

House of the Month

golden YEARS

Designer Caroline Legrand’s home takes the cream of Seventies design and remixes it into something deliciously decadent that’s just right for now

Photography/Anna Stathaki * Production/Mary Weaver * Words/Jo Leever

HOME PROFILE

THE OWNER Caroline Legrand, an interior designer, and her sons, Oscar, 16, and Arthur, 14. Master Yoda the miniature poodle lives here, too.
THE PROPERTY An apartment in west London. There is an entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, study, family room/guest bedroom (with shower room), a master suite, two further bedrooms and two bathrooms.

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LIVING ROOM

Flashes of gold, brass and glass come into their own during the holidays. ‘I love celebrating the creative, sensual side of Seventies design,’ says Caroline. That said, her spaces are never frozen in time. ‘I recently added a new artwork to this room and repainted the walls. Change and movement are always good.’

Get the look The chairs are Milo Baughman, reupholstered in Robert Allen fabric. The sofa and the chandelier are from Talisman. The dark artwork is by Angel Otero; the one on the right is by Marilyn Minter. The marble coffee table is from Nihil Novi in Miami. The rug is by Stark Carpet. The floral arrangements are by Absolute Flowers & Home.



at this time of year, Caroline Legrand doesn't worry too much about decking her hall – or any of her other rooms, come to that. With the best of Seventies design and contemporary art on display, her spaces are already on gleaming, glittering form. Caroline's gallery-like hall announces her love of vintage opulence, but step into the living room and things get serious. Cloud-soft, white-on-gold Milo Baughman armchairs, cascading tiers of a Lucite chandelier and the hazy sensuality of a Marilyn Minter photograph make for a heady mix. Next door, Hollywood glamour is alive, well and ready to dine out on its past, with Lucite chairs and a brass rams' heads table laid with gilt-laced foliage. This is where Caroline entertains friends or, equally, hangs out with her teenage sons, Oscar and Arthur. 'I love hosting parties – I've cooked for 50 before now,' she says.

Originally from Belgium, Caroline previously worked in fashion, including being part of the design team for Anya Hindmarch, before moving into interiors five years ago. Her private client list already includes Melissa Odabash and New York facialist to the stars Georgia Louise. After Caroline fitted out Georgia's coveted Manhattan Atelier, Jennifer Aniston declared its powder room to be 'the sexiest on earth'.

Caroline freely admits to an ongoing fascination with the sensual designs of the Seventies. 'I guess I am a child of that era,' she smiles. 'It was a time of glamour and daring creativity and I keep finding myself drawn back to its styles, while also adding my own stamp.' In her quest to evoke that bold design spirit, Caroline has sourced pieces from Miami and New York, as well as London, lending a strong stateside feel to some of her neo-Seventies spaces. In the living room, for example, there's a hint of Studio 54 in the expanses of low, elegantly louche seating. 'It was, let's face it, a very sensual decade,' she adds. A few hits from the Eighties also make it into Caroline's mixes, along with plenty of tactile pleasures, from shagpile rugs to strokable fabrics. 'Textures are important to me – they are the canvas upon which I create,' she explains. Marble dominates in the kitchen and the bathrooms, while woven wallcoverings bring depth to the bedrooms and study. 'I love wallpapers with an intricate finish,' she says. 'I believe even an all-white house can be made interesting if you mix in wood, stone and textural wallcoverings.'

This apartment recently had a change around – something Caroline is all for. 'It's healthy to shift things about, because stasis is never a good thing,' she says. Such switches are made easy because Caroline makes a point of not designing her spaces around a single object. 'If you get fixated on making everything match, say, an expensive Italian sofa, it doesn't allow creativity to flourish,' she says. In her own home, Caroline says, 'I could move any item into a different setting and it would still work. Everything would still flow, because it's been chosen by me, in the same spirit.' Artwork also benefits from the occasional rejig: 'Give something a new context and you see it afresh and it inspires you all over again,' she says. With works by Anish Kapoor, Marilyn Minter, Alex Prager, Jeff Koons, Christopher Wool and Tracey Emin in her collection, Caroline prefers art that is bold as well as beautiful. 'Whether it's photography, sculpture, paintings or installations, I'm drawn to art where I recognise the energy and the evolution of a piece,' she says.

Given the time of year, Caroline does concede adding seasonally appropriate candlelight and some extra gleam to her dining table. But even then, the array of sculptural blooms on the table, sprayed bronze and silver, could almost be another vintage Curtis Jeré. The idea was dreamed up by Caroline's good friend Hayley Newstead of Absolute Flowers & Home. 'I think she has the best flower shop in London and a very creative eye for vintage finds, too. Plus, like me, she hosts some wicked parties...'

See Caroline's portfolio at carolinelegranddesign.com. Absolute Flowers & Home is at absoluteflowersandhome.com

DINING ROOM

Decadence reigns in here, and luxe top notes include delicate fresh and dried flowers sprayed in metallic shades. 'I love to entertain,' says Caroline. 'And if you do it with genuine love, that shines through.'

Get the look The vintage table is from Talisman, with vintage Charles Hollis Jones Lucite-framed dining chairs. Artworks are by Anish Kapoor and Lucien Smith (centre). The ceiling light is by Bec Brittain. The floral display and containers are as above. The Sixties table lamps are by Roger Rougier.

‘I’ve gradually realised that most of the furniture I love hails from the Seventies. It was a very sensual, sexy era’



KITCHEN

The sleek lines of Caroline’s kitchen cabinets are broken up by a Murano glass chandelier and the swirls of the marble flooring and worktops.
Get the look The kitchen is by Boffi. The chandelier is from Caira Mandaglio. The black and white jar is by Jonathan Adler.

DINING AREA —>

A photograph by Laurie Simmons presides over the kitchen’s dining area. The walls are actually a pale pink to tie in with the artwork.
Get the look The artwork is *Love Doll/Day 11*, bought from Frieze. The Tulip table and stools by Eero Saarinen for Knoll are available at The Conran Shop.





HOME TRUTHS

Christmas decoration go-to? Candles for cosiness and flowers for a natural aura.
What would we never see in your home? Clutter! My home is welcoming and relaxed, but also tidy. And, yes, it is possible to have a cream sofa with kids and a dog.
Secret ingredient for a successful dinner party? Make sure guests have at least one thing in common with the person next to them – and cook with love.
Can't live without... Music. When I need a lift or an energy boost that's what I turn to.
What's on your playlist? It's pretty varied: Portishead, Florence + The Machine, Ibiza techno and a bit of Lil Peep – that's my son's influence.
Favourite tippie? I don't drink, so mine's usually a virgin Bloody Mary. I like discovering how each bartender puts their own spin on it.



HOMES / ETC

← HALL

'I almost treat my hallway as a gallery space, but a very welcoming one. Your entrance should announce your style,' says Caroline.
Get the look The Seventies Mastercraft Greek Key brass chair is from Talisman. The painting is by Philippe Pastor.

↑ FAMILY ROOM

Marshmallow-like pouffes contrast with the sharper geometric backdrop in this room, which the family uses for watching movies or reading.
Get the look The wallpaper is by Kelly Wearstler. The vintage console and pouffes are from Nihil Novi. The sunburst wall sculptures are by Curtis Jeré.



↑ **MASTER EN SUITE**
Caroline loves marble because it combines practicality with luxury.
Get the look The statuettes are from Paris' Marché aux Puces. The portrait is by Fergus Greer. The stool is by Jonathan Adler. Burlanes does a similar vanity.

MASTER BEDROOM →
Layers of deep textures are balanced out with visually strong outlines.
Get the look The vintage Brutalist lamp is by Paul Evans from Talisman. The neon light artwork is by Tracey Emin. The Seventies bedside table is from Nihil Novi in Miami. The wallpaper is Concrete by Cole & Son. The headboard was made in Hong Kong.

