

How To Spend It Interiors

House of the spirits: the magical afterlife of No 43

The flamenco dancer and artist Ron Hitchin lived in the same house in Hackney for nearly 70 years. It has now become the launchpad for a new interiors brand, Atelier LK

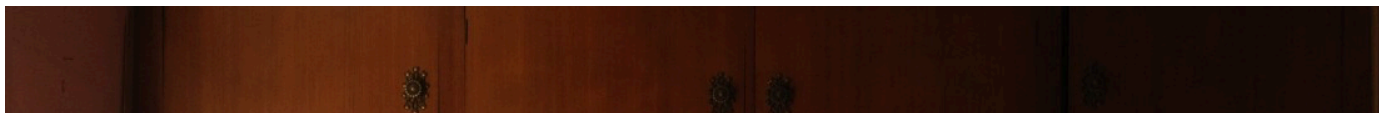
Aimee Farrell. Photography by Maureen M Evans OCTOBER 4 2021

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When Lisa Jones was invited to view a property for sale on her leafy east London street last autumn, little could have prepared her for what lay behind its pale-pink façade. Known as No 43, the former Hackney home of [Ron Hitchins](#) – the abstract sculptor, ceramicist, barrow-boy, one-time tailor and accomplished flamenco dancer – is a testament to a rich and colourful life that reveals itself room by glorious room. Over the course of close to 70 years, until his death aged 93 in 2019, Hitchins transformed the semi-detached Victorian villa into a living work of art.





The dining room, with a table by EJR Barnes, ceramic vase by Noe Kuremoto, and Atelier LK Collection Tobia & Afra Scarpa lamp, Olavi Hanninen dining chair and artwork by Joseph Goody © Maureen M Evans



Fred Rigby's Golden Ratio Desk is paired with a Louie Isaaman-Jones Tapestry Chair © Maureen M Evans

“Lisa has such amazing taste,” says London-born Kean, who studied photography and art history before joining Firmedale Hotels, where she worked as the head of design in New York. “I would get her advice on design pieces I’d found and she would ask me to look at the interior projects she was pitching for. Neither of us actually intended to get a design partner, it just sort of happened.”

Much like her mother, a Trinidadian nurse turned art gallerist, Jones’s route into interiors was somewhat less direct. After studying economics, she worked as a fashion buyer for [Browns Fashion](#) in London and then [Opening Ceremony](#) in New York. It was while renovating her first home on Shelter Island that her focus began to shift. She began obsessively sourcing pieces from across the US, igniting a fascination with 20th-century Scandinavian design that rapidly spiralled. “It got so out of hand that I had to start selling,” says Jones, who established [@a_good_chair](#), sourcing and selling furniture and design objects first to friends and then decorators and collectors.

It’s this blend of design and curation, mixed with Kean’s instinct for layered, theatrical interiors – she’s dubbed queen of the install – that makes their union as Atelier LK so interesting. “The common thread between our styles is a certain simplicity of form, and a richness of texture,” says Kean of the studio’s evolving look.





Kean and Jones in the dance studio at no. 43 © Maureen M Evans

The next, most closely watched phase of their project will be the transformation of No 43 into Jones's family home. "Ron is a huge inspiration for every single detail of the project," says Jones. "We want to be as sensitive to the way he lived as we can but we also need to live in it; it's not a museum."

The palette will be pulled from the green, russet and gold patina of Hitchins' fibreglass panels and wall reliefs, and the dance studio will become a child's bedroom, with its 1930s Crittall windows and mirrored wall left firmly intact. Elsewhere, Hitchins' sculptural ode to Hepworth – which he dubbed "Barbara" – will be remounted, overlooking a garden room accessed by a pair of his fibreglass panel doors. One will lead to Atelier LK's studio, the other to a sauna. It's the kind of reassuringly quirky touch that suggests Hitchins' hand will be felt at No 43 for many more years to come.

No 43 is open to view by appointment until 15 October; book via info@atelier-lk.com. atelier-lk.com

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