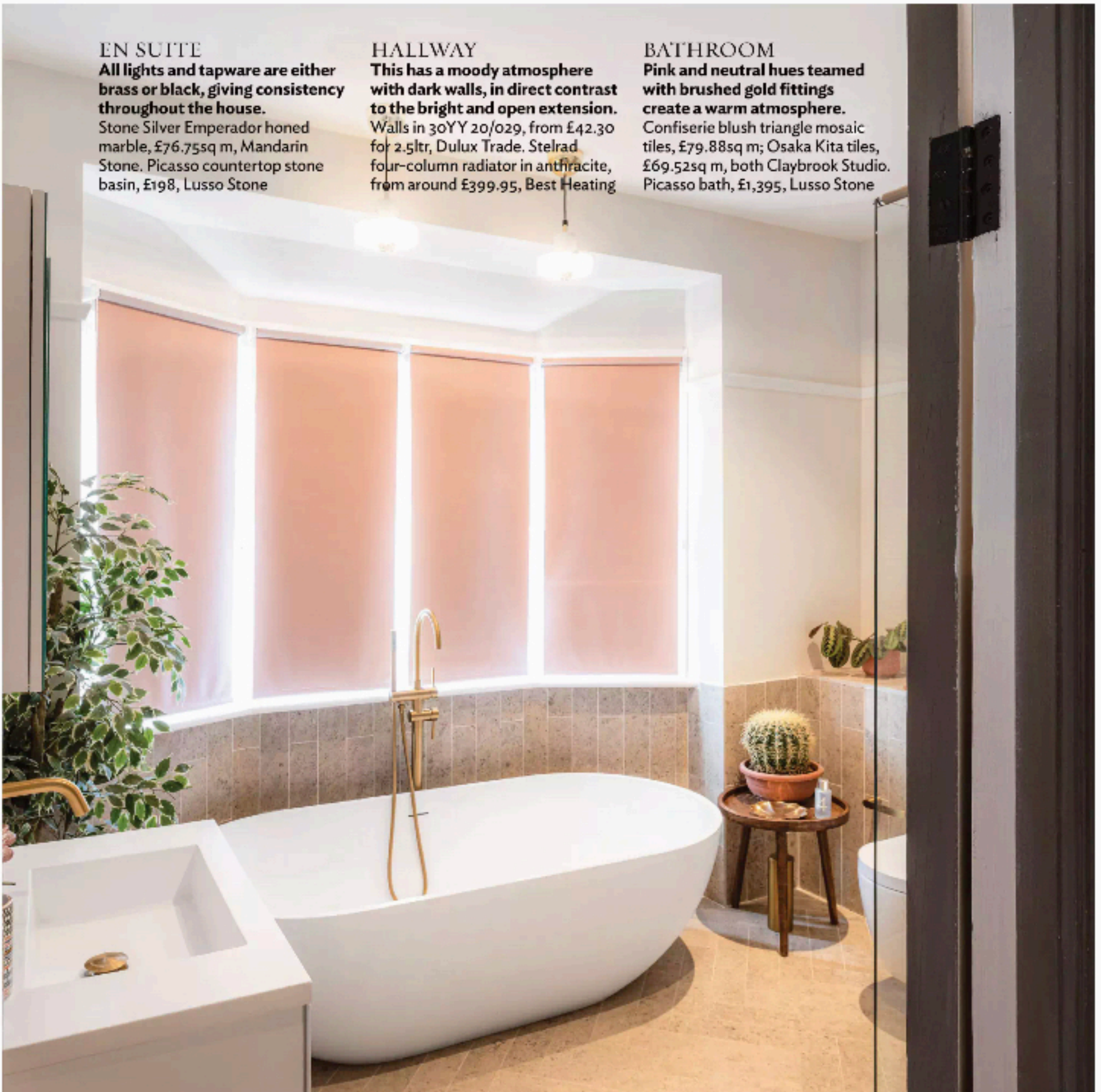
This has a moody atmosphere with dark walls, in direct contrast to the bright and open extension.

Walls in 30YY 20/029, from £42.30 for 2.5ltr, Dulux Trade. Stelrad four-column radiator in anthracite, from around £399.95, Best Heating

BATHROOM

Pink and neutral hues teamed with brushed gold fittings create a warm atmosphere.

Confiserie blush triangle mosaic tiles, £79.88sq m; Osaka Kita tiles, £69.52sq m, both Claybrook Studio. Picasso bath, £1,395, Lusso Stone



MAIN BEDROOM

A cocoon-like canopy feel has been achieved by painting the back wall and ceiling dark green.

Walls in 44GG 12/299, from £42.30 for 2.5ltr, Dulux Trade. Tom Dixon Beat Flat pendant, £465, Nunido



was hugely influenced by the lithograph posters within the V&A exhibition 'Ocean Liners: Speed and Style', which explored the romantic age of ocean travel. Old 1920s *Vogue* covers, featuring pops of hot pinks, brass and blue, also influenced the space. Bright pinks and greens have been paired with dark stained timber, marble and brass to emulate this style throughout.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE? Securing planning permission for such a large two-storey side and rear extension. By making some small changes to our design, we secured approval from the council and kept the neighbours

happy. Another challenge was discovering that a mains sewer runs straight under the house. We had to adjust the foundation details and apply for permission from Thames Water to build over it.

WHAT PROBLEMS DID YOU OVERCOME WITH YOUR DESIGN? The house had a number of poorly built extensions, which meant unpicking the plan and finding the most valuable elements to retain. For example, we kept an existing first floor extension, propping it during the works, and created the new sunken seating area underneath.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU

WOULD CHANGE? Due to budgetary constraints we kept some of the existing windows. In an ideal world we would upgrade these to match the thermal performance of the extension glazing.

WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME? There should be an overarching theme so it feels cohesive. This doesn't mean the rooms need to be the same, but there should be certain elements of consistency. For example we used a very dark palette in the hallway, with brights in the main living spaces, but black and brass details run throughout. 🏠