If you're after a luxurious London home, steeped in rich history, look to the leafy loveliness of north London, where a delightful enclave of converted and new-build townhouses and apartments are fast becoming the capital's coolest (and most colourful) address

The Loxfords

LONDON

Up in leafy Highbury Barn – a refreshing distance from Mayfair and Knightsbridge – a new enclave of luxury homes is taking shape on a historic Islington site. Once home to the Dent family, renowned glove makers in the 19th century, the property has been developed by Mount Anvil into a mix of converted and new build apartments and townhouses – the first of which were launched last September, with the final completions due this spring. The crown jewel, Loxford House, was first built during the Regency period and has now been restored to its former glory – albeit with a twist. The interiors of its two- and three-bed units, done by London firm, Suna, are contemporary and eclectic. It's an unusual approach for this type of luxury development, but one that fits Mount Anvil and Suna's overall concept.

"Interior design for developers has moved on in recent years, away from over coordinated complementary schemes, to something that is more realistic. Current trends are far more unique and bespoke," says Suna director, Helen Fewster.

Inside the mansion, original features such as brass-handled stairways contrast with Suna's colourful interiors, including high-spec bathrooms and kitchens. A formal entrance and concierge behind Loxford House's white stucco façade hark back to the building's past as a grande dame of the community, but the fact it sits on the bustling Highbury Park Road gives it a charming yet down-to-earth feel.

Further behind, a horseshoe of three- and four-bed, four-storey townhouses have been built using yellow London brick, laid in a Flemish Bond pattern, while the green roofs and living walls used on the new townhouses are a testament to Mount Anvil's commitment to sustainability.

A final flourish is artist Gavin Turk's *Ajar* – a bronze sculpture modelled on a door from a 19th century children's home – which is perched in the garden in reference to the site's recent use as Action for Children's headquarters. A

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OPPOSITE, TOP: *The historic Loxford House – now restored to its original glory – sets the tone as the impressive entrance to this grand development*

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: *Colourful details paired with original features, as shown in the marketing suite, give a taste of the development's quirky interiors*

THE LOXFORDS