

GLASS HOUSE

Danish badminton star-turned-banker Pernille Jensen's impressive W2 house is a modern, light-filled space that's larger than it looks. *Absolutely* takes a tour

Hidden behind an anonymous gate, and

sheltered by a terrace of stucco, this unique house makes extraordinary use of a tight space. With the family's security and privacy a top priority, the architect created an eight bedroom house in a strong linear design that is filled with light and comprises all the accoutrements that any self-respecting sophisticate expects today.

The glass walls of the ground floor form the inside of the L-shaped house. From the Minotti kitchen humming with the latest from Gaggenau, and featuring Labradorite stone surfaces (famous for their embedded precious stones), you can feel the peace of the Buddha, specially commissioned from an Indian sculptor for the house, watching over the family inside.

Subterranean excavation is all the rage – with very limited space and stringent planning laws, the only way is down, and all the best builders are becoming experts on digging futuristic bunkers for everything from spas and car parks to, in this case, entertainment zones. Here, a 1500-bottle capacity wine cellar vies, via a leather-covered fossil stone bar and cinema, with a 14m pool complete with water feature and state-of-the-art gym

and spa in this basement.

An incredible limestone spiral staircase leads from the underground control room to the very top of the house, crown'd by a domed skylight through which no other building can be seen – just acres of sky.

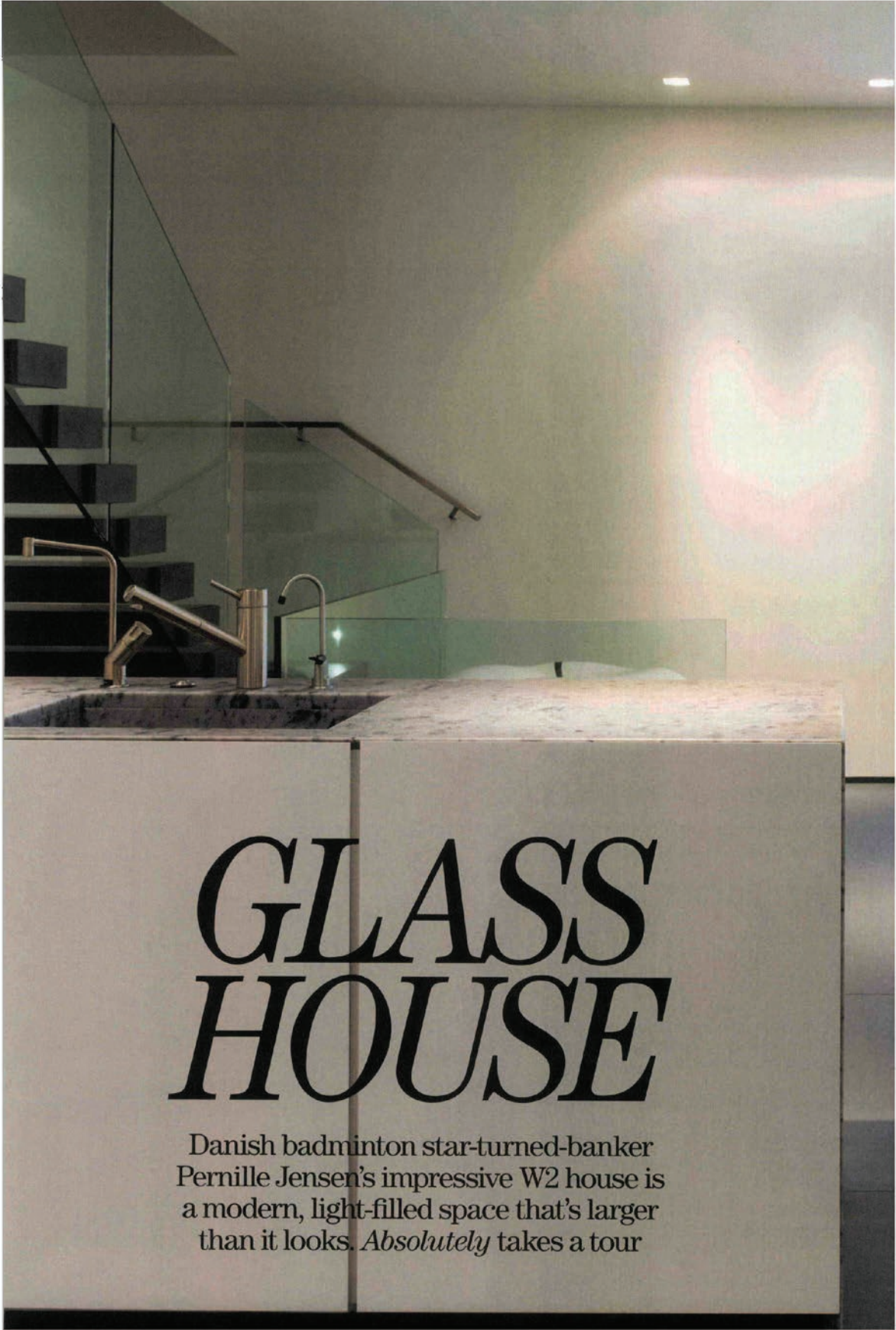
As the house rises out of the ground, so the flooring becomes lighter, with the ground floor covered in basalt, and upstairs in the bedrooms white-washed wood softens the strong lines of the building and gives a clean Scandinavian feeling.

The master bedroom suite includes

two dressing rooms and en suite bathroom, and is accessed via its own 'floating' glass and stone staircase from the ground floor.

Pernille Jensen represented Denmark at badminton in the 1992 Barcelona Games. This was followed by a spell in corporate law, then in banking, during which time she was rated among the top 100 women in finance.

This spectacular house in Hereford Road, W2 is now on the market for £20m through crayson.com



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