

CANARY WHARF



The
Secret
SERVICE

As *Spectre* hits cinemas: the style,
history and luxury travel destinations
behind the James Bond film empire



IS THIS 007'S LAIR?

It's the ultimate design brief – the opportunity to design James Bond's study – a space to suit the style and skills of the Secret Service's most famous fictional agent. We asked four leading interior design talents to imagine a private office worthy of 007

ABOVE: 4.5 Bond Attache Briefcase, Swaine Adeney Brigg, swaineadenaybrigg.com/swaine-adenay; Globe, Bellerby & Co, bellerbyandco.com; *Equanimity* (2012) by Chris Levine, The Fine Art Society, faslondon.com; Vintage drinks trolley and decanter, Guinivere, guinivere.co.uk; Vintage ice bucket, Talisman, talismanlondon.com; Spy Equipment, Spymaster, spymaster.co.uk; Desk chair, Vitra, vitra.com; Shagreen box and oval tray, Simon Orrell Designs, simonorrelldesigns.com; Coasters and horn frame, LuxDeco, luxdeco.com; Malachite box and stone obelisk, Aura, aura-id.com; Whisky glass, decanter and espresso cup, Richard Brendon, richardbrendon.com; Hook, Gubi A/S, gubi.com, Velvet jade rug, Sinclair Till, sinclairtill.co.uk; Paperwight, L'Objet, l-objet.com, Desk, property of David Collins Studio, davidcollins.com

DAVID COLLINS STUDIO

“As a discerning character, James Bond would need an elegant study with classic and timeless references, and a bold personality to reflect its owner. The room would reference his vocation as the most important member of the Secret Service but at the same time, a man who is under the radar and one who enjoys the great pleasures and extravagances of life.

David Collins Studio would offer a design that would be tailor-made to his needs and unique to his character. It would incorporate bespoke elements into the design, and a masterly mix of antique and modern features, as well as a layered edit of materials and references. James Bond is a man who is refined, well-travelled and well educated – the study would need to reflect Bond's idiosyncrasies and trademarks.

The Studio's vision is to take a strong colour, British Racing Green, and use this as a basis of almost everything within the study. The tone on tone, and texture on tone approach would give the study a rich and characteristic look. The design is intentionally low-tech and mixes pieces from many 20th century periods.

[A sense of uniqueness] would be realised through the use of colour, materials, pattern and coveted collectables – green enamel, metal, green velvet, marbling, precious stones and gold. There would also be a juxtaposition of old and new in the use of Prouvé, while gadgetry is left to a few essential pieces of spy equipment.

We collaborated with the artist, Chris Levine, on a few projects about ten years ago and have always loved and admired his work. This piece [*Equanimity* (2012)] in particular draws relevance from *Her Majesty's Secret Service* and James Bond, and so we feel that it is very much befitting of this project, and I love its depth and drama.

For this type of project we would have myself as creative director to oversee the concept and work closely with the client to accomplish the design; a senior designer who would ensure that the initial idea is realised into a feasible, practical and considered scheme, and who would also liaise with the consultants and on-site teams; and a design team who would be responsible for collating the materials and finishes in addition to creating the technical drawings. This core group would then work with a number of other teams within The Studio – including stylists and art consultants – ►

Stray Martini glasses. A gentleman's briefcase. A portrait of HM The Queen. The character of James Bond is not a man that leaves anything to chance: his study must be worthy of the style and secret-keeping that he is renowned for.

When asking four well-known interior design firms to produce a 2015 design for the home office of the fictional agent, we were met with excitement – and plans on an enormous scale befitting of the Bond legend. Here, the creative directors explain all:



to help bring the project to fruition. We focus on and analyse every detail to achieve the best result. This study is cultured, charming and witty – all traits of the owner. It is a personal statement, a

refuge for comfort and thought – a practical space reflective of British craftsmanship. James Bond is a man who appreciates exceptional quality, which is a value shared by David Collins Studio. This study would be at home in James Bond's fictional Chelsea apartment.”
Simon Rawlings, creative director, David Collins Studio, 0207 835 5000; davidcollins.com



GREG NATALE



secret access points. I would also use a striking, custom-patterned wool carpet underfoot in dark tones. Furniture would have to include deep leather armchairs. A large, classic leather-bound desk would be essential too. I would introduce accessories on bookshelves in metal or marble finishes – maybe these could be some of the Secret Service gadgets.

“James Bond is a bit of an enigma. His job dictates his lifestyle and his home would be a fantastic blend of concealed high-tech gadgetry and a classic English clubhouse aesthetic.

In many ways, 007 epitomises masculinity with his wardrobe, cars, his profession and his women. Therefore, for me, the secret agent would need a tailored look – and that’s something I try to apply to all of my interiors projects. I visualise interiors like a piece of clothing; it is suited to the wearer, detailed and has many layers.

There are some things you just can’t get past with James Bond, like his self-assuredness, his sense of style and his nationality. I would see the space as a richly-appointed room with traditional moments, and it would feel formal without being at all uncomfortable.

Wood panelling is a really strong way to reinforce the English clubhouse layer, and I imagine it would be a perfect way to conceal any of James Bond’s gadgets and

As with all James Bond’s dealings I’m afraid details of cost are deeply shrouded in secrecy. To betray the confidence of MI6 would be a career-limiting move! However, should Her Majesty have change from £1m in her purse at the end of this exercise I would be surprised.

If I was charged with designing the interior of James Bond’s apartment, he could rest assured that it would be a perfect fit.”

Founder, Greg Natale Design +61 02 8399 2103 gregnatale.com



DAVID CARTER

“I think I’d be a very good designer for James Bond, because my design would be quintessentially English but with a sense of humour and a kind of quirky twist or kick to it.

I’m seeing a lot of wood and a bit of leather: Bond’s study would be very masculine, cool and contemporary. He is constantly reinventing himself so I don’t imagine an old-fashioned type of office with big fat leather-clad Chesterfields and armchairs – that would have been the case 50 years ago.

The private space in James Bond’s apartment, overlooking the Houses of Parliament, would have a dual purpose; it would be a place where at a moment’s notice he could quickly change the room by pushing a button and be on Skype with M on big screens.

However, James Bond has to be very discreet about the nature of his work so that element would have to be concealed when he invites ladies

back to his home for a cocktail. He’d require some kind of hidden arsenal for all his weapons and bits of Q technology such as the fountain pens and watches.

There would also be a concealed illuminated map of the world displaying all the hot spots of international intrigue and espionage.

The design would be done in a very elegant way with lots of books you pull over [hatches] and buttons to reveal the kit that goes with being a spy. There might be a big picture with him and the Prime Minister, but other than that [the presence of his career] would be subtle.

James Bond needs to remain modern and fresh rather than a character in a book. I think a project such as this would cost between £60,000 and £80,000.”

Founder, David Carter Interior Design 0207 790 0259; alacarter.com



CARLY MADHVANI

“James Bond? He wouldn’t receive any special treatment from me, regardless of my shaking knees. My approach would be to work through his needs and style preferences, with the help of samples and images – while quaffing champagne, of course.

His secure city pad would include furniture arranged spaciouly in case of a quick exit and accessories that double as weapons such as a spear lamp. Natural, cold materials for wall decoration would show strength and be his armour. I’d use navy and dark grey with bronze and chrome.”

Founder, NW3 Interiors 020 7209 4442; nw3interiorsltd.com

