



# Compare and Contrast

A mix of light and dark held the key to the interior scheme for this substantial development of new and refurbished units...

**LARGE** scale developments often demand designs that stick pretty close to the middle of the road. Multiple unit developers usually want straightforward and simple designs for mass appeal. It's what makes contract design and specification such a creative challenge, but there was certainly some fresh thinking throughout this big and varied project.

Suna Interior Design was asked to design the interior specification across three phases at Mount Arvil's prestigious Barnsbury Place development in Islington, London. The main bulk of the properties were in three refurbished blocks, with a phase of nine new build houses and 15 new

build apartments. Because each phase felt very different, the internal spec for each had to reflect that difference, so whilst the refurbished apartments maintained a sense of the nature of the building - using modern interpretations of natural stones and warm woods - the new build aspects of the development could feel a little slicker and more edgy.

The development also has a stunning double height entrance area and glass box concierge which Suna worked on from concept to completion.

The prospective purchasers on this development, familiar with fashionable Islington and the high end Barnsbury area →





## “THE APARTMENTS HAD THE INTRINSIC WOW FACTOR THAT COMES WITH STRONG CONTRAST AND BRAVE DESIGN”

with its beautiful tree-lined streets and stunning Georgian housing stock, were looking for properties that had understated modern elegance, retained features in the new builds where possible, and high-end design features through each property and in the common areas of the apartments.

In the new build apartments, the Suna team – led by Helen Fewster and Rebecca Tucker – went for a strong look with a nearly black Amtico Spacia wood effect floor through the hall and living areas – a brave choice in a development, especially when paired with a charcoal grey kitchen and dark grey worktop and black glass splashback.

The obvious concern when looking at the design in concept was that it could feel too dark – normally anathema to a developer. But in fact, with white walls and a well-designed lighting layout, the apartments had the intrinsic wow factor that comes with strong contrast and brave design.

In the kitchens, handleless design, tactile composite stone worktops, slick glass splashbacks and a textured door front made for a space that is purely modern but yet doesn't feel cold or hard. Integrated appliances, slab ends on the peninsular units, →

