

AHEAD OF THE CURVE

A 1980s townhouse has been reimagined with undulating walls that wrap around corners to create a home that ebbs and flows seamlessly between rooms

PHOTOGRAPHY Vigo Jansons

WORDS Mary Weaver

DINING AREA
'The curved bottom shelf, designed as seating, transitions from the banquette to the fireplace, giving the illusion of more space,' says the house's designer Adele.

Sculptural walls and fire base, designed by Covet Noir and fabricated by Eversmiths. Bioethanol **burner**, Victoria Stone. Deepah **table** and Mast **chairs**, all Atelier Pendhapa at The Invisible Collection. **Sculptures** by Sandra Davolio at Modernity

LOUNGE AREA

'We wanted to create an opportunity for styling and adding personal touches,' says Adele. 'The sliding oak panels pull back to reveal the TV, but can also be used to cover the shelving. In contrast to many organic elements, we added a tougher accent with the black leather chair and ottoman.'

Alta **chair** and **ottoman**, Oscar Niemeyer for Etel at The Invisible Collection. (Top shelf) Black **urn**, Toast. (Middle shelf) Glass **vase**, Alvar Aalto. (Bottom shelf) Scented Lava Rock **box**, Mad et Len. Alabaster **candle**, Soho Home





ENTRANCE HALL

'The open shelving is the perfect transition between the entrance hall and the dining area. As the architectural design is so minimal, layering art and accessories becomes so much more important, and we wanted to create moments like this for styling,' says Adele.

Walls in Raw White, Bauwerk. **Bespoke built-in shelving,** designed by Covet Noir and fabricated by Eversmiths. **Artwork** by Laurie Maun. **Sculpture** (in front of artwork) by Viv Lee. **Bud vases,** Flowerbx. **Sculptural glass vase,** Aesthete Label

LIVING ROOM

Like the lounge area off the kitchen this has a fire, too. Warmth is also added with the flooring and ceiling timbers. The curved sofa and floaty curtains deliver ample sumptuousness.

Bespoke wide oak plank flooring, Element7. **Curved walls,** designed by Covet Noir and fabricated by Eversmiths. **Vintage Lara sofa and footstool,** Beton Brut. **Amorphe lime plaster coffee table,** Atelier Straf. **Jigsaw Chalk rug,** Riviere. **Bespoke curtains in** Sabbia Clay, Rogers & Goffigon. **Bioethanol burner,** Victoria Stone

designer Adele Lonergan refers to the challenge of reinventing a characterless 1980s townhouse, slap bang in the middle of London, to reflect a warm Los Angeles-meets-Ibiza sanctuary as a 'dream job'. 'We gelled right away with the owner, who is a model and travels a lot, and once we had agreed a vision for the refurbishment, largely focused on natural materials and organic shapes, she was pretty much hands off,' she says.

Adele, together with business partner Maria Lindgren, set up their design studio, Covet Noir, five years ago. The pair, who are known for curating effortlessly timeless interiors, share an affinity for neutrals and a love of mixing new and vintage pieces.

'This house is round the corner from a smart city square, so we had to steer the owner slightly to avoid it going too rustic,' says Adele. 'We went for silk rugs rather than sisal mats and light textiles instead of anything too heavy.' Relaxed and laid-back, the home oozes wall-to-wall high-end sumptuousness, yet still has a hint of beachy vibe thanks to an abundance of warm wood and swathes of floaty drapery that could almost be wafting in the sea breeze.

'The plan was to lean into the modern age of the house – whilst removing its existing heavy joinery and dark timbers – and peel it back to its original shell,' says Adele. 'We were about investing it with clean architectural details, more light and a new softness created by rounding the harsh corners in the house.' Wide plank oak timber floors, bespoke joinery and modern ceiling rafters added much needed warmth and are paired with soft stroke lime wash paint to accentuate all the newly created curves. A glamorous sweeping staircase, frameless doorways and seamless transitions between rooms also helped to increase the sense of space and flow through the house. And masses of hidden storage – 'the owner has a very big wardrobe' – means the place stays looking streamlined.

Travertine was used where marble might have been employed, wrapped around a peninsula in the kitchen and for splashbacks and worktops. It houses a TV in the living room; serves as basins in the bathrooms and appears majestically in an elliptical bath, carved from one large solid block. 'It had to be craned up to the top floor of the house and weighed over 800 kilos but it was worth the stress,' says Adele, who sited the bath under a window that's not overlooked. 'It's in the ultimate spot for relaxation,' she adds.

As the work progressed, the owner, who had found Covet Noir on Instagram, stayed true to the designers' original concept. 'She definitely had an opinion, but it was mainly in answer to our ideas – which is why you employ a designer, really,' says Adele.

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THE DESIGNERS

Adele Lonergan and Maria Lindgren,
co-founders of interior design practice
Covet Noir, who designed this home for a
model who lives between London and Miami.

THE PROPERTY

A 1980s-built townhouse in central London,
set over four floors. On the ground floor is an
open-plan kitchen/dining/lounging area, plus
a cloakroom. The first floor holds the main
living area, and on the second floor is the guest
bedroom and en suite, as well as a dressing
room and a further cloakroom. On the top floor
is the main bedroom suite with a balcony.



NATURAL ELEMENTS PAIRED WITH TEXTURED LIME WASH PAINT
ACCENTUATE ALL THE NEWLY CREATED CURVES IN THE HOUSE



KITCHEN

'There wasn't space to create an island here, so instead we created a peninsula that's used as a bar area for drinking and chatting with friends,' says Adele.

Oak **kitchen** with **worktop and splashback** in Travertine Navona, designed by Covet Noir and made by Kitchen Architecture. **Walls** in Raw White, Bauwerk. **Ceiling light**, Delta Light. **Artwork**, John Goodison. **Sculpture**, Noe Kuremoto. Glass **sculpture**, Aesthete Label. Volcanic **vase**, Collection Noir. Planet **bar chair**, Monologue; in Sherpas Craie, Lelièvre

STAIRCASE

'It's the first thing you see as you enter the house, so it sets the tone for the rest of the design,' says Adele. 'The soft, plastered, sweeping curve edge leads the eye up the oak-clad stairs and bounces light around the ground floor.'

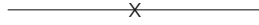
Staircase, designed by Covet Noir and fabricated by Eversmiths. Bespoke wide oak plank **flooring**, Element7

LANDING

'Here, we curved the walls to match the plastered staircase so they feel they slot together perfectly. Light from glazed internal doors bounces off them and highlights the texture of the lime wash paint,' says Adele.

Walls in Raw White, Bauwerk. Similar *Ficus benjamina* plant, Patch

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE NOW, BUT WHEN THE OWNER BOUGHT THE HOUSE IT HAD HEAVY JOINERY AND DARK TIMBER DETAILING THAT SUCKED THE LIFE OUT OF IT



DRESSING ROOM

'Our client has an extensive wardrobe, so we had to design a space that was not only beautiful but had tailored storage to ensure everything had a place,' says Adele. 'We didn't want it to feel like a sea of doors, so we introduced reeded glass and full height bronze handles.'

Bespoke oak **joinery**, designed by Covet Noir and made by Kitchen Architecture. Bespoke boucle **ottoman**, Covet Noir



MAIN BEDROOM

'As the house is so architecturally clean, we introduced interest through different forms and textures,' says Adele. 'We love the arms of the chair, which echo the narrative of curves in the house, and the boucle texture makes this strong shape feel cosy and inviting.'

Bespoke **curtains** in Sabbia Clay, Rogers & Goffigon. Arco **chair**, Dusty Deco. Bespoke **table** in Travertine Navona, Covet Noir. Bespoke **oak wardrobes**, designed by Covet Noir and made by Kitchen Architecture.

MAIN BEDROOM

'Instead of just a traditional upholstered headboard we wanted to do something a bit more modern, yet still feminine. So we introduced a curtain behind the bed to add a layer of extra softness,' says Adele. 'We love how it juxtaposes with the harder finishes of travertine and alabaster.'

Bespoke **curtains** in Sabbia Clay, Rogers & Goffigon. Floating **bed** in Astrid, Mons. **Bed linen**, Piglet in Bed. Alabaster Belfry **pendant**, Contain. Bespoke travertine bedside **cabinet** with oak base and bronze **handles**, Covet Noir





BATHROOM

'We wanted this space to encapsulate "quiet luxury" using an ellipse-shaped bath as inspiration. This is carved from one block of Travertine Navona, sourced from Italy,' says Adele. 'Set under the window, we curved the walls to either side so it would look cocooned.'

Walls in Ivory, Tadelakt London. **Bespoke bath**, designed by Covet Noir and made by Livra. **Bespoke vanity** in oak and Travertine Navona, designed by Covet Noir and made by Kitchen Architecture. **Taps**, The Watermark Collection. **Tub** alabaster **wall light**, Contain. **Stool**, Aesthete Label. **Floor tiles**, Artisans of Devizes