

NOVEMBER 2019 £4.80

ELLE DECORATION

CELEBRATING
30
STYLISH
YEARS



**STYLISH WAYS
TO MAKE YOUR
HOME SELL**

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SPACES THE
FUTURE?**

**THE WORLD'S BEST
INTERIOR
DESIGN &
ARCHITECTURE**

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Los Angeles to London
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**BEDROOM
BUYS**

WE REVEAL
THE ESSENTIALS
FOR A BETTER
NIGHT'S SLEEP



GUIDED BY THE

Words **CLARE SARTIN** Photography **PAUL RAESIDE** Styling **SANIA PELL**

Hidden behind a Victorian façade, this modern home celebrates the transformative effects of sunshine

When this grand, tree-shadowed terrace was built in 1851, just off a busy street in London's Kensington, its original owners could never have imagined what would one day transpire inside the large house at the end of the row. And, standing on the front doorstep today, this property's traditional façade still conceals the secrets that lie within.

Step inside, however, and the five-storey family home, completely reimaged by Flow Architecture, makes a dramatic first impression. A double-height glass extension at the rear and two large skylights above bathe the main living space in light, while a swooping, sinuous staircase – with a balustrade constructed from ribbon-like 8mm steel – stretches the full height of the house. Flow Architecture's two partners, Vincent Nowak and Annarita Papeschi, both worked at Zaha Hadid Architects before setting up their own practice in 2013, and it is clear to see the influence of the landmark projects they worked on at play here, only on a more intimate, domestic scale.

For its owners, the most important elements of the build were to bring an abundance of daylight into this once dark home and create a greater connection with the outdoors. Now, as the sun moves throughout the day and the quality of the light changes with the seasons, this home transforms, its white walls taking on the shifting colours. 'On a grey day, everything is muted, but when the sun is low, you can really see that warmth,' explains Annarita.

The play of light is not all that decorates the walls in this home, though. Its owners are avid contemporary art collectors who have deliberated at length about the visual impact of every one of the pieces on display here. A large tapestry by Caroline Achaintre has been placed in the perfect spot, stretching between the ground-floor living area and the kitchen/dining space below. Many artworks haven't even made it onto the walls yet, their ideal locations still to be decided. Details are important here, from the edited palette of natural materials used (oak, walnut and Douglas Fir) to the way the sculptural lines of the architecture are referenced in the interior's details – from playful motifs carved into the cabinetry to the shape of the built-in shelving.

Furniture is treated in much the same considered way, with great care taken to ensure nothing distracts from the beauty of the build. However, as architect Vincent and the homeowners agree, some disruption is always a good thing. That's why, despite its large white expanses, this home will never be a sterile gallery-like space. There's personality here amid the perfect symmetry of its curving structure. flowarchitecture.co.uk

Living room An 'Agio' sofa and 'Lever' table, both by Francesco Rota for Paola Lenti, are arranged with a 'Picot' pouf and 'Parallelo' rug, both also from Paola Lenti. The cushions and throw by Raf Simons for Kvadrat bring warmth. Ettore Sottsass's 'Pilastro' stool for Kartell adds a pop of red in the corner **Stockist details on p197** ▶





Above A tapestry, 'A.D.O', 2017 by Caroline Achaintre, from Arcade, stretches from the living room into this seating area beside the dining room. The floor light is the 'North' by Arik Levy for Vibia and the sofa is by Paola Lenti **Opposite** An 'Ami' chair and 'Lever' coffee table by Francesco Rota for Paola Lenti are paired with a 'Safari' chair by Kaare Klint for Carl Hansen & Son and floor light by Serge Mouille. The 'Tabouret Berger' stool is by Charlotte Perriand for Cassina **Stockist details on p197 >**





**A SWOOPING
SINUOUS
STAIRCASE, WITH
A BALUSTRADE
MADE OF
RIBBON-LIKE
STEEL, CUTS
THROUGH THE
CENTRE OF
THIS HOME**



Staircase Designed by Flow Architects, the striking staircase allows natural light to stream from the top of the house to the bottom
Kitchen Boffi's sleek white and black units suit the modern architecture of this home. The 'Tabouret Méribel' stool is by Charlotte Perriand for Cassina **Stockist details on p197 >**





Kitchen An 'Emma' coffee jug by HolmbäckNordentoft and 'Collar' coffee grinder by Daniel Debiasi & Federico Sandri, both for Stelton, sit on the counter
Dining area The 'Wireflow Free-form' light by Arik Levy for Vibia frames the 'Isabelle' table by Andrea Stemmer and 'Hiroshima' chairs by Naoto Fukasawa for Maruni.
 The artwork is 'Derive' by Bob and Roberta Smith **Stockist details on p197** ▶



I DECIDED TO STAND IN A GENERAL ELECTI
 A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT WHO WAS
 THE POWER AND PLACE OF ART IN SCI
 S CONSTITUENCY WAS CENTERED AROUN
 CAMBERLEY IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF LONDON.
 TO ASK THE WRITER JOHN ROGERS TO
 CAMBERLEY AND CONDUCT A TOUR. HIS AP
 TO ADOPT THE SITUATIONIST GUY DEBORD'S
 DÉRIVE. AN ALGORITHM. THE INSTRUCTION W
 LEFT TURN. THE SECOND RIGHT. THE SECON
 REPEAT AS WE TOUDED THE BACK LANE
 WE DISCOVERED THE UNDERBELLY OF THE TO
 JOURNIED THROUGH OUR ASSUMPTI
 PREJUDICES. AT ONE POINT THE DÉRIVE INSTRUCTE
 A BUSY DUEL CARRIAGEWAY. I TURNED TO JOHN I SA
 MOTORWAY WE COULD GET KILLED. HE SAID: DONT WORRY. GUY
 AN OPEN CONCEPT. WE DONT HAVE TO FOLLOW THE
 DECIDE WHAT WE WANT TO DO. I THOUGHT THAT'S WHA
 COMPUTERS DONT HAVE A SENSE THAT WE HAVE
 ENNUI. OR DECIDE TO HAVE FUN DOING SOME THI
 TO GET A CUP OF TEA AND WE HEADED TO FIND
 HUMAN INSTINCT IS VERY HUMAN. WE DONT HAVE
 ROAD KILL TO A SET OF ALGORITHM
 INTO OPEN CONCEPTS. BOB & ROBERTA



**'IF IT'S A
GREY DAY,
EVERYTHING
IS MUTED,
BUT WHEN
THE SUN
IS LOWER
YOU CAN
REALLY SEE
THE WARMTH'**



Exterior A double-height glass extension transforms this once traditional Victorian property
Bathroom 'Vola' taps and basin from Antonio Lupi maintain the modern lines in the bathroom
Bedroom Among the Society Limonta bedlinen, throws and cushions, a vibrant 'Phlox' corduroy cushion from Kvadrat provides contrast. Two 'Mag' tables by Daniel Schofield for The Conran Shop display a 'TR Bulb' lamp by Tim Rundle for Menu, a Perfumer H candle and vases by Kiho Kang from Flow Gallery **Stockist details on p197** **ED**

