



## THOSE OF A BEIGE DISPOSITION LOOK AWAY NOW!

INTERIOR DESIGNER SUE MILLER SHOWS METRO AROUND  
HER BOLD AND UNDENIABLY BEAUTIFUL FLAT **Page 30**

360°  
BARKING

## GET AHEAD OF THE GAME

Beat the competition by coming to our  
Shared Ownership event where we'll be giving an  
introduction into Shared Ownership and how you can  
get onto the property ladder at our award winning  
360 Barking and Paragon, Ilford developments.

**Where.** 360 Barking, Cambridge Road, Barking  
**When.** 29 September 12am-4pm

162 bedroom Shared Ownership  
apartments starting from £65,000  
for 25% share

Call now to book your place  
**01277 315201**

**nu**  
living

THE  
PARAGON  
ILFORD HILL



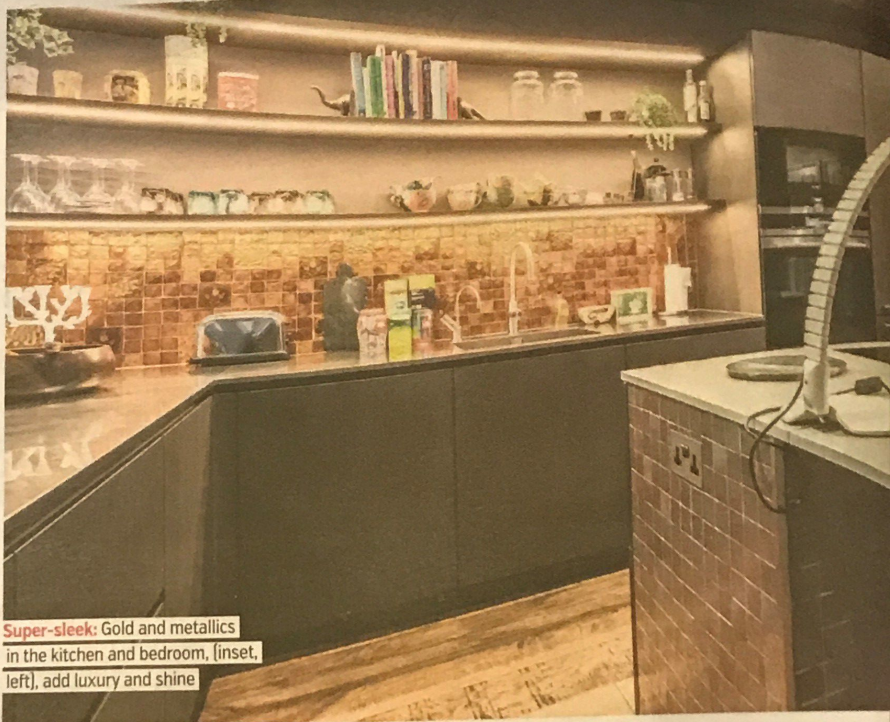
# METRO PROPERTY

## WHERE SHRINKING VIOLETS WON'T DARE TO TREAD...

SUE MILLER'S FLAT IS A ONE-OFF.  
OLIVER STALLWOOD GETS A TOUR



**Vibrant hues:** Sue Miller has embraced the darkness and added personality



**Super-sleek:** Gold and metallics in the kitchen and bedroom, [inset, left], add luxury and shine

**D**ESPITE interior designer Sue Miller's relaxed, boho-chic appearance, there is something a little Star Wars about her today.

Having transformed her once dingy basement flat into a secluded, cosy and surprisingly light, inner city oasis, her trick is simple: embrace the dark side. 'It's true, basement flats aren't known for their natural light but my ethos is don't fight it,' she says. 'I embraced the darkness by making it cosy, layered and turned it into a sensual experience, particularly in the master bedroom and bathroom where there was limited daylight. In those rooms, the heady mix of luxe metallics and iridescent finishes combined with raw materials and large floral motifs was enough to distract the eye and lull you at the same time.'



One might say you need to be a tad off the wall to start painting the walls of a basement flat sludgy heather grey, but for Sue - her company is Mad Cow Interiors after all - it is a stroke of genius. The three-bedroom flat in

Highgate (two double, one with an ensuite) is playful and louche, classy and sophisticated, with a touch of Sixties speakeasy about its glamorous and naughty interiors.

She bought it as a rental - it's yours for £750 a week - and eschewed the common practice of making it more neutral than a dentist's waiting room in the hope of attracting as many punters as possible. The property is packed with personality, an eclectic mixture of colours, patterns, finishes and luxury rarely seen in London's rental market. 'It's not for everyone, that's for sure but it doesn't have to be,' says Sue, who bought the flat in a red brick Edwardian property in 2015 because she really liked the street being so near the woods, the boutiques and the Tube.

'It only takes one person to walk in and go "wow, I need this in my life", which was the case with the last tenant. The idea was to let the property as a complete lifestyle experience with art, bespoke furniture and soft furnishings included. All the incoming occupant would need to unpack would be clothes. I hope I've

created a piece of magic they can buy straight off the shelf to live in.'

Sue didn't design it for anyone but herself, another move that might confuse designers of identikit luxe apartments in London. What you get here is the home Sue would want to live in. 'I think because there was no end user in mind, I had to treat the project the way I would if it were my home and keep it close to my heart.

That's part of my approach - to stick with what I love and not get bogged down with what I think other people might love. I encourage my clients to think like this before they make a purchase too.'

When Sue bought it, the look was basic - white walls but dark, with a timber fireplace and stripped pine floorboards. But the flat is quiet and peaceful and has its own entrance.

Sue says she used to come over to

the flat before the tenant moved in to have some quiet moments, look at the garden, and sit with a cup of tea. 'I adore all the finishes and the Robert Timmons concrete kitchen and little useful things like the boiling water tap, Sonos sound system, even the irrigation system in the garden. The flat has underfloor heating that runs more economically and efficiently than radiators.'

Lighting plays an essential part, says Sue. 'Never underestimate the power of good lighting and the different atmospheres you can create. You'd be shocked how many different types of lights there are in one room. I try not to use ceiling downlights but just love vintage sconces, uplights, floor lamps, table lamps and I have a big thing for vintage or oversized feature pendants - you might have noticed. It helps having them all working on a smart lighting system so you can set different scenes to suit the mood at the flick of a switch.'

Sue accentuated the south facing light coming in from the garden by dropping the living room floor, building French windows to the garden and with the addition of a rooflight, introduced height & drama to the space. Then to bounce the light around, she threw in antiqued gold

mirror panels and an ornate metal wall covering.

The bold mural wallpaper in the master bedroom and wet membrane the bathroom by Wall & Deco via One Bathrooms add bucketfuls of character, as does the reclaimed decoupage timber headboard of master bed. Sue describes the bathtub by The Cast Iron Bath Company as 'gasp-worthy'. 'The where one really shouldn't take oneself too seriously, has the most vibrant Christian Lacroix wallpaper, La Bagatelle, from De

Guild with a bespoke 'hole in timber bench' toilet sy

As I said before, it's

for everyone!'

Would Sue, w

lives next to

Highgate Wo

consider mo

back in the

'It's gorgeou

personality

area attracts

actors, writers

designers and m

which is partly wh

decided to unleash my

expression unapologetically.

has been talk of moving into

when the kids go off to uni, b

year-old daughter keeps tryin

it for herself first'

madcowinter

This apartment can be  
£750 a week at weekends  
and holidays



**Luxe look:** A 'gasp-worthy' copper tub features bold touches to distract the eye in the en suite and main bathrooms





# METRO PROPERTY



Let there be light: Quirky fluorescent lighting and mirrors add to the charm

'With art, bespoke furniture and soft furnishings, I hope I've created a piece of magic that a tenant can buy straight off the shelf to live in'



South facing: French windows were built to bring in light from the garden



Metal guru: The bedroom and bathroom with Christian Lacroix wallpaper

LAST  
6  
REMAINING



## LAST CHANCE TO BUY

- Highly specified 2 and 3 bedroom apartments
- Every apartment has a private terrace or balcony
- Stylish open plan living with SieMatic kitchens, Siemens appliances and underfloor heating
- Central landscaped courtyard and concierge service
- Secure underground parking available
- Less than 10 minutes' walk from Canada Water tube station

Prices from £770,000

The Sales Suite and Show Apartment,  
24 - 28 Quebec Way, London SE16 7LF, open 7 days

[www.londonsquare.co.uk](http://www.londonsquare.co.uk)

Call 0333 666 0106 or email [CanadaWater@londonsquare.co.uk](mailto:CanadaWater@londonsquare.co.uk)

External photography depicts London Square Canada Water and is indicative only. Photography depicts kitchen of Apartment 25 and view from Apartment 36 at London Square Canada Water and is indicative only. Travel times sourced from Google Maps. Details and prices are correct at time of going to press, September 18, 2018.