

CAMP END MANOR

London, England

CREATIVE, COLLABORATIVE CRAFTSMANSHIP

Camp End Manor, a beautifully constructed new house in the outskirts of London (UK), has been created by a unique collaboration of designers, all highly regarded experts in their respective fields.

Architects Lees Associates, Linley Interior Design and The Stonemasonry Company were appointed in 2014 to work together to create the finest property on St George's Hill, and have succeeded in their quest. Andrew Paulson of Lees Associates says, "Everybody wanted to deliver the perfect house and that's what we've done. We are all really proud. The house is absolutely fantastic – it's everything we hoped it would be, and more."

Andrew continues, "We have created a house which fits beautifully into the landscape; it belongs here. The house has been designed so that the four elevations address different aspects of the landscape. The view to the south, across 20 miles of beautiful British countryside, is truly unique – no other house in England has this spectacular view."

Tim Murray, Interior Design Director at Linley, considered the importance of the remarkable views before commencing work on the interior design of the house. He says, "We don't often see houses with views as good as these. We didn't want the interior to conflict or fight with the views, so our starting point for the scheme was sophistication, understated elegance and a sense of calm. We wanted the client to be able come into this house and be relaxed and to feel at home."

The Palladian style of the house, with its symmetrical footprint, gives harmony and balance to the building's structure and to all the rooms within. It also means the views can be seen from one side of the house right through to the opposite side. The tall sash windows allow natural daylight to pour in from every aspect and light also floods down from an oculus window in the centre of the roof, set high above the graceful stone staircase.

The stair, a free-standing curve of 270° created by hand in the purest French Limestone, is a masterpiece of design and engineering. Pierre Bidaud, the French master-craftsman and Project Manager at The Stonemasonry Company, is undeniably proud of his firm's achievement in creating this unique 'floating' staircase. He says, "We needed to stay true to the fundamentals of architecture, which are all about solidity, function and elegance. The challenge was to find a way to have 12 tonnes of solid load-bearing stone held up in the air! We worked with Lees Associates and our

engineers Webb Yates to test and re-test the design and calculations to create this beautiful structure. At the heart of our work is the history of hundreds of years of stonemasonry and our love for the material with which we work. We hope the family buying this house will remember each stone in this beautiful staircase is part of the earth's history.”

The land at Camp End Manor also has a wonderful history. Originally the site of an Iron Age fort, the plateau upon which the house sits curves steeply away, with a secret woodland wildlife garden running down to the south west. Mature trees and shrubs grow abundantly throughout the gardens, with some fine specimens found amongst the mature planting.

Over one hundred skilled craftspeople and design professionals have played their part in creating this beautiful and unique English residence but the last word must go to David Snowdon, founder and chairman of Linley. Lord Snowdon says, “Our approach is to create memorable interiors that transcend fashions. Our style is always elegant and eclectic, with a focus on detail and craftsmanship in everything we create. We're delighted to have helped create this beautiful house and I hope the owners will enjoy it for many years to come.”