

**BRIEF** To create a cool, calm, neoclassical-inspired interior, with elements of Art Deco, to show off the owner's collections

**INTERIOR DESIGN**  
O&A London

**DIMENSIONS**  
200 sq.m apartment



# CASE STUDY PICTURE THIS

Words Miriam Methuen-Jones Photography Sergey Ananiev

**There are clues all over** this seriously impressive apartment about what the owner holds most dear. Look at the poise of the beautifully crafted furniture, the balance of the various elements so that nothing dominates, the symmetry of the way things are arranged. Everything combines to produce a harmonious whole. Of course, the pictures give it away too: this is the home of an art lover. Paintings, sculptures, treasures collected over many years are all carefully positioned where they can be seen to best effect. But doing this hasn't turned the apartment into a gallery; rather, the art has become a part of the home – which is exactly what the owner requested.

It's all thanks to the efforts of Anna Agapova of interior design studio O&A London. "Our client had a phenomenal collection of paintings so the main objective was to incorporate these and produce the atmosphere of a house with a history," she says. ▶



[Opposite] The Avior light fitting above the dining table is from O&A's own collection. [Below] The living room is open to the hallway library. The shape of the arch is echoed by the coffee table by French designer Stéphane Parmentier





The owner is also a music-lover and has thousands of vinyl records. Agapova's task was to fit these into the living room in a way that felt beautiful, elegant and luxurious. Bespoke shelves were built for the LPs, with space left above for two favourite paintings which have been given new gold frames: "Every element in this space is an art object," Agapova points out.

Beside the record storage she created an alcove to display a rare reel-to-reel audio tape player the client found in Switzerland, and to mount the television. This technology nook is softened by a hand-painted ombre wallpaper by Calico.

A quick pivot reveals more bespoke joinery – this time for

books. The hallway has been opened up and put to work as a library. The charcoal finish of the shelves harmonises with the palette of blues, greens and greys used in the rest of this open-plan space: "Our art department got involved to make the books look as good as possible."

In the adjoining dining room, meanwhile, a pair of display cabinets were specially built around the client's objets d'art. Each piece has its own spot where it can be seen to best advantage. Attention to detail like this ensures the apartment already feels well established and lived in: "We wanted to create a personalised interior which is classical and unusual at the same time." ■

## STYLE FILE

[Clockwise from top left]  
The Rebel sofa by Snug, £1,039;  
hammered metal planter,  
£21.95, Melody Maison; Houston  
pendant, from £140, Sofa.com;  
Autumn Landscape print by  
A. Wyant, £216, Mind the Gap;  
Asher rug, £165, Walton & Co;  
Porada Koster console table,  
£1,946, Go Modern; faux garden  
shrub branch, £15, OKA



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