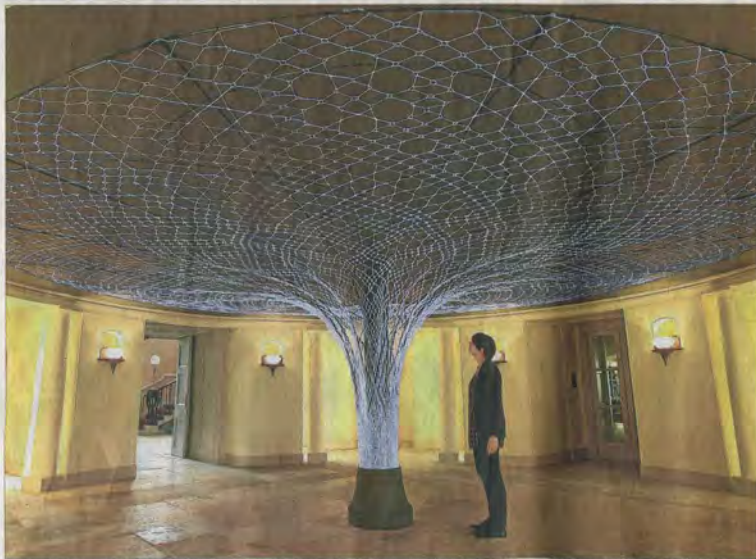


**T** In pictures The Duchess's fashion hits and misses [telegraph.co.uk/theroyalfamily](http://telegraph.co.uk/theroyalfamily)

# Kate as revamped palace awaits



Mother with the Guards in 1997. Inside Kensington Palace, the revamped home of the Duchess, including (clockwise from above) the Stone Hall, the newly-created public gardens, a regally-inspired chair, and the Wiggly Walk. Below: The Vestibule with its royal portraits

Victoria, designed by her daughter, Princess Louise.

Once through the garden, visitors to the palace will enter into The White Court, in what was an internal courtyard that has been covered.

It has been changed into a hub from which the different routes into the palace branch off.

Nearby is the Stone Hall, which has as its centrepiece a giant light sculpture known as

Luminous Lace, inspired by garments worn by former royals including Queen Victoria and Princess Margaret.

The new layout also includes the Vestibule, which has portraits of some of the palace's most famous past and present residents, including the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and a ceiling that features a spiral motif of famous quotes from inhabitants.

A major exhibition about

the life of Queen Victoria, who was born at Kensington Palace in 1819 and lived there until she became Queen at 18, will be among the highlights of the reopened palace.

Previously unexhibited items will include a gold locket given to Queen Victoria on her first birthday in 1820 - containing a lock of hair from her parents, the Duke and Duchess of Kent - and Prince Albert's dressing kit, featuring



razors, brushes and a tongue scraper, one of his rarest surviving personal items.

Another main attraction will be a display of dresses worn by the Princess of Wales.

The five dresses include the famous black strapless evening dress designed by Emanuel, the fashion house that later created her wedding dress.

A black cocktail dress by the late designer Gianni Versace, a

friend of the Princess, will also be on display.

Originally built in 1605 as a private house, Kensington Palace was bought in 1689 by King William III and Queen Mary II.

Kensington Gardens was later designed by Charles Bridgeman, one of Britain's leading landscape gardeners.

Changed and added to over the centuries, the exteriors and interiors of the palace

include designs by British history's most notable architects, including Sir Christopher Wren, Sir John Vanbrugh and John Nash.

As well as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge - who will move in 2013 from their cottage in the grounds to Apartment 1A, the former home of Princess Margaret - the palace's residents include Prince and Princess Michael of Kent.