

I N T E R I O R S

The basement of the four-storey house is given over to a large entertaining room



MAKING A SPLASH

When swimwear designer Melissa Odabash wanted to revamp her London home, she chose a light palette to match her distinctive style



Melissa Odabash relaxing at home

Her swimwear is worn by the likes of Kate Moss, Beyoncé, Rihanna, Sienna Miller and the Duchess of Cambridge. So when it came to designing her home in central London, the American-born former model Melissa Odabash knew she wanted glamour. "I was looking for something that echoed my distinctive style," she says.

She enlisted the help of Kelly Hoppen to do the kitchen. For the rest of the house, she gave the London-based Belgian interiors expert Caroline Legrand a well-defined brief, from which Legrand produced a series of moodboards. One of her starting points was a tearsheet from US Vogue showing Cate Blanchett leaning against a white wall, with a lamp on a black lacquered table and a glimpse of cream carpet and sofa. "Melissa got it immediately," she says.

Odabash's home sits to the north of Hyde Park. "Right from the start, I fell in love with the house," says Legrand. "It's built over four floors and very spread out, not your usual vertical London house. Even before work had begun, it had a very cool vibe."

Together with Odabash, she spent a lot of time sourcing beautiful furniture for each room. "She is a very easy person to work with," says Legrand, "in the sense that she knows exactly what she likes."

There is a comfortable feel to the home, and a sense of calm — the ideal place for Odabash to spend time with her husband, Nicolas de Santis, and their two daughters, Alaia, 18, and Avalon, 14. "This is first and foremost a family home, where we can find peace and relaxation from our busy lives," says Odabash. And isn't that what a home is all about? ●

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS: MICHAEL PAUL/LIVING INSIDE
odabash.com; carolinelegranddesign.com



The lacquered chest in the hallway came from 1stdibs. Other vintage pieces are from Nihil Novi in New York



Left The snug is finished in soft creams and vert d'eau walls, with faux-fur throws on the Minotti sofa. 'It's my favourite room for chilling out,' Odabash says



Kelly Hoppen designed the kitchen and Caroline Legrand dressed it. The dining table is made of marble and the chairs are from the Talisman Gallery. The vintage lights are from Alfie's Market