

This Georgian townhouse inspired Charles Dickens to write *Hard Times*

As [literary homes](#) go, this historic three-bedroom property near the river Thames is one of the most impressive. And it's up for sale for £2.15 million..

Built in 1732 for a wealthy tanning merchant, the [Georgian townhouse](#) is amongst the oldest on [London's Southbank](#). English Heritage say the Grade-II listed home, which sits at 148 Long Lane in Bermondsey, is one of the earliest and most important examples of preserved Georgian architecture in the area. Strong literary ties make the 2,282 sq ft house even more desirable.



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Josiah Fogden, who ran Spillery's Flour Mill and Bakery on Long Lane, lived in the townhouse's twin property at number 146. He inspired [Charles Dickens'](#) 1854 novel *Hard Times* which features Josiah Bounderby – a mill owner in the fictional Coketown.

Dickens was clearly captivated by the history of the area. He lodged on Lant Street, which is just a street or two from the Long Lane townhouses, whilst writing his 10th novel. Although fictional, *Hard Times* draws on the lives of the wealthy London factory owners and their employees.



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The factories behind the twin townhouses have since been demolished to provide private gardens. More recently the properties operated as architects' practices, until developers Acorn and Galliard Homes began an ambitious restoration.

146 Long Lane has since sold off-plan. Now, 148 is up for sale through [Galliard Homes](#).

Inside you'll find an abundance of period features, including the original fireplace with tanning yard carvings, Georgian wall panelling and large arched sash-windows.

Contemporary touches come with beautiful interior styling using bold colours and feature furniture – all of which is included in the sale price.

A modern kitchen, stone paved terraced garden, roof terrace, dining room and master bedroom suite on its own private floor with views of the leafy street below provide plenty of space for a book lover to indulge their favourite pastime.

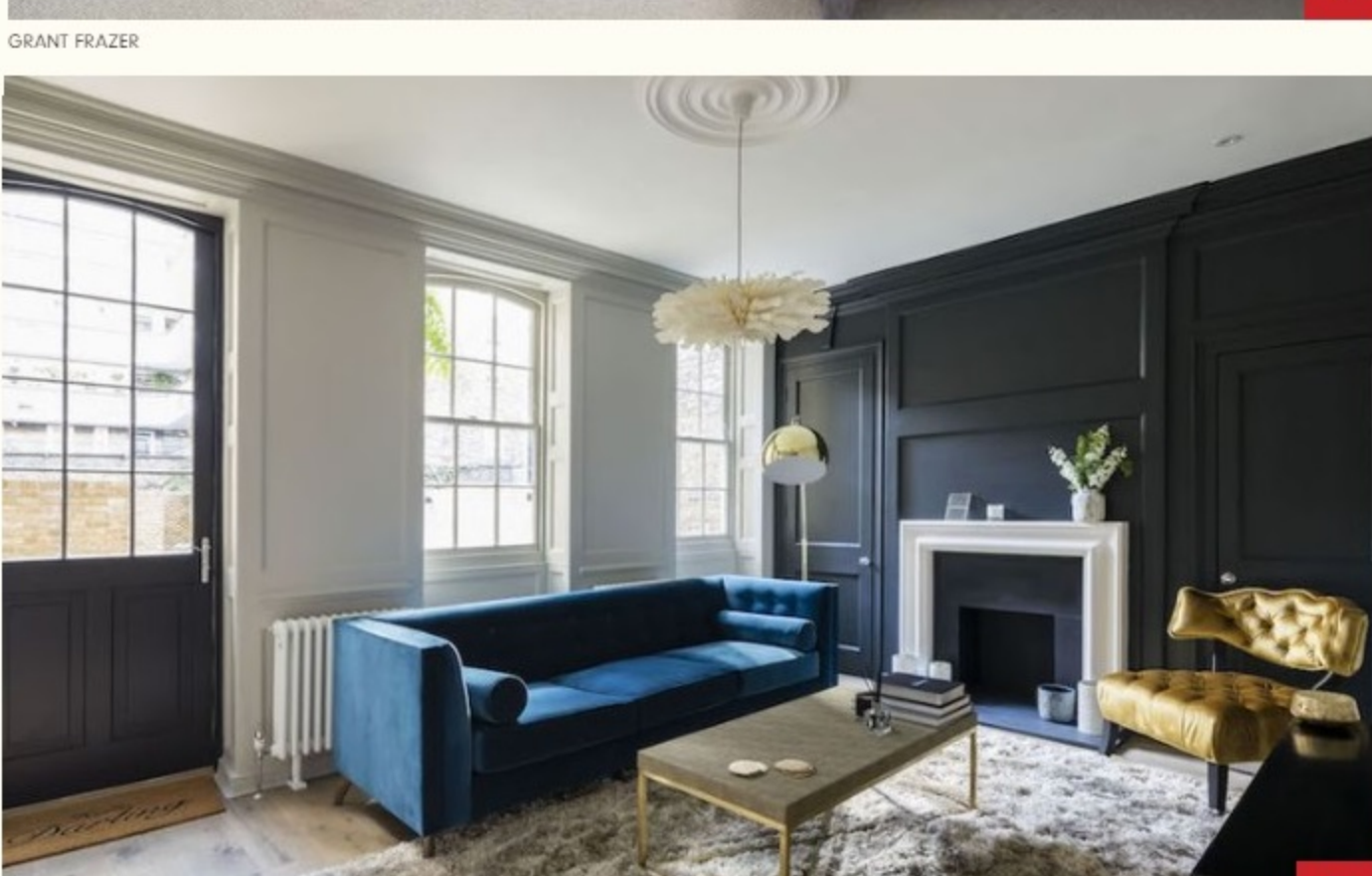
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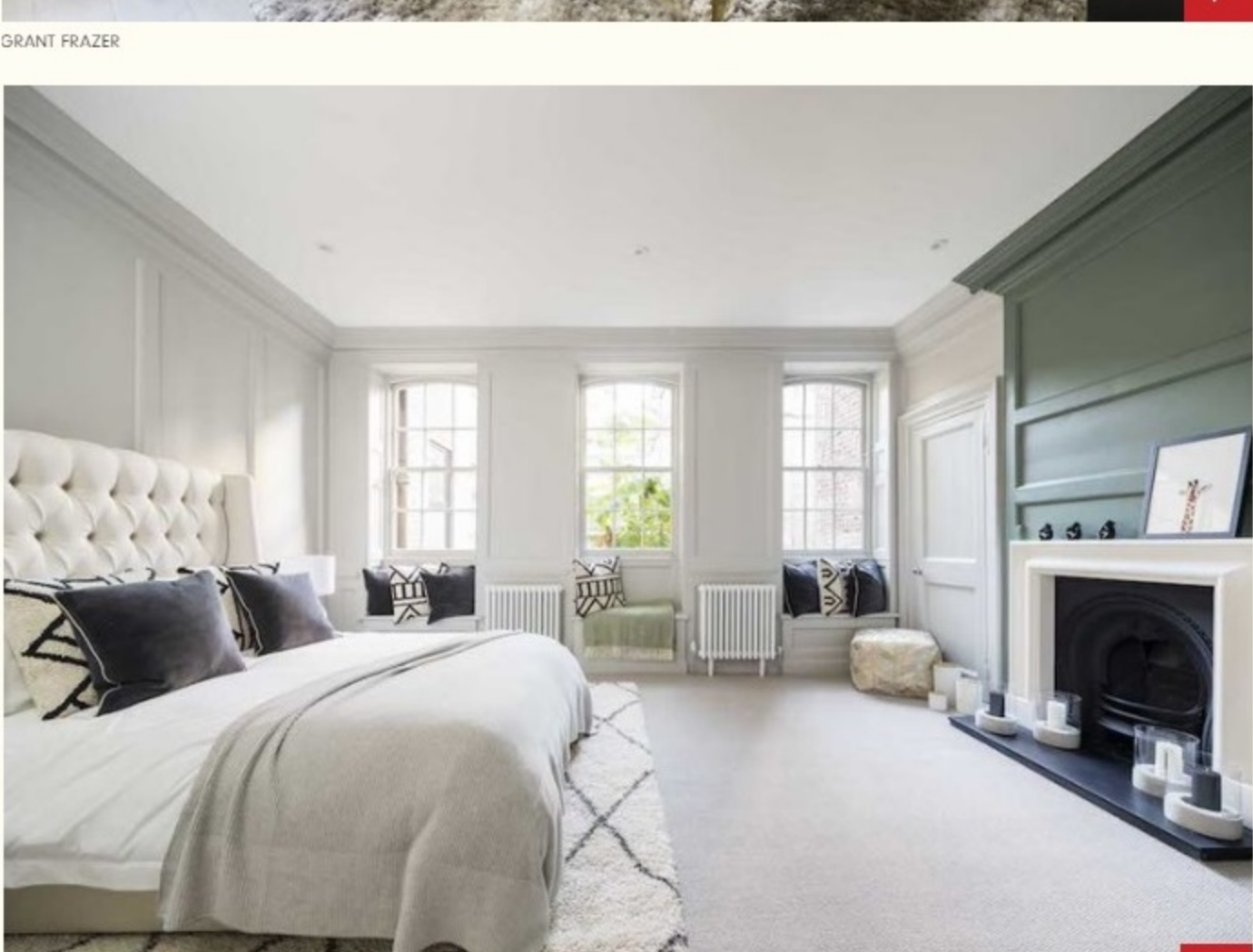
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