

the white book

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THE INTERIORS BIBLE



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There are not many locations in a big city where you will find such quiet elegance overlooking a waterfront. To call The Waterfront at Hanover Quay a metropolitan haven is by no means an exaggeration. At the site of the Grand Canal Theatre, overlooking Grand Canal Dock and the Dublin Mountains – and across the way from the Hanover Quay studios where U2 record their historic albums – this is a contemporary dream. Irish designer Miriam Peters had an exciting challenge ahead of her when she took on the task of transforming this space into a luxurious show-room penthouse in the heart of Dublin City.

Hanover Quay is the capital's premier waterside address. Close to trendy eateries, bars and hotels, served by all forms of public transport, and tucked away in a friendly, relaxed location away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Beautifully planted trees and landscaping in the surrounding area and walkways add to this desirable location.

Words: Pnina Friedland / Photography: Barry Murphy





Ellier Developments are known for homes of high quality that are finished to exacting standards, and each home in this apartment complex features underfloor heating, Smarthomes technology, 9ft ceilings and some of the biggest balconies in Dublin. The Waterfront offers a collection of 68 apartments to suit all lifestyles, and it is on the top floor of this building that the stunning penthouse rests. Here, bachelor pad meets ultimate chic. The first thing that strikes you when you walk into the main room is the extraordinary light pouring in through the expansive glass windows. The entire south-facing side is walled in glass and offers you magnificent views of the city and the mountainside. This feature inspired Miriam and allowed her to use and create a richness in the design that complements the beautiful light.

Every aspect of the living room centres on the view. The L-shaped beige leather sofa, the ultimate feature of luxury and comfort, seems to gravitate towards the panoramic view – a pointed difference from the television which usually invites the modern settee's attention. The television must make do with skirting the wall adjacent, where it has no fabulous view to obstruct. "I just felt that if you were up there on top of the world that you had to be facing it," Miriam explains.





The Belgian dark walnut coffee table is veneered with bamboo, giving it a ripple effect. All the colours in this room are warm and rich and were chosen to complement the surrounding landscapes. The chocolates, beiges and the dark cocoa coloured curtains set a decadent tone.

The bleached wood floors throughout the main area embrace the light and, coupled with the soft beige rug, bring warmth to the room. While it is an open-plan space, there are three distinct areas in the room: the living space, the dining area and the kitchen. The penthouse also enjoys two large balconies, perfect for outdoor dining and entertaining.

Miriam chose beautiful and quirky accessories for the main room, all sourced from Minnie Peters. From the ball ornaments on the coffee table, to the antique-looking round mirror to the various accessories on the wall mount. While ostensibly this adds some welcome jewellery to the room, the individual pieces reveal added detail upon closer inspection. As such, textured items are key elements here and are so in every room.





And though the room was designed as a show penthouse, Miriam's vision included having a more lived-in appearance: opting for colourful pillows, antique furniture and homely accessories. The table leaning against the back wall is an antique Chinese table that was refinished in grey, and is one of the pieces Miriam chose to add personality and a bit of history to the penthouse.

A designer's creativity has no boundaries, a truth which finds expression in the outstanding art decorating the wall by the dining room table: 'Penthouses' from New Guinea c1885, by photographer John William Lindt. "It's an old photograph that I had blown up and printed onto metal and then I had a frame put around it," Miriam says. "It's such an interesting picture and I loved that it was an image of penthouses from the 19th century. It worked perfectly in that space and it was so mind-boggling trying to find the right piece." The light above the table is from Kevin Reilly lighting, famous for their innovative creations and distinctive electrical wax candles.

It is an amazing piece that does not detract from the view in the way a glass or crystal chandelier might have. It is a rich neutral piece and adds to the understated luxury. The round table beneath it is another piece from Belgium, while the dining chairs are a cotton-silk mix with a satin finish to give them an elegant sheen.

The kitchen is a modern-looking area that was built with state of the art amenities. Ellier Developments installed an elegant SieMatic Range Kitchen from Houseworks with integrated Gaggenau stainless steel appliances and a ceramic hob. There is also an integrated concealed lighting and socket system above the sink and worktop area. The kitchen even comes equipped with a Gaggenau coffee and espresso machine built into the wall unit – a barista's dream! It is a beautiful symmetric kitchen that is certainly not lacking in storage space, and is nicely partitioned from the main room so guests could never guess what delights, or disasters, you are cooking up behind the divide.

A climb up to the second level brings you face to face with more contemporary pieces. The bulbous light fixture above the stairs is truly unique. "It's like the head of a garlic. It is so amazing when it is lit, it's stunning," Miriam gushes. "Again, I didn't want crystal but I wanted a bit of a wow factor coming out of the master bedroom, and when it is on and you are sitting in the living room it lights up the whole wall." Miriam loves to add quirky elements to the design and took delight in finding cheeky artsy pieces intended to stop you in your tracks.

When you have managed to pull yourself up past the mesmerising light, you will find yourself in the master bedroom. The view is just as spectacular from the bedroom as it was downstairs, and in this retreat there is a rooftop patio just off the bedroom.





Large social gatherings and evenings with friends on the rooftop immediately spring to mind, or a quiet day lounging in the sun (the rarity of which will only add to the occasion). Following a similar colour scheme to the lower level, Miriam has employed a rich neutral palette and continued to instil a luxurious feel to the room.

There is minimal amount of furniture in this room but Miriam ensures interest with all the accessories, texture and fabrics that decorate the space. Long dark curtains are left to pool on the ground, layered fabrics drape the bed, and wood panelling on the wall adds further richness. The carpets were installed by Irish company Grange Carpets & Bedding Ltd.

The lamps on the bedside table were sourced from a contemporary Belgian company, and despite their soft appearance, the lampshades were woven from a very fine metal. Miriam was thrilled with the glass side tables from England because they perfectly reflected the light in the room and were unique pieces that stood out. The traditional antique armchair was another personal touch that Miriam brought in to help create that lived-in feeling.



The penthouse has three bathrooms, one located off the master bedroom and two down the main corridor by the remaining two bedrooms. All of the bathrooms, fitted by Bathhouse, were fitted with granite, glass, Italian fittings, tiles and chrome, juxtaposed for a striking effect. The mounted showerheads provide a relaxing waterfall effect in the large walk-in shower; and a lovely sky-light brings beautiful light into the bathroom. "The bathroom is quite contemporary but more classic, particularly with the tiles that were selected for the floor and walls," says Miriam. The neutral colour palette was kept throughout.





In the additional bedrooms Miriam chose to embellish the rooms with beautiful textures and fabrics. She chose a walnut headboard with padded silk and matching silk pillows to give the room a luxurious feel. Textured wallpaper and interesting bedside and ceiling lamps added a playful element to the rooms. Miriam always finds a way to add drama to a room; detailed pieces and quirky accessories play a prominent role throughout the penthouse.

"I was so pleased with the finished look, I loved it," Miriam says. "It was contemporary, but not everything contemporary has to be grey and black. I wanted to use rich and bleached woods, and luxurious fabrics to give it a glamorous feel. Nothing glitzy, just luxury."

This lovely space was sold to a well-known Irish businessman as his Dublin retreat, however there are still two penthouses remaining.





The Waterfront is an exceptionally stylish location in the eye of a bustling city. After viewing the final room I found that I was not quite ready to leave just yet. The desire to witness the sunset from this front-row seat was keeping my feet glued to the floor. It is a space that could transform dramatically from day to night, and you can't help but imagine enjoying endless chic dinner parties in the evenings and waking up to neverending light in the morning.

ellier.ie ; hookemacdonald.ie ; houseworks.ie ; minniepeters.com
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