

# Robb Report

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## THE HIGH LIFE

Vertiginous living can be exhilarating, but how do you make a luxe, glass-and-steel eyrie also an inviting home? 'There's always a sense of exposure,' says Jonathan Reed, of Studio Reed, who designed the £15m penthouse at NEO Bankside next to Tate Modern in London. So, for me, it's important to provide a feeling of enclosure – either with curtains, blinds (our trademark blinds pull up from the floor), or sliding screens that create room dividers or provide "walls" for art in front of acres of glass.'

The most impressive penthouses incorporate double-height living areas with mezzanine levels and sculptural or cantilevered staircases to enhance the top-of-the-world feeling. To counter-balance the hues of the skyline outside, finishes inside need to be natural, warm and textured: richly grained and honey-toned timbers or exposed brick, for example.

That's the approach taken by RIBA Stirling Prize-winning architects Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM), who are one of five firms tasked with creating penthouses in the new Television Centre development at White City. 'We used a palette of materials that are both visual and visceral,' says AHMM director Paul Monaghan. 'Carved marble walls and textured timber panelling are expressive and tactile, with the timber offering warmth and a wonderful natural aroma.' [televisioncentre.com](http://televisioncentre.com)

**A light and airy apartment at London's NEO Bankside, designed by Studio Reed**

