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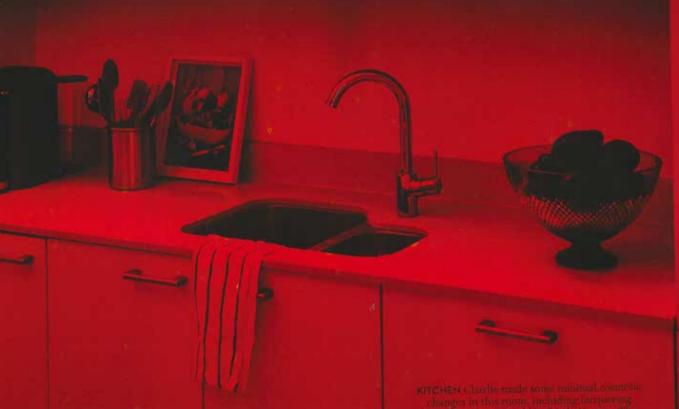
'The flat has a somewhat BOHEMIAN and CASUAL, MID-CENTURY European story, with all this CHALLENGING ART layered on top'





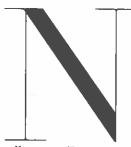


處型是外人



charges in this room, including incquering, the cabinets in 'Stock by Little Greene. The acon sign, Foreigness Energychere (Chinese), is by the conceptual artist Chare Familia.

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ew York-based interior designer Charlie Ferrer has carved out a distinctive niche for himself by making a point of never taking on the same project twice. 'I am as project specific as possible – maybe to my own detriment,' he muses. Charlie is known for creating layered and dynamic interiors that rely heavily on vintage pieces, which he deftly weaves together to

tell a story. 'I want every item in a room to have its own narrative, whether it's a rarefied piece of art-deco furniture or a primitive stool.' With his expansive grasp of 20th-century design – which he sells through his design gallery on 1stdibs – Charlie's projects rely heavily on vintage furniture, supplemented with custom pieces he designs, and high-end upholstery and window treatments.

For this flat, Charlie's involvement hinged on a providential

drive-by sighting; while he was walking in Marylebone, a former university classmate happened to spot him from a car. 'I got a message from him, saying, "This is random, but did I just drive by you on Marylebone High Street? I'm on my way to look at an apartment with a broker – want to join us? I need a designer."

The client, who had been in Charlie's peripheral social circle at university and when they were young professionals in New York, is Josh Silver, an American working in finance in London with an interest in contemporary art. His collection was a draw for Charlie, who knew that assembling the strong artwork in dialogue with interiors would yield a compelling challenge with dynamic results. 'The entire process became a great co-authorship,' explains Charlie. After an exhaustive search, the pair eventually found a suitable flat on Bryanston Square, W1, with a grand sitting room, large enough to accommodate two seating areas and space for dining.

It told him, "This is how we'll do it — we're going to get on the Eurostar, go to Paris, fill a truck with flea-market pieces and make this as ready-to-wear as you can get. But with high-quality upholstery and curtains," recalls Charlie, whose client was initially reticent. His previous experience had been working with designer Neal Beckstedt on his Manhattan apartment, which had been much more architecture driven. After a discouraging empty-handed morning at Les Puces, Josh found a light fixture he liked. 'He finally said yes to something just before lunch. I thought, oh God, is this even going to work? But, after lunch, things began to flow and he got excited. When you shop with clients, you build a story — it's live feedback between you, the dealers and the client.'

For the sitting room, Charlie designed a sofa with Charles Burnand he describes as 'Vladimir Kagan meets Pierre Yovanovitch meets croissant', which is upholstered in a cream bouclé from Pierre Frey. 'Josh noticed the trend of furniture being re-covered in this fabric and he became obsessed,' he says. The custom sofa was

complemented by Jacques Adnet nesting tables, with a Roger Capron coffee table - an investment piece - in a second sitting area.

Part of Charlie's process is schooling his clientele in the value of collectable design. 'It's always an educational process,' he says. 'And sometimes it's a two-way street, which is wonderful.' A pair of De Sede chairs covered in mohair and linen flank the chimney-piece. A rustic-looking Guillerme et Chambron dining table from Les Puces is teamed with Eames chairs. There are flea-market finds dotted through the flat, such as the primitive, amorphous, burl wood chair in the hall next to a Liz Deschenes photogram. 'I like eclecticism – we managed to make it feel unified and collected,' says Charlie, who also worked with dealers on Lillie Road, SW6, and at Alfies Antique Market, NW8, to fill in the gaps.

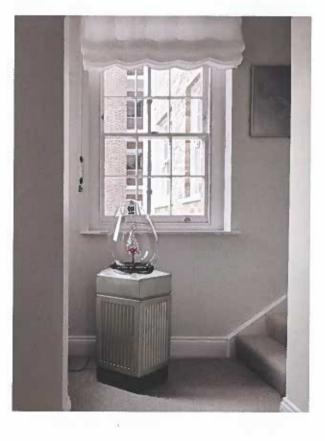
While Charlie educated Josh on collectable design, Josh exposed him to avant-garde artists he was not familiar with. 'His collection is interesting because it is challenging – it comes from a gay, multi-

cultural and edgy perspective,' Charlie enthuses. 'The flat has a somewhat bohemian and casual, mid-century European story, with all this challenging art layered on top.' Ashley Carr of Modica Carr Art Advisory acted as art consultant and pieces include works by Wolfgang Tillmans and Arthur Jafa. 'Josh has an installer of great repute, Biscuit Beschizza, known as Lord Biscuit. London has all the right resources and people — it's a bit like New York in that way.'

While the main room is grand and open, the bedrooms are small and cosseting, with custom textiles from Sandra Jordan. In the main bedroom, the client's existing George Nakashima-inspired bed is complemented by aluminium and resin side tables, and an alpaca bouclé in blue serves as a bed blanket. The spare room's orange bespoke blanket contrasts with a Maharam forest-green cottonvelvet headboard. A Fifties-era desk with a Marcel Breuer chair and frozen-video art in a frame create contrast and interest.

The kitchen, where Charlie made some minimal cosmetic changes, including lacquering the cabinets, has a large red neon artwork sign, Foreigners Everywhere (Chinese), which he hung above the wall cupboards. 'It feels as if you're walking into the redlight district when you enter the apartment,' he explains. The cloakroom was also enveloped in green spray lacquer. The paint throughout the flat is from Little Greene, which Charlie loves.

Meanwhile, the finishing layer of accessories in the home was drawn mostly from the client's own collection—ephemera from South East Asia, art books and model cars. 'It's personal,' says Charlie. 'And not overly serious.' While his mission is to eschew a serious-looking interior, it is impossible not to be struck by the designer's masterful eye, which brings together the high and the low, the rare and the rustic. The rigorous mix echoes Charlie's point of view. 'At the end of the day,' he says, 'I want my interiors to feel collected'



Ferrer: ferrer.co



OPPOSITE Max Hooper Schneider's glass sculpture Plasm o void 2.
LEFT The cloakroom walls are in Little Green's 'Sage Green'. RIGHT In the spare room, a Maharam velvet covers the headboard; the artwork is Ken Okishi's gesture/data.
BELOW LEFT David Wojnarowicz's Untitled Genet, after Brassai) lithograph is above the custom walnut headboard in the bedroom.
BELOW RIGHT Heimo Zobernig's Untitled artwork hangs in the study



Charlie is known for creating LAYERED and DYNAMIC interiors that rely heavily on VINTAGE PIECES, which he weaves together to tell a story



