Chelsea Barracks is one of the most desirable addresses in the world. It offers the ultimate in luxury living.

Words by Corrie Bond-French

Chelsea Barracks was always going to be a stellar offering. It’s a super-luxe development – arguably – the most coveted U.K. acres of land in the world.

With its glorious garden square design, restoration of the Victorian chapel and even a vegetable patch, this slice of Belgravia is full of charm.

And the first residents have now moved in.

It’s a decade since Qatar, the property company owned by the Qatari royal family – purchased the site for £910 million. At the time it was Britain’s biggest property deal.

In 2009 Prince Charles voiced misgivings about the modernist designs first submitted, leading to a change of architect and design.

This month will see nearly half the site be open to the public for the first time in more than ten years, it will be appreciated by the many not just the few for generations.

Respecting the site’s history has also played an important part.

“In 2010 the key thing was to design a key sector of buildings and a masterplan that belonged in the context of Belgravia,” he says.

“If you squinted your eyes and looked at it from above, it’s almost as if it wouldn’t feel like the site of Chelsea Barracks was any different to the surrounding streetscape. The way that’s been achieved is by arranging the buildings around a series of garden squares.”

There are military details within some of the interior designs and in some of the materials such as bronze or the railings from the historic barracks.

“Within that you’ve got interior design, landscape design. You’ve got a sculpture by a famous sculptor. You’ve got the artist that designed the balustrades to phase two,” he says.

The success is really in bringing together those creative minds and getting the design to sing together as one whole,” he says.

Find out more about Qatar Diar from their website: www.qataridar.com
A longer version of this article first appeared in Belgravia magazine.

Achilles

Mozart performed here

Respecting the site’s history has also played an important part.

“For instance, before the barracks were on the site there were pleasure gardens back in the time of Mozart.

“In fact Mozart performed nearby during the time of the pleasure gardens, so the mixture of the site was used before the barracks had been even in as well,” Lee adds.

He stresses the importance of “building the streetscape back into the streetscape of Belgravia”.

“With its garden square design, restoration of the Victorian chapel and even a vegetable patch, this slice of Belgravia is full of charm.”

Nods to military past

There are military details within some of the interior designs and in some of the materials such as bronze or the railings from the historic barracks.

The zero-sector vegetable gardens sit at the heart of the site.

Public areas include Garden Square with its shops, restaurants and art.

“One of the great features is how all the disparate pieces of the project come together,” he says.

“Plasses one to three are a project of three apartment buildings and a schoolhouse, a chapel and restaurant.

“Within that you’ve got interior design, landscape design. You’ve got a sculpture by a famous sculptor. You’ve got the artist that designed the balustrades to phase two.”

“You’ve got the artist that designed the balustrades to phase two.”

“The success is really in bringing together those creative minds and getting the design to sing together as one whole,” he says.

Find out more about Qatar Diar from their website: www.qataridar.com

Longer version of this article first appeared in Belgravia magazine.

Further studies in the Property section of our website.

You might like to read: A Place in the West End about the do’s and don’t of buying a second luxury home in the sun.

Or try Take 100 about how the design brief for that second home in the sun should differ from your main property.

In Famous Dolphin Square, read about how one of St James’s blocks in the 1960s has become home to everyone from royalty to superstars to secret out of the news for being.

Main picture: Chelsea Barracks by Qatar Diar. Image credit Rael Dearden on behalf of Belgravia. Second picture: Chelsea Barracks by Qatar Diar. Image credit Jack Hobhouse.