

**THE**  **TIMES**

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# STYLE

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**FURRY FRIEND**  
AA GILL ON WHY SHE  
WENT TO PARIS

**RED CARPET KING**  
MEET THE MAN WHO  
DRESSES AMAL

## FUNNY FACE

HOW AMY POEHLER WENT FROM  
CONTROVERSIAL COMIC TO DISNEY DARLING

**T**he home of Adam Brown, co-founder of the designer swimwear brand Orlebar Brown, is as meticulously crafted as the luxury shorts his company produces – the beachwear of choice for Jay Z, Damian Lewis and Jonathan Ive. The Notting Hill property was designed by Brown's friend, the champion of heritage craftsmanship Jonathan Reed (whose clients include the king and queen of Jordan, Bryan Adams and David Bowie), to be four smart storeys of made-to-measure style.

Having previously lived in a loft apartment in nearby Earls Court, Brown, with his partner, the PR guru Tom Konig Oppenheimer, and their dogs, Rudi and Arthur, moved to the area two years ago. "We were desperate for a house, for our own front door, and for a garden. We didn't mind whether it was modern or period, but we definitely wanted something with a bit of character. There was a lot of work needed: the house had been very superficially done up and the quality was dreadful," Brown says. It was then that they enlisted the help of Studio Reed.

"Jonathan has been a great friend of mine for 30 years. I love his sympathetic approach to materials, the palette and fabrics he uses, and the way in which he sources things. Nothing is mass-manufactured. He employs local suppliers and craftsmen, which is very much in keeping with how we try to live."

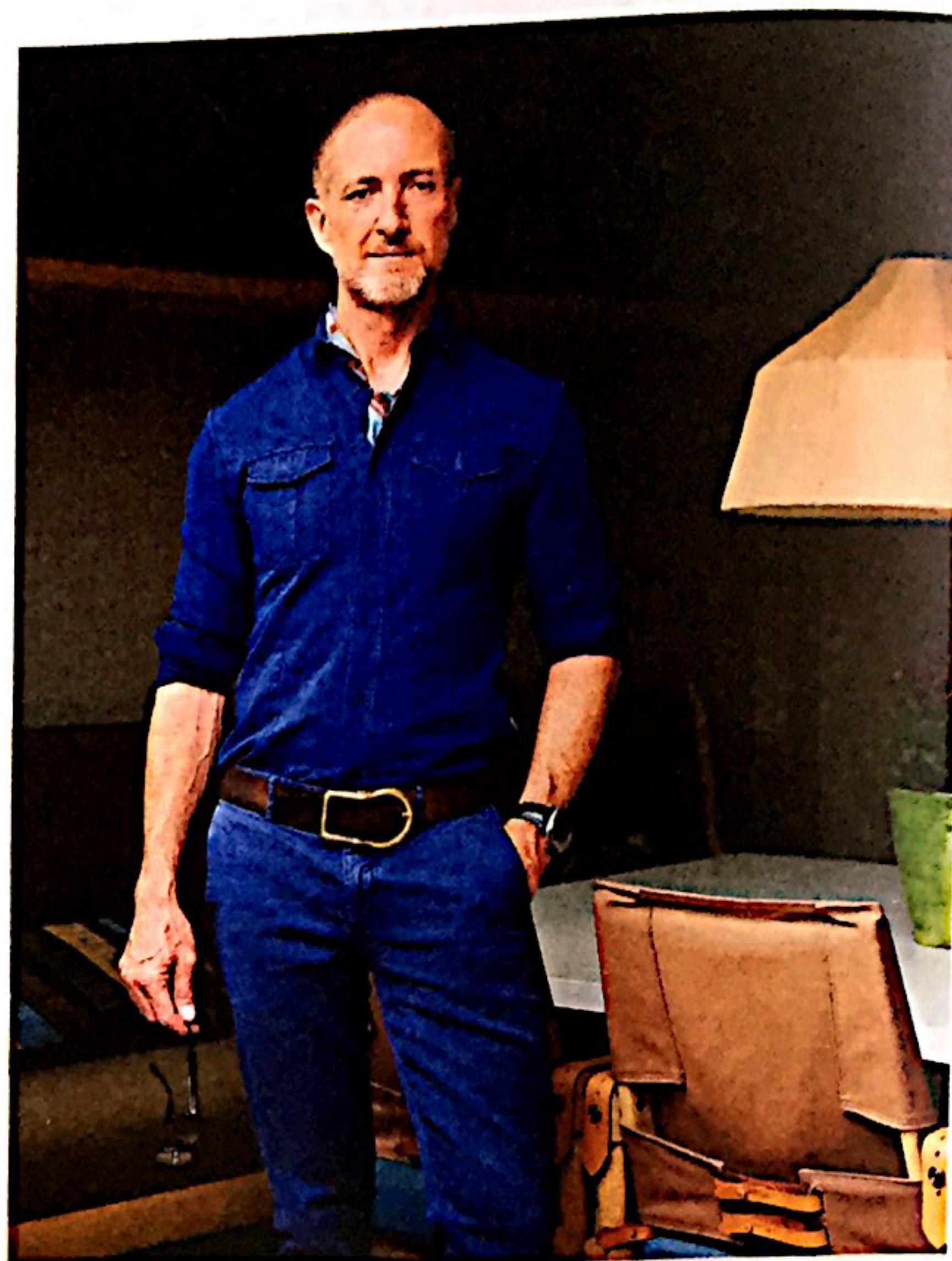
Following detailed the design work, the renovation and redecoration itself took only four months, even though much of the furniture, including the sofas, tables and desks, is bespoke. "We were given sheets with photographs of our old furniture and told to put yellow spots on the items that we wanted to keep," Brown laughs. "When the sheets came back, there were red spots with the pieces actually allowed to stay, which wasn't a huge amount. But that was fine – our old things didn't have the right character, and we wanted to start afresh."

Each floor consists of only one or two rooms. The basement houses the office and utility space; the ground floor an open-plan kitchen and dining room, complete with wood burner; the first floor has a study/sitting room; and the penthouse is the master suite. This layout helps to create a great sense of flow. "What I love most is the light," Brown says. "Being an ex-photographer, it's something that's very important to me, and the openness of the structure means the house is filled with sunlight all day."

Weekend mornings are spent in the kitchen area – reading the papers next to the log burner in winter, or at the back of the house with the huge Crittall glass doors open during summer: "We tend to do most of our living in this space. It's definitely my favourite place to relax."

Among the items approved with red dots were the couple's impressive array of unusual objects, from a polished turtle shell to a collection of Charlie Brown paperbacks and a quartet of ceramic parakeets. "We pick things up everywhere. The furniture is for the most part bespoke, but the other bits and pieces have been collected from all over the world, over many years," Brown says. "Working with a designer is great to help create a house that looks good and functions well, but it's treasures like these that really add personality and make it feel like home." ♦

*orlebarbrown.co.uk*



Top: Adam Brown. Above: the wood burner is by Jotul. 'We wanted the breakfast area to be cosy on freezing mornings,' Brown says. The albino turtle shell is from Dover Street Market and the vintage painting was an antiques-market find that cost £10

Right: an impressive freestanding tub by Albion creates a focal point in the master bathroom. The wall tiles are from Caversham Tiles. The hardwood floorboards throughout the house are by Solid Floor. Below: a pendant light by Pinch, customised by Studio Reed, hangs over the dining table. The chairs are by Richard Wrightman



Rudi the affenpinscher (named after Nureyev) sits on a vintage Jetson chair by Bruno Mathsson. Both sofas in the dining area were custom-made by Studio Reed. The Crittall doors are by Clement Windows

