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# D *The Art Of* DESIGN

Issue 14





# LUXURY, STYLE, COMFORT, WITH THE HINT OF A RESIDENTIAL ATMOSPHERE FOR PRINCIPAL GLOBAL SOLUTIONS (PGS)

INTERIOR DESIGN BY LOUIS HENRI ([www.louis.henri.com](http://www.louis.henri.com))  
HIS FIRST OFFICE PROJECT

Images Courtesy Bruce Hemming



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The brief for these rooms in a grand Mayfair town house, 25 Upper Brook Street, was to provide maximum professional efficiency, but 'cushioned in splendour': pastel colours, gleaming wood, deeply comfortable chairs and sofas, original artwork, and a custom made chandelier in the boardroom.

Principal Global Solutions (PGS) was founded in 2010 to advise some of the world's most affluent (UHNW) people.

Their expertise spans commercial consultancy, all aspects of the property market, travel and logistics. A young team, mostly Oxbridge graduates with international experience, will organise just about any personal service for clients as well as giving business advice.

This could include VIP tickets for coveted events, booking world famous chefs, setting up private pre-collection fashion shows, even sourcing fine art, watches and jewellery.

South African born Louis Bührmann established his own interior design practice in 2007, after studying Interior Architecture in Johannesburg, later gaining experience on product design for Andrew Martin and interiors for Northacre Developments. For his private clients, he has created magnificent apartments in London and Paris, a presidential suite in Dubai and a holiday villa in Cap d'Antibes, on the Cote d'Azur. Everything from furniture to carpets, chandeliers to door handles is custom made to the highest

standards, mostly to his own design, with furniture crafted by his brother Balthasar, a master cabinetmaker.

He had known the clients, directors of PGS (Principal Global Solutions) for some time, understood that they wished to put clients entirely at their ease, but ensure the most advanced technology was in place.

The offices are seconds away from Mount Street and Park Lane, both synonymous with traditional elegance and quality. The building has classically proportioned interiors with Grade I marble and plaster work.

Louis says: 'What a joy to work on such a formal space. I imagine someone like



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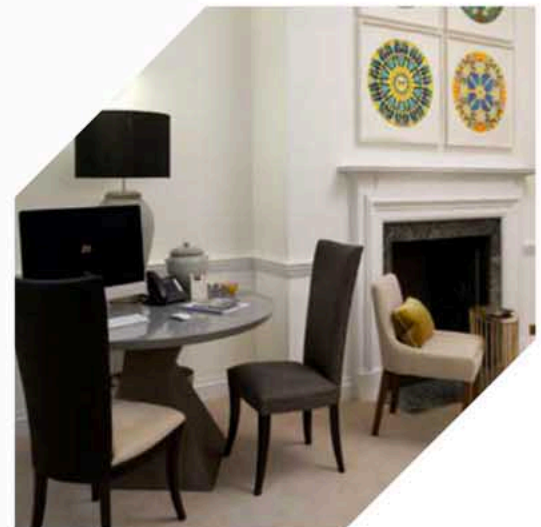
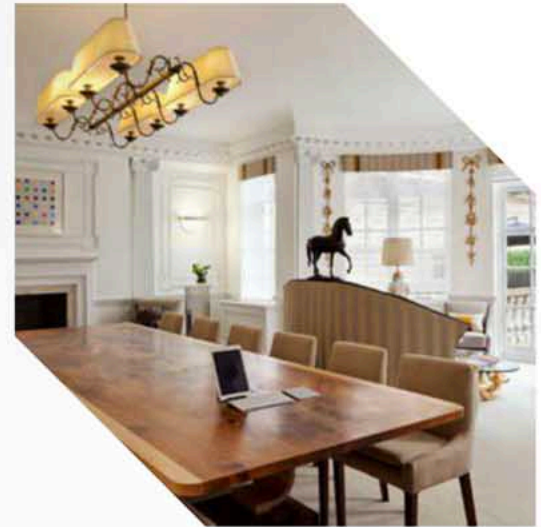
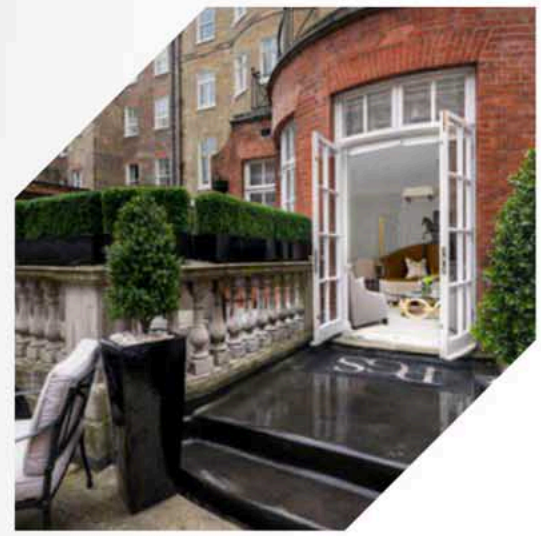


a railway baron, or millionaire man of mystery would have lived in these rooms. And with changing times comes change of use, mansion morphs into a corporate office in the heart of London. After viewing the office, creating the concept felt natural.'

The clients wanted a spacious boardroom for members and guests, with a specially designed boardroom table seating up to twelve people, equipped with the most up to date conference technology, and an additional seating area leading effortlessly on to the heated terrace. This terrace has proportions as 'fine as the listed panelling inside' and we furnished it with seating and a lavish array of plants to extend our 'summers.'

The boardroom table and sideboard were made especially for the space by Gareth Batowski Furniture. Photographs and paintings selected by art curator, Sascha Bailey, were the work of Damien Hirst, one of the world's most successful contemporary artists.

Louis installed blackout blinds to ensure the lighting for video conferencing would be controlled. Grey striped pelmets in a fabric by Lelievre balanced the visual weight of the classical mouldings. The neo-classical ribbon and wreath motif on the walls was hand finished in gold leaf. A bronze horse sculpture served as a clever device to separate the more relaxed seating area from the



boardroom, in this way creating two spaces. Louis used tree cushions from his Antibes collection for the sofa, and highlighted some of the colours from the lamp bases on others. He selected upholstery fabrics from Fox Linton and Abbot & Boyd. Soft furnishings were made by Ian Block from A.T Cronin.

The gold chain coffee table was a happy discovery from Maison et Objet, the annual trade fair in Paris, interior designers' happy hunting ground. Louis says: 'I am a sucker for anything gold, if it's not black or gold it needs to be shiny!'





He also describes the multi-purpose office space:

Four work stations were needed, two of them free for clients to use, with a screened off print area to allow for a free flow of work.

'We intended the interior to be light and airy. Roman blinds add warmth, the cafe blind with polished brass poles adds privacy. Louis suggests that the Andrew Martin trestle desks give a 'little cheeky Hoxton media feel to the space.' A respectful nod to the past character of the building was supplied by a pair of 18th century fauteuils, as Louis aptly says 'going to work shouldn't' mean plastic cubicles.' The project had to be completed quickly to ensure nothing interrupted the clients' work programme. Louis coordinated his team to finish everything within five weeks. No structural changes were needed, and the walls had previously been painted snow white, a perfect back drop, Louis considered, to realise his vision of optimum efficiency but a subtle layer of residential informality.

Quote from Louis in case there might be room for a frivolous touch: 'We spend so much time at the office it might as well be comfortable and sexy at the same time. Aimee, my Pekingese, enjoyed being able to hop over to Hyde Park for a run, or just to soak up some rare sunshine was sheer bliss!

[www.louishenri.com](http://www.louishenri.com)

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