



Classic yet Contemporary Country Living

Holm Oak, Buckinghamshire, UK by Oakeve Interiors
Winner at the International Design and Architecture Awards 2016 -
Residential Property - Residential £2.5-5million





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Completed in April 2015, Holm Oak is a new uniquely built Arts & Crafts style country house, which marries together a traditional facade, with a contemporary, luxurious and sumptuous interior. Set in extensive grounds and matured trees, it's an imposing picture, in all the best ways.

Exclusively designed by developer Oakeve Interiors, Holm Oak was recognised at the International Design & Architecture Awards 2016. The property claimed the Residential £2.5 - 5million (Property Value) Award.

Holm Oak was originally intended to be a speculative development, but as the client purchased the house 'off plan', it became a client-driven project with their specific brief driving the scheme. The client made it clear that they wanted to buy into an 'aspirational lifestyle' therefore Oakeve were tasked with creating a fabulous, luxurious and opulent new family show home.

Sympathetic to the 'Arts and Crafts' homes archetype of the Buckinghamshire area Holm Oak resides in, the property features traditional external elevations contrasted with a very luxurious contemporary interior design, providing a very privileged quality of life.

Natural light and spaciousness were cornerstones of the project. Holm Oak is north-east facing to the sea, meaning that the back entertaining rooms and kitchen could potentially suffer from poor light after midday. To avoid this many interior design solutions were included, as well as single windows, roof lanterns, and extensive bi-fold doors, maximizing all available natural light. The house also features the best in technology to help with this: Luton mood lighting works with Sonos multi-room audio to create enviable environments for guests and parties within the house's sumptuous and extensive entertaining spaces.

The flow of the house enables the residents to move seamlessly between spaces; this was an implemented design solution, which was given significant importance. Porcelain tiling and deep, fluffy carpets in neutral tones throughout help to create this airy continuity.

Set at the heart of this beautiful home, Oakeve Interiors designed a lavish living space that aimed to meet the client's brief to achieve 'one large entertaining space' between the Drawing Room, Bar Area and Dining Room. Continuous interior doors and colour palettes sweeping through these rooms helped to create the aspirational and opulent finish desired; subtle textures interjected with striking amethysts and a few unique and bespoke items of furniture make this design stand out. Bespoke veneered furniture sourced from Italy was complemented by luxurious purple velvet armchairs and deep, coexisting sofas, all manufactured in Britain. The 'sacredness' Effervescence wall covering was chosen to provide an opulent, reflective texture and was utilised on opposite walls of the open-plan Drawing and Dining Room to ensure light from the French doors and bay

window was reflected, accentuating light and spaciousness.

The drapes and blinds, from Osborne & Little, are a two-tone satin damask with a silky appearance. Pelmet's were utilised to soften the window treatments and add a traditional elegance and indulgence to the room. Atmospheric lighting was critical within the design for this entertaining space, so Luton Lighting was used as well as Porta Romana Crystal Strata lamps with rectangular amethyst velvet shades, chosen for their delicate design and luxurious finish. From a design view, these also complement the soft limestone fireplace and create a visually striking feature upon entry.

Innovative storage methods were used such as creating oak panelling 'secret' cupboards providing practical storage solutions in a bespoke and unobtrusive manner so as not to compromise on living accommodation. This can be seen in various places, notably within the unique 'ying yang' centre island in the kitchen. This feature is a favourite of the designers, and ensures a 'wow factor' and focal point for the scheme.

Oakeve Interiors design and install their own brand of bespoke kitchen cabinetry and indeed no expense was spared here. A high gloss, lacquered Sable finish was specified, providing an effective light reflecting surface, further enhanced by the recessed uplighting, creating a bright, contemporary, luxurious atmosphere. The team even managed to procure an ornate display cabinet and dresser with a Macassar veneer and black mock croc detailing, providing texture and that touch of glamour alongside black mock croc base units for ample storage. The large amount of textured limestone and walnut work surface provides an indulgent marriage of materials, complemented by luxurious velvet breakfast bar stools.

Oakeve took great care and attention during the spatial planning phase to optimise space and maintain a light, airy atmosphere; important, considering the oversized statement kitchen island. Practicality was also key, 500mm deep pan drawers were specified under the island countertops for ease of use. This island, by all means a host of wonders, also includes an integrated pop up TV and pop up 5-bay (charging USB and plug points) within the composite worktop, to ensure there is no change of material and clean, elegant lines are retained when not in use. Throughout the kitchen, electrical appliances are installed to a high specification and quality finish.

Oakeve Interiors Founder, Ima Newton explained that her most rewarding and favourite aspect of the entire project was when the client entered the Kitchen Area for the first time. Upon unveiling the finished project to the client, their immediate and powerful reaction was one of overwhelming delight, "we are simply over the moon, Oakeve have created the most luxurious kitchen and entertainment space, better than we could ever have imagined and it will indeed be the heart of our home."



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