



# Let the GAMES BEGIN

*Charlotte Findlater takes Absolutely Cheshire behind the scenes on a commission with an entertaining edge*

Serving as a place to escape and unwind, we were commissioned to design a luxury games room for a client. It was to be a space at home for social gatherings, special occasions and family get-togethers.

For many of our clients, entertaining friends and family is at the forefront of their minds when designing their home. Our brief for this room was to provide a luxury games room, taking our cue from our client's beloved Grandfather Clock. The space needed to be multi-functional, a pool table, social seating area, bar with seating and media. After starting the project, we learned of our client's love for big cats, especially lions and tigers.

The room had been unused since the client purchased the house a few years before. The most important thing when designing a games room is to be as generous as

possible with the space and this was our starting point. We analysed the functions of the room and then broke the room up into zones in order to accommodate the different types of activities.

On the left of the room we removed a section of wall to provide the depth we needed for the custom bar. The bar area incorporates a dishwasher, small sink, pull-out bin, plenty of storage for glasses and a dedicated beer fridge. On the wall to the side of the bar we designed an oak open fronted cabinet backed with foxed glass to reflect the whiskey and various spirits our client wished to display, all lit by LED lighting, which is seamlessly integrated.

Taking our inspiration from the beautiful rocky mountainous landscape in which this property nestles, we chose a colour palette to reflect the flora, water and abundance of oak and bracken, colours that reference the natural world.





The room was designed with a slightly more contemporary feel in mind, but with a nod to our client's preference for antiques. We incorporated plenty of texture including leathers, heavy linens and velvet, selecting impactful colours, brave patterns, and a selection of original unique artworks.

The stunning parquet wood floor adds a real grounding presence to the room. We chose to go dark on the built-ins to evoke drama, taking our natural green paint colour on the walls and across the ceiling. The colours within the stunning linen curtains provided a softness to the scheme and cohesively tie all the colours within the room together.


The custom designed solid oak pool table took precedence of the room due to its size – we needed to ensure that there was plenty of space all around to allow for the playing of the game with the length of the cues. As the room was to perform as an enter-

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tainment space it was essential that we maximised the seating capacity. The client had a love of Chesterfield leather sofas, so we incorporated a generous three-seater into the space and added two gorgeous soft green velvet swivel chairs. It was important the chairs had the swivel function as this would allow for the watching of the media screen at any point and to socially interact from a sitting point to be able to enjoy watching the game of pool taking place. The two bar stools complete the custom bar, below which is a brass footrail.

The layered lighting scheme allows for various scenes through the use of custom LED downlighters, a feature pendant above the pool table, and two globe pendants providing soft illumination above the bar. There is an oversized picture light above the exquisite original oil artwork which sits proudly above the custom designed natural Lancashire stone fire surround. The built-in cabinetry is fitted with LED lighting, providing directional light onto the various artisan crafted and ‘from nature’ art. The oak drinks cabinet above the bar is backed with foxed glass and again incorporates LED lighting making those fabulous bottles really stand out.

To cap off the project, a full acoustic solution was installed, including in-ceiling speakers, sound bar and sub-woofer. 

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