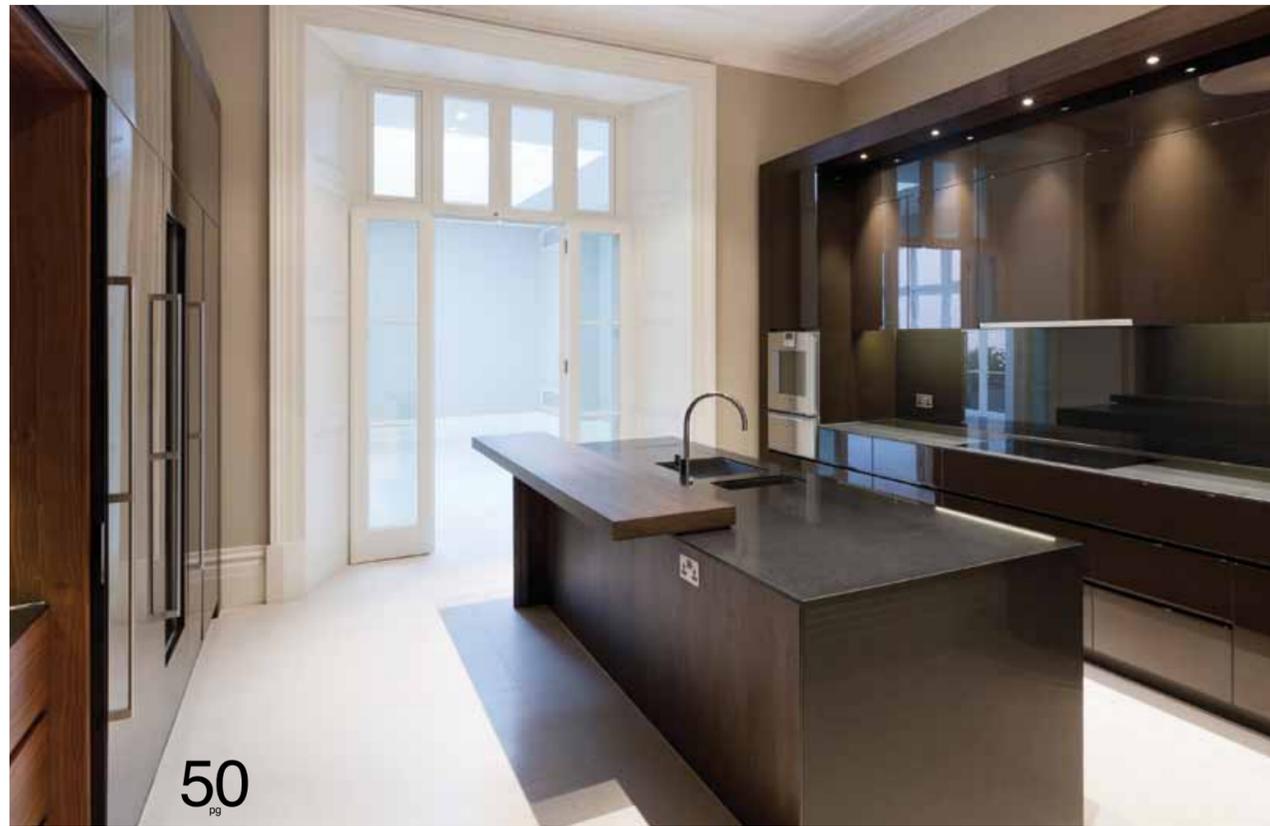


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Take Five

The kitchen designs for a set of five prime London townhouses show how a coherent approach to materials and styles can create a look that is at the same time both consistent and individual

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With an extensive worldwide property portfolio, Grosvenor Estates core asset is still its London estate, first developed in the early 18th Century. Between Belgravia, Mayfair and other select areas within London, Grosvenor Estates manages almost 300 acres of real estate.

With a global reputation reflecting the desirability and status of Mayfair and Belgravia, it is essential that Grosvenor Estates maintain and continuously

improve their property portfolio with the very best internal furniture, fixtures and fittings.

Working with main contractor Walter Lily, architect Paul Davis & Partners, and interior design consultants Helen Green Design, Kaizen Furniture developed and manufactured five individual, bespoke, luxury kitchens for Grosvenor Crescent, a series of listed Georgian townhouse properties in the heart of Belgravia,

all under the watchful eye of English Heritage.

The commissions were produced in such a way that, although fitted, their structure and fitting had absolutely no impact on the internal architecture of each of the properties. Whilst each commission is unique, Kaizen was careful to develop details that linked all five properties, such as consistent use of the concealed handle door, drawer box design and solid walnut internals. Finishes

include combinations of gloss and matt lacquer in subtle colour variations together with accents of American Black Walnut or stained European Oak.

Whilst Kaizen Furniture's bespoke design and manufacturing capability allows for a multitude of styles, the Grosvenor Crescent project is perhaps an example of what could be construed as its signature style of sleek, modern aesthetic made with British cabinet making skills. ▶



ROOMS FOR IMPROVEMENT

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Despite the name 'Kaizen' – Japanese for 'continuous improvement' – Kaizen Furniture prides itself on its Britishness. Its workforce has swelled to 38 since the business was formed two decades ago by furniture designers William Schilling and Antonius Wubben, with the team split between their Brentwood workshops in Essex, where literally everything is produced, and their Bow, East London-based design office and headquarters.

"We are excited about using different design styles and materials to help us in our interpretation of a clients' brief," says Schilling. "Besides wonderful timbers and veneers, we work with glass, leather, metal, stone and anything else that we feel works."

"We love the challenges that we get presented by our clients' requirements and personal tastes as well as through the use of different materials and we are not afraid to blend styles to achieve the look we want."



Other key features include linear cabinetry with integrated handles to ensure the purity of the visual line, and wafer-thin engineered and natural stone worktops. Some of the other details of the Grosvenor Crescent kitchens include Black American Walnut, bespoke cutlery boxes, Nespresso coffee pod holders, Bolon drawer linings, and Noir St Laurant stone feature walls. There are also LED lighting details on the underside of the worktops.

Kaizen has also designed these kitchens to be very much the social hub of the home whilst ticking all the practical, ultra efficient food and drink preparation boxes. Large island units fulfil both cooking and informal dining or socialising functions together with banks of tall, wall tower units which are home to integrated cookers, refrigeration, wine cooler storage and coffee machines. The whole project from design, design approval, manufacture and install, took six months.

William Schilling, designer and joint Managing Director at Kaizen, says: "We are getting asked to look at kitchens more and more since the very high end London market simply does not want standard solutions and in most instances, this is all that can be found, even in some of the most exclusive showrooms."

"Our manufacturing flexibility and all round furniture knowledge allows us to view kitchen and family room spaces in a different

way to the KBB showroom brands since we are not limited by cabinet size and finish restrictions. We are also able to create an internal design flow with furniture design that translates into other areas of the home. As designers, that's a great tool for me and my team to work with in order to truly satisfy our clients." **d**

info

Kaizen Furniture |
www.kaizenfurniture.com

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