



The imposing facade of No. 1 Grosvenor Square. Photo: Mark Hazeldine

REAL ESTATE

London Penthouse in Former U.S. Embassy Sells for (an Almost Record) \$186 Million

The development even has its own Oval Office replica at the entrance of the building

By Joyce Chen

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A penthouse in one of London's most iconic buildings, No. 1 Grosvenor Square, is officially off the market. According to a press release from [Lodha UK](#), the project developer for the newly renovated property, an unnamed buyer recently dropped \$185.5 million for the unit, which marks the second-priciest deal in all of the U.K. this year (the first being the sale of a 20-bedroom Knightsbridge mega-mansion in January, which [sold for \\$261 million](#)). [The Times](#) [reported](#) that the buyer also purchased two other lower floor apartments and plans to combine all three units into a massive 15,600-square-foot home. The building itself has quite the political pedigree—between the years of 1938 and 1960, it served as the U.S. embassy, and was where a young John F. Kennedy called home after his father, Joseph P. Kennedy, was appointed the U.S. Ambassador to the U.K. It was later used as the Canadian High Commission from 1962 through 2013 after the Americans moved across the square to the London Chancery Building. An Oval Office replica in the newly renovated building serves as a not-so-subtle nod to this history.



The "Oval Room" entry space at No. 1 Grosvenor Square. Photo: Billy Bolton

When completed in December, the new No. 1 Grosvenor Square will house a total of 44 luxury residencies, with hotel-style amenities, including an entire floor dedicated to lifestyle needs, including a pool, a gym with a personal training room, a private spa and treatment rooms, a private cinema and performance venue, a private library, and a lounge bar with a billiard table. Not that everything about the building will be brand new: in an effort to preserve the historic building's original architecture, the façade has been carefully reconstructed, literally brick by brick, thanks to British architect Eric Parry.