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Designer Mark Howorth has designed a chic, modern space that is in demand by both generations of the family.

his idyllic Victorian home facing the River Thames in south-west London was a great family home, bar one small but important problem – there was not enough room for the teenagers to spend time. The solution was to excavate down and create a new basement accommodating

down and create a new basement, accommodating a large media/chill out/games room, where the teenagers could escape to, allowing the adults quiet, quality time upstairs.

To avoid a space that was dark and pokey, the basement room has generous proportions and a modern design, to contrast with the Victorian architecture of the main house. The ceilings are 2.7m high with discrete light slots that allow natural light to pour in to the room, making for a bright, modern and uplifting space.

The media room is packed with storage, to tidily store games, photos, momentos, DVDs and books. One wall of full height seamless lacquered integral cupboards are handle-less, blending into the background to give a sense of space and ordered calmness. The ample storage space provided around the television means the whole room is well organised, tidy and uncluttered.

The design, masterminded by Mark Howorth of Callender Howorth, features niche detail lights that wash the walls with colour, creating a club-like feel for evening use. The descent into the basement is down a double-glazed staircase from the kitchen, producing an exciting contrast when leaving the Victorian house to enter a fun party room. There's also a glazed wine cellar, and a hidden bar and wet bar for drinks (under lock and key, for obvious reasons).

The large seating allows for the whole family to watch the latest movies together, the classic sofas covered in a modern fabric and accented by bold graphic art. There is just one problem though – the parents are so enamoured with the new living space that the teenagers are now having to share their new hang-out.



SHOPPING LIST

L-shape sofas Viaduct: www.viaduct.co.uk Joinery Louis Baker Construct: www.lbconstruct.co.uk Lighting The Lighting Corporation: www.lightcorporation.com Wall finish Farrow and Ball paints: www.farrow-ball.com TV & AV Sound Stage Integrated Systems: www soundstage.uk.com Artwork Art Projects Ltd: 020 7644 3322



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MEET THE DESIGNER

Mark Howorth founded Callender Howorth in 1997 and has since established a successful highend residential interior design company with a portfolio of completed projects throughout the UK, Europe and the United States.

He started his career in design after studying communications and design at Chapman University in California, and then worked for private clients in Los Angeles and Orange County.

In 1994 Mark returned to the UK and cofounded The Proud Galleries before starting Callender Howorth Interior Design in 1997. In 2006, Mark, who speaks French fluently, launched My Place Riviera (a sister company to Callender Howorth), providing interior design solutions for clients on the Cote D'Azur on the French south coast.

CALLENDER HOWORTH 020 7336 8560, www.callenderhoworth.com