



CALM IN THE CITY

Turning a post-war London semi into a serene space that has the laid-back charm of properties in sunnier climes took clever planning

FEATURE VIVIENNE AYERS PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS SNOOK



KITCHEN

The cabinetry, made from engineered hand-aged oak, celebrates the beauty of wood. Concrete worktops link to the new metal-framed windows and doors. Bespoke **cabinetry**, The Main Company. Wall **tiles**, Arcturus Stone. **Flooring**, find similar at Artisans of Devises

DINING AREA
The oak rafters and steel beams of the extension were left exposed as they are part of the home's new rustic aesthetic. **Bespoke table**, The Main Company. **Chairs**, Eichholtz. **Pendants**, HKliving. **Console and table lamps**, Home Barn





SEATING AREA
Relaxed linen sofas
emphasise the informal
feel while the built-in
shelving feels part of
the architecture.
Sofas, Maker&Son.
Curtains, The Want Room





STAIRCASE
During the renovation, the stairs were flipped from one side of the house to the other to allow a direct view from the entrance to the garden. The new sculptural design combines the clay plaster and wood used elsewhere in the house.
Clay plaster, Mud Finishes

“PIGMENTED CLAY PLASTER WAS USED ON THE WALLS TO LINK WITH THE EXTERNAL RENDER AND PROVIDE A TEXTURAL BACKDROP”

What was once a rather unremarkable post-war semi in north London is now a statement home that's a heady fusion of Miami art-deco villa and Santa Fe adobe Pueblo with a hint of bohemian Ibiza beach house – all inspired by the homeowner's travels.

Interior designers The Want Room and architecture practice Delve were engaged to bring the owner's vision to life. Not only was she keen to inject individuality and create a sustainable house but, as a gardener, she wanted to cultivate a garden oasis and maximise the views of it from the house. 'The existing house didn't have much character,' reveals Edward Martin, director at Delve. 'It hadn't been updated since it was built. There had been a few ad-hoc additions, but internally it was a rabbit warren of different-sized rooms with little flow, and there was no real link to the garden from the main areas.' Extending and reconfiguring was the priority, with the emphasis on creating an indoor-outdoor feel. A rendered extension was built at the side and back, with pitched roofs blending with the local vernacular, and a hip-to-gable loft conversion was undertaken.

When it came to the interior, the client wanted to create a soothing and relaxing space, incorporating natural materials that would age beautifully over time. Black metal windows and doors are married with limestone floors downstairs, reflecting the mix of black and white that's a feature of art deco, but in a softer, more muted Ibiza palette. Pigmented clay plaster was introduced on the walls throughout the house to link with the external render and provide a textural backdrop. 'It gives a beautiful cohesive look that runs all the way through,' explains Rakhi Kapila-Nowell, co-founder of The Want Room.

The staircase was flipped from one side of the house to the other to allow a direct view from the



entrance to the garden. 'As it's in the darkest part of the interior, we wanted something soft that bounces natural light up and down the house,' explains Edward. The eye-catching sculptural staircase extends to the top floor, providing vertical movement, and combines the clay plaster and wood used elsewhere in the house.

The core of the home is the open-plan kitchen-dining-living space at the back. 'We exposed all the ceiling joists, oak rafters and steel beams as we didn't want a single white painted ceiling with a room of that size,' says Edward. Complementing the ceiling, bespoke cabinetry by The Main Company emphasises the natural beauty of wood. Crafted using engineered hand-aged oak, the cabinetry is topped with a concrete worktop for an industrial twist. The same wood was used throughout the living space and also in the separate boot room and utility.

Continuing the theme of incorporating as many natural materials as possible, Rakhi brought in natural fabrics including relaxed linens and wools and woven ceiling pendants. Carefully considered forms play a key role, too. 'We introduced rounded tub dining chairs and curved furniture in the snug to create the feeling of organic spaces and evoke a less formal sensibility,' says Rakhi. Against this calm and serene backdrop, artwork from the homeowner's travels takes pride of place. 'Our brief was to make the interior feel as if you're in a different part of the world,' says Rakhi, 'and it definitely has that look.' 📸

■ thewantroom.com; delvearchitects.com

HOUSES



MAIN BEDROOM
A small half wall either side of the bed is a beautiful detail. **Curtains** in Romo fabric; bespoke **cushions**, all The Want Room. **Bed linen**, Soak&Sleep

BATHROOM
Simplicity evokes a spa-like feel. **Bath**, Livinghouse. **Taps**, Lusso. **Flooring**, Domus



MEET THE DESIGNER

Rakhi Kapila-Nowell shares her style inspiration

BEST ARCHITECTURAL FEATURE

The stunning metal garden doors.

BIGGEST SUCCESS The use of space in the kitchen/dining/living area and marrying old and new. Our client had a number of sentimental objects that had to be integrated with the new design style.

GO-TO DESIGN DETAIL The perfect colour palette can create a flowing, cohesive look.

SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT

The lighting – from statement pieces to ambient designs – has been transformative.

DESIGN INSPIRATION Different cultures and environments through our travels. Architecture, colours and design elements from around the world.

I KNOW I'M A CREATIVE BECAUSE...

I find innovative solutions to challenges.

SECRET ADDRESS Home Barn.

HOW MY HOME MAKES ME FEEL

Peaceful and calm.



BATHROOM
During the renovation,
a nook was created for
the vanity and it provides
discreet storage.
Bespoke **vanity** with Corian
basin, Riluxa. **Footstool**,
Soho Home. **Flooring**,
Scences, Astro Lighting.
Mirror, Heal's