

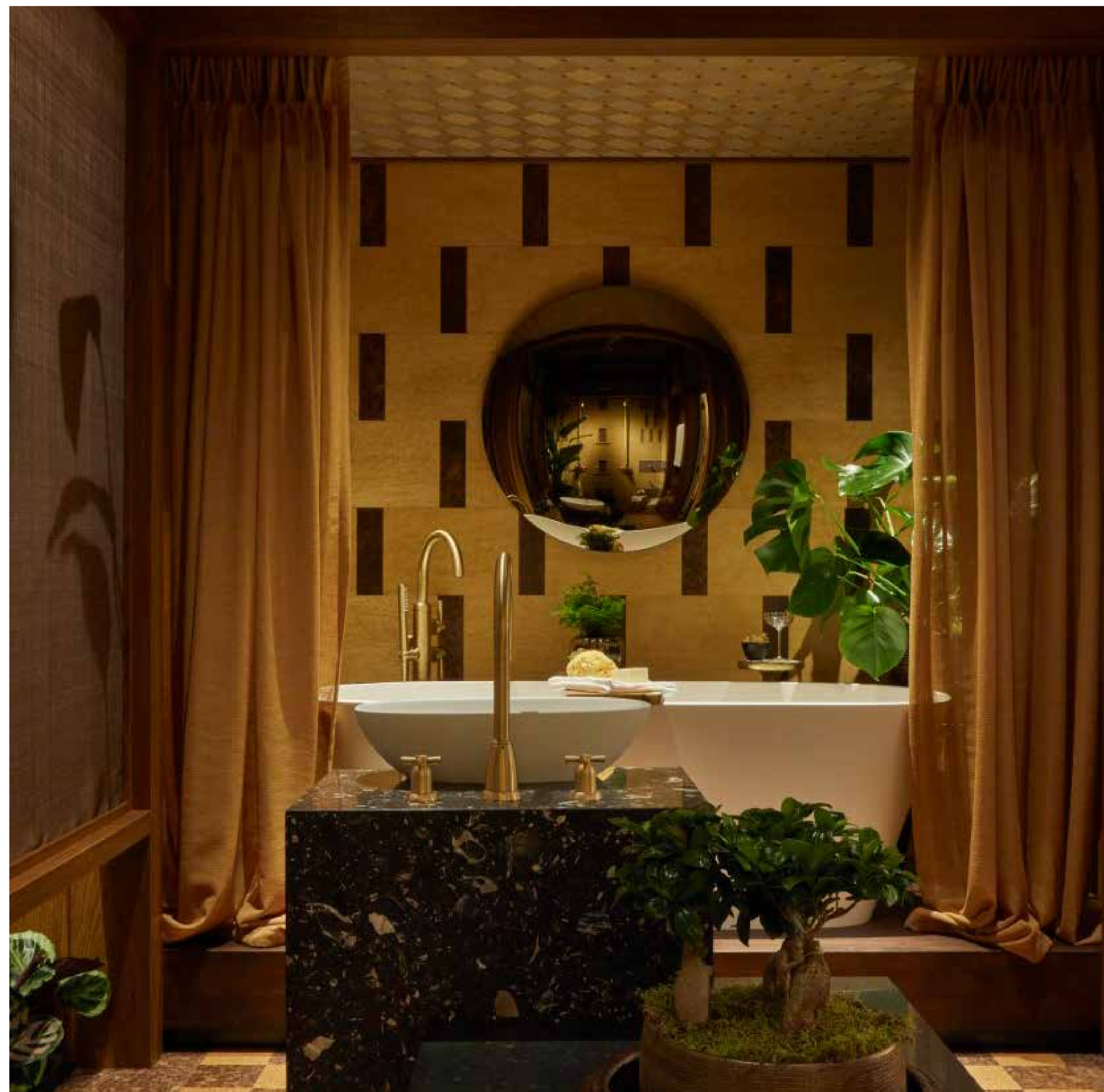
# BUSINESS OF HOME

NEWS SOURCES & STYLE JOBS EVENTS FIND AN EXPERT PODCASTS MAGAZINE

PRESENTED BY DESIGN CENTRE CHELSEA HARBOUR

## Design Centre Chelsea Harbour's Wow!house brings high design to the London waterfront

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No one does design quite like the British, and nowhere is that stylish eccentricity more exemplified than at the [Wow!house in London's Design Centre Chelsea Harbour](#). For its second annual edition this summer, England's only interiors showhouse has upped the ante, pairing a star-studded roster of world-class designers with local artisans and luxury brands to create impeccably appointed, often whimsical rooms. From tropical twin showers to a disco kitchen to a library literally destined for a château in France, each space is sure to inspire and surprise.

"It's fantasy with its feet on the ground," says Claire German, CEO of the Design Centre Chelsea Harbour, of her "mad lockdown idea" to construct a "democratically divided" 5,382-square-foot longhouse within the convention space. "Each designer has a fabulous room to work with." In lieu of a traditional facade, the Wow!house entrance features 3D-printed geometric mandalas repurposed from 2022's event by local architecture firm Mamou-Mani. "You would never know once you're within the house that you're within the Design Centre," says German. "It feels incredibly intimate." A custom soundscape by Guyanese-American harpsichordist Leslie Kwan and a signature scent by British bespoke candlemaker Wick & Tallow add to the sensory experience. With an eye on sustainability, most of the furnishings are for sale, and a portion of the profits will go to TP Caring Spaces, a charity founded by two of the Wow!house's inaugural designers that creates holistic interiors for hospitals and other communal settings.

The 2023 Wow!house is open through July 6, so there's still time to cash in a few frequent-flier miles and hop across the proverbial pond for a fresh perspective and exciting new sources to bestow a bit of British flair on your projects. "We have people visiting from all over the world," says German. "It's a way of unifying the international design community. Because of the vast array of products under one roof, even the French find it easier to come here rather than scoot around Paris." Ahead, in order of appearance, the featured designers offer a peek into the concepts behind their individual rooms.

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*A space for serene bathing rituals, Studio Mica's spa-like sanctuary subtly references traditional Japanese shoji screens and joinery* Photo by Milo Brown

“We want to transport our visitors to a tropical resort where they’re encouraged to retreat, relax and indulge. Every detail has been considered to create an immersive experience. The subtle lighting and gentle rotation of the ceiling fan set the tone, and carefully selected natural materials in a curated color palette of tobacco and honey hues foster a tranquil ambiance. In the twin showers, you are enveloped by a backdrop of intricately woven textures and surrounded by exotic foliage—it’s the suggestion of being outdoors in a seductive setting. Raw clay complements Perrin & Rowe’s beautifully restrained Langbourn range of fittings. Whilst ‘helping’ us open packages, the two youngest members of Studio Mica (age 6) proudly announced that ‘the gingerbread had arrived!’ It was the clay brick tiles—beautiful but not quite edible.” —Carolynne Shenton, Studio Mica