

Boyarsky has also created a striking staircase that winds its way up a five-storey Victorian house in Hampstead. Here, he added a new level at the top of the house, as well as a new basement [swimming pool](#), for his client, who works in theatre. But he found that the floor plan of the house was being compromised by a very ordinary Victorian staircase, complete with landings, which stood to one side of the building. Ripping out the old staircase liberated the layout of the main living spaces, which look out across a view of Hampstead Heath. A new elliptical staircase, with a steel frame, ash treads, a leather-clad handrail, along with a glass balustrade that can be illuminated with coloured [LED lights](#), now winds up a lift shaft at the front of the house, looking out onto the street. The walls around the stairs are painted in dramatic golden tones.

“It is a challenge how to connect space vertically and how you make a procession through the building and tie things together,” says Boyarsky. “The new staircase gave us the chance to do something sculptural and theatrical, while some of the paint finishes around the staircase are inspired by theatre interiors.

“If you go back to Georgian houses, many of the staircases were made of cantilevered stone, and attention was spent on staircases, especially that idea of rising up from the entrance to the piano nobile and the drawing room above. We have lost some of the ingenuity of the Georgian staircase, and it has taken time to understand how they really worked.”

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