





black's & gold

We have to confess that, when we started this title, some 99 issues back, we were amazed at how certain addresses ‘fortunately’ suited and sat perfectly with the organisations and brands we visited. We soon, however, realised that this has little (if anything) to do with luck.

here is a perfect example of a carefully thought through, considered address for a superior brand; 25 Berkeley Square, Mayfair and Green & Black’s. For those who do not have such a sweet disposition, Green & Black’s make and sell premium organic chocolate. The brand uses fine organic ingredients and these are ethically sourced. The Green & Black’s story started in London in 1991 when Craig Sams, founder of Whole Earth – the pioneering organic food company – was sent a sample of dark 70% chocolate made from organic cocoa beans.





▶▶▶▶▶ Scott Brownrigg Interior Design was appointed as design consultant for this historic building for both CAT A and B fit-outs, running concurrently. Close liaison was also necessary with Scott Brownrigg’s in-house Planning Department, who ensured a number of English Heritage and change-of-use applications were successfully granted.

The scheme unfolds through the stunning reception space, which features beautifully ornate columns, covings and mouldings. This area was subtly refurbished with a new stone floor, suspended chandeliers and sculptural soft furnishings. A minimal and modern reception desk has transformed the space to 21st century Mayfair expectations.

Scott Brownrigg’s interior design scheme for Green & Black’s global office for Marketing and Innovation on the ground

floor can be read as a direct interpretation of the brand name itself; ‘Green’ stands for the sustainable ethos of the company – everything produced by Green & Black’s is organic and Fair Trade – whilst ‘black’ is a direct reference to their original 70% cocoa dark chocolate bar, with associations of extreme quality, taste and luxury.

This fascinating duality, graphically represented by the brand’s ubiquitous ampersand, is brought to life throughout Scott Brownrigg Interior Design’s scheme. The ornate period features of the building, most evident in the meeting rooms facing Berkeley Square, are highlighted by warm shades of grey, brown and oatmeal, which give the space an earthy, organic feel.

This is equally evident in the reception area and breakout space, where the selected materials flaunt a boldly ‘natural’ aesthetic. The reception desk features a front panel▶▶▶▶▶





▶▶▶▶made from recycled coconut shells, routed to form the company logo by revealing the light ply substrate beneath; the low level, illuminated banquette seating is upholstered in an award-winning Camira fabric woven from nettle fibres; three-form acrylic panels, used as privacy screens between areas of the floor, are made from recycled acrylic and feature a core layer of real, bright green grass, which appears to be reeds flowing gently in the breeze.

These add a vibrant splash of colour to the otherwise muted ambience, which is also punctuated by fresh lime green scatter cushions on the banquette seating

(upholstered in the same ‘nettle’ fabric, incidentally), and a bright lime green glass splashback in the teapoint, with warm walnut units and a luxurious cream stone worktop. A large feature wall in the breakout space, featuring a full size image of cocoa plantations in Belize, transports the visitor from exclusive, luxurious Mayfair to a luscious sub-tropical environment, and underlines once again the brand’s devotion to catering for those with a healthy conscience...and a discerning palate!

Dominic Lowe, Managing Director of Green & Black’s commented: ‘Scott Brownrigg Interior Design listened and

understood completely our brief to provide a concept and solution. The scheme fulfilled the requirements for an organic and natural feel but had a modern, simple and not too extravagant feel.’

The vibrant dialogue between modern and minimal, historic and ornate continues throughout the building’s listed common parts; notably, the grand stairwell and landings, featuring bespoke broadloom stair runner in sophisticated hues, as well as modern lighting. The existing stair was restored to its former glory with its exquisite iron handrail.

A subtle selection of paint finishes sets off the historic office suites along the Berkeley Square elevation of first to fifth floors, whilst the main areas of floor to the rear provide light and airy open plan office space with a fully accessible raised access floor and suspended ceiling.

The WCs were also refurbished to a high level of comfort and design, with a modern aesthetic, in contrast to the ornate surroundings.

Despite the challenges of working within a complex listed building, Scott Brownrigg Interior Design has ensured the vast majority of the property complies with the latest regulations for access and use. Ultimately, this is an impressive and exciting refurbishment proving that a worn out building can be beautifully restored to its original splendour ●

essential ingredients

- Client:** • Cadbury plc / Green & Black’s
- Interior Design:** • Scott Brownrigg Interior Design
020 7240 7766
- Fit-Out Contractor:** • Interior Dimensions
- Project Manager:** • APS Chartered Surveyors
- M&E Design:** • The Anslow Partnership
- M&E Contractor:** • Kentex Services
- Systems Furniture:** • Teknion (supplied by Lancaster Corporate Environments)
01844 260999
- Carpets:** • InterfaceFLOR
08705 304030
- Furniture:** • B&B Italia, Humanscale, Kusch, Johanson, Vitra, Bene (supplied by WestwoodNine)
020 7101 1858