



NEWLY DESIGNED ACADEMICIANS' ROOM BY MARTIN BRUDNIZKI DESIGN STUDIO TO OPEN IN SEPTEMBER

London, Monday 13 July. Renowned interior architects, the Martin Brudnizki Design Studio, will create a newly designed Academicians' Room in the Keeper's House at the Royal Academy of Arts, due to open in September 2015. The Academicians' Room is an impressive grand space originally designed by Norman Shaw RA in 1883 and now provides a designated private members club for Royal Academicians, their guests and members.

The new theme by Martin Brudnizki Design Studio (MBDS) revolves around the idea of a drawing room, traditionally a space for social interaction and display, and the Academicians' Room fulfils this role within the Keeper's House as members use it as an extension of their home within the heart of the Royal Academy. Markings from historical exhibitions and the Palladian detailing will be retained. New additions to the interior include a revamped bar which will be re-clad in antique zinc and complemented with antique brass bar stools. Hand-picked furniture will include 1950s Paolo Buffa chairs in original yellow velvet, 1960s library chairs in tanned leather and mid-century Italian dark green mohair chairs, with 1950s and 1960s floor lamps, all sitting on a colourful Mamluk rug. MBDS have also designed a selection of bespoke pieces including a statement four-metre long green mohair sofa alongside red corner mohair sofas in the middle of the room. A pair of large two-tiered chandeliers will hang from the ceiling trusses. The newly designed room will also show a rotating display of new works from Royal Academicians and will host a programme of events including monthly evenings curated by RA Schools students and a new Salon Series.

This year there will also be an exciting reciprocal collaboration with the Groucho Club whereby members can enjoy both spaces, for a limited time. The Groucho Club will also be hosting a series of special events for members of the Academicians' Room.

Martin Brudnizki, Founder of Martin Brudnizki Design Studio (MBDS), said, 'Our inspiration was guided largely by the original Norman Shaw room, with its perfect Palladian proportions, fine paintings adorning the walls and light cascading from above, it felt like your quintessential English drawing room. Taking that idea and knowing the design had to reflect both the illustrious history of the Royal Academy, alongside the accomplished contemporary artists within, we are working with this grandiose architectural detailing and will add an eclectic selection of vintage furnishings to create a haute-bohemian feeling and a space Academicians and members would feel comfortable.'

Christopher Le Brun, President of the Royal Academy of Arts, said, 'From the beginning, our ambition has been to create a new home for artists and art lovers at the Royal Academy, a place to feel at home in a club setting designed exclusively for Royal Academicians, their guests and members. We are most grateful to the Martin Brudnizki Design Studio who will help us to bring the Academicians' Room to life with their inspiring ideas and designs.'

Oliver Peyton, Founder of Peyton and Byrne said, 'The revitalised Academicians' Room at the Royal Academy will be the place to see and be seen in. Martin Brudnizki Design Studio has designed a beautiful setting that will bring together like minded people from across the arts world. Peyton and Byrne's focus will be to create a friendly and welcoming art's club feel where guests can enjoy quality comfort food, wine, cocktails and craft beer'.

Matt Hobbs, Chief Executive of the Groucho Club, said, 'It's great to be bringing a touch of the Groucho Club to the Royal Academy's newly transformed members club. Infused with great art by their Royal Academicians we look forward to collaborating with them on a programme of special events and one where, for an initial period, Groucho members and Academicians' Room members can enjoy both spaces.'

Notes to Editors

About Keeper's House

In 2013 the Keeper's House opened to the public following a major redevelopment. The £6.5 million project was led by award-winning architects Long & Kentish, with interiors designed by David Chipperfield Architects and the garden designed by leading landscape designer Tom Stuart-Smith. The catering is managed by renowned restaurateurs Peyton & Byrne. Works of art by Royal Academicians including Grayson Perry, Tracey Emin and Allen Jones, and from the Royal Academy Collection are on display throughout the building. The space includes a restaurant, cocktail bar, garden, lounges, and a private members club, the Academicians' Room, providing a home for artists and art lovers in the heart of Mayfair. Located in the eastern wing of the Academy's historic Burlington House building, the Keeper's House was built in the 1870s as the central London home for the Keeper of the Royal Academy. It is directly accessible from both the Courtyard and inside the front hall of Burlington House.

Membership gives exclusive access to the Academicians' Room. The annual membership fee is £300 with a £240 joining fee (including VAT). The membership fee for Under-35s is £150. Any profits generated by membership to the Academicians' Room get gifted back to the charitable arm of the Royal Academy to further develop its artistic programmes and support emerging artists.

About Martin Brudnizki Design Studio (MBDS)

MBDS was founded by interior architect Martin Brudnizki in 2000. Established in London, MBDS set-up a New York design practise in 2012 managed by Martin's US business partner Craig Harvey and currently employs over 70 staff between its two locations. Known for bringing a lived-in-luxurious feel to high-glamour projects, MBDS is responsible for designing some of the world's most celebrated interiors, including The Ivy, Soho Beach House Miami, Scott's and Cecconi's West Hollywood and has received notable recognition, including accolades from Wallpaper*, Tatler, Harper's Bazaar and the European Hotel Design Awards. The Studio's success rests in its considered approach to every project, taking the utmost respect for a client's brief and the unique character of the area or street in which a project is located, to ensure the finished product not only sits well within its environment, but also meets the needs and expectations of the client. This is a winning combination which has translated perfectly to projects ranging from restaurants, hotels and private clubs to large scale residential developments and helping a select number of people create their dream homes. MBDS provides a variety of services including interior architecture, interior design and furniture and lighting design.

Dates and Opening Hours

Opening hours: 10.00am - 11.30pm Monday - Saturday
 10.00am - 6.00pm Sunday

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About the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded institution led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to be a clear, strong voice for art and artists. Its public programme promotes the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate.

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