



‘It’s down to the designer to make sure that harmony is found between the old and the new.’

clifton property developments



Designer: Paul Van Geens. **Company:** Clifton Property Developments, London, UK. **Projects:** Mostly large houses in central London, both developments and private design commissions. **Home:** A period house in Chelsea, London. **Heroes:** Frank Lloyd Wright, Sir Norman Foster. **Inspiration:** Architecture. **Love:** Simplicity. **Loathe:** Over complexity, florals, chintz, bureaucracy.

- I'm architecturally led rather than interior design led. I'm very much into the creation of space and how that space is divided up prior to the interior design element of a job
- We work with many listed period properties where there are limits as to what can be done externally. Sometimes we can add an extra floor or dig out the garden, put in a home cinema and then put the garden back on top
- The current fashion in many large houses is to create kitchen, dining and family rooms on the lower ground floor. Some family rooms are doubling as home entertainment centres, with projection screens hidden into ceiling recesses
- Often period buildings with tall ceilings and good proportions offer a better blank canvas to work with than a more modern building
- Maintaining and renovating an old property with period features and mixing an element of modern and contemporary design is a particular pleasure
- Home technology is becoming increasingly important, hidden and unobtrusive but quietly making our lives easier
- Technology has also changed bathrooms. With modern heating and ventilation mirrors don't steam up and condensation doesn't exist. Bathing traditions are also changing with more people requesting showers and wet rooms are becoming increasingly popular.
- We incorporate period antiques and furniture with contemporary design. Most of our clients have objects they treasure and they often ask us to find a place for them in their new scheme.







'We tend to create a blank canvas using neutral tones and then add layers on to the scheme afterwards.'