

METRO
Property



**MY PERIOD
DRAMA...**
How I restored my
townhouse to its
former glory
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A REAL
Glass act
The £20million Southbank
penthouse without any walls
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Watch heads to
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Panoramic: The breakfast room and snug offer fabulous city views, including St Paul's Cathedral (right) and the Shard (left)

TOP OF THE GLASS

It's big enough to host a party for 300, but it's this penthouse's views that wow **Alison Tyler**



THE penthouses at the Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners, RIBA award-winning NEO Bankside can lay claim to some of the most recognisable views in London: St Paul's, the Tate Modern and The Shard, Big Ben and the London Eye, while at the rear you can see as far as Crystal Palace and beyond to the north Kent Weald. But you might recognise the incredible, distinctive glass and steel apartment, too. It's appeared in *Silent Witness*, *Hunted* and *Morry Python*, while the likes of GQ have done fashion shoots here. It's easy to see why. For a start it is huge: 'We've had parties with more than 300 people in here,' the PR Alex

Art has been used to fantastic effect and brings the massive space to life

Crabtree tells me, 16 floors up in the four-bed Penthouse B1601, which has been designed by Studio Reed.

Designer Jonathan Reed has taken the blank shell and created an urban oasis: the inside becomes a continuation of the outside terraces, giving the sense of a thoroughly modern orangery, planted prairie-style with a mix of grasses and succulents in huge containers, while artworks rest on wheeled screens that can be rolled into other areas of the space to divide and create privacy.

'One of the biggest challenges is the lack of walls - it's all glass,' says Crabtree. 'But we knew this home would appeal to an art lover, being next to the Tate and sitting on the

Urban oasis: Glass, steel and wood dominate the interiors, beautifully designed by Studio Reed



Southbank, so this is a genius solution. In fact, art has been used to fantastic effect to break up the space and bring it to life.

The apartment has the feel of a gallery: a lamp that looks like a crane, a huge ceramic screen that looks as if it's been made using the gold-painted

vertebrae of dinosaurs, huge metal sculptures by Carpenter's Workshop - these all borrow from the surrounding landscape and soften the angular lines and solid metals of the building.

Reed's main aim was to add layers of texture to the space and he has

done so in spades. The wooden floor has a riveted look, which happened by accident when the sample came with a sick in it - Reed liked the effect and asked the company to create the entire floor the same way.

The kitchen uses natural bogwood, with intensely rich tones, and other wood can be found throughout, from the polished wooden walls in the bathroom to the petrified wood that has been turned into an artistic basin.

The whole experience is very tactile - from the leather-topped dining table and the metal bedside table that looks like rippled clay on a potter's wheel, to the fabric wallpaper and the verdigris copper-paneled walls.

Nearly every item is bespoke - the sofas had to be craned in and the dining table (that looks like it could seat 20) was built inside the apartment.

Winter gardens at the front and back add an extra luxurious air to the rooms, while the mini kitchen in the master-bedroom suite (in case you

can't be bothered to go downstairs for your morning latte) is sure to get plenty of use.

The en suite behind the master bedroom is the size of your average studio apartment - you could comfortably get 15 people into the shower, should you wish to - while the dressing room could accommodate even Carrie Bradshaw's wardrobe.

This is a penthouse designed for partying, and you could easily imagine a musician, actor or artist living here. It's no surprise to learn that Jessie J was here recently - she'll have looked right at home on the bespoke leather sofa, with the backdrop of the Tate Modern behind her. And you sense this pad is just waiting for its next big bash... It would make one hell of a house-warming!

Studio Reed Penthouse B1601, NEO Bankside, is on the market at £19.75million, neobankside.com/penthouses

Dream big: The master bedroom suite has a dressing room, mini kitchen and private winter garden



Good work: The study has access to one of the terraces



Tactile: Layers of texture decorate the living spaces



Opulent: The vast master en suite is the size of an average studio apartment



Luxury: Even Carrie Bradshaw would envy the dressing room

WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY



Service: The penthouse has a 24-hour concierge

- The penthouse is in a building created by Richard Rogers, which has just won the RIBA prize for architecture.
- Bespoke interiors by Studio Reed.
- A whopping 7,080 sq ft of living space with four bedrooms, four bathrooms, double-height reception rooms, a kitchen (including a full-height wine fridge for all your champagne).
- Two roof terraces and four winter gardens, with panoramic views of the entire city.
- A study, breakfast room and private hallway.
- Two allocated secure underground car parking spaces and storage facilities.
- A 24-hour concierge and security services.
- A residents' gym, business centre and wine cellar.



Living well: Enjoy al fresco dining on the roof terraces