

Open House, the Way We Live in the Wychwoods Something Unique

Nowadays, in many sitting rooms, all furniture points towards the television. As a result, modern homes can lack something personal. When you can pick up a bargain kitchen from B&Q, why spend extra money on something handmade and bespoke? The modern house is turning into little more than a temple to IKEA, John Lewis and DFS, where flat-pack, mass-produced and soulless furniture create that 'ready for resale' look, fresh out of any DIY magazine.

A Creative Touch

However, this month's house is a tribute to something creative. The owner, a keen sculptor, has filled the spaces with her works in clay and stone. Busts of family members gaze proudly from shelves and graceful figures recline on coffee tables. Continuing the theme of art, the house is also filled with paintings done by the owner. The thick impasto style, and subjects influenced by the countries in which the owners have lived, provides a vibrant colour palette and mixture of cultural influences. Making things especially for a house is something that we see very little of nowadays, when mass production is so easily available. However, it can be seen in every aspect of this house where great

pains have been taken to make something special and individual. Take the conservatory; designed and produced by the owner's son, now an architect, to provide an ideally suited living space.

Light Everywhere

Interestingly, the owners have always been the first people to inhabit any house they have lived in, apart from when they were living abroad. This has everything to do with the vast amounts of light modern houses afford. The sitting room, for example, has dual aspect windows and a pair of French windows that overlook the garden. Similarly, to the front, the master bedroom has large glass doors that open onto a balcony. The ample hallway's light walls and carpet make the most of the sunlight streaming through the large windows over the stairs.



This house is less about the architecture and more about the passion and creativity

that's gone into filling it. From the outside, it is not so different from many houses built in the mid nineteen nineties. However, the vast array of art that graces its surfaces, from papier-mâché to soapstone, oils to watercolours, turns this house into something personal, unique and memorable.

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