











ew houses connect with their surroundings as perfectly as the Los Angeles home of lifestyle and fashion guru Jenni Kayne. Tucked away in a canyon to the west of the city, the building is the work of Belgian architect Vincent Van Duysen, whose modernist-inspired design appears to bring its wooded setting right into the house itself. 'There is no real barrier between exterior and interior; the architecture merges with the outdoors,' he affirms.

Jenni, whose eponymous brand offers fashion and interiors staples, approached Vincent in 2015. 'There was an immediate connection,' she says. 'He's incredible to work with as he really cares about who you are as a family and how you want to function in the space.'

Taking into account the lifestyles of Jenni, her husband Richard Ehrlich – owner of a property agency – and their children, Tanner, Ripley and Trooper, Vincent designed the house as a series of interlinking volumes set around a courtyard. 'The open plan creates an informal atmosphere, where the flow of spaces turns rooms into a continuous experience,' he says.

The building's limewashed brick façade, a typically Belgian feature, particularly resonated with Jenni: 'It reminded me of the LA homes built by Cliff May, a quintessential California ranch architect,' she says, adding, 'I wanted something that felt architectural and bold but at the same time very organic and soft.'

Inside, the volumes are punctuated with full-height glazing framing sylvan views, most notably in the sitting room where a wall of sliding glass opens up to a hillside dotted with oaks and sycamores. To tie in with the surroundings, materials are limited to pale oak, French limestone and textural plaster; the latter



is used for a staircase that leads to an office, the house's only first-floor space. 'The only reason we put the office up there is because I insisted on having a staircase – Vincent makes the most beautiful ones,' says Jenni.

The architecture has been complemented with art and vintage Scandi pieces sourced by Jenni as well as soft furnishings made by her friend Molly Isaksen. Pale as the interiors are, Jenni insists that 'nothing is too precious; I believe everything is a living surface so I don't get upset if there's a ring mark on a countertop.' This approach must come in handy considering that the house also plays host to a pair of large dogs.

Indeed, the family have accumulated a menagerie that includes three miniature ponies and a miniature donkey, as well as two goats and 10 chickens. 'We've been here a year and it really was divine timing – we've been able to look to nature and spend as much time as possible outdoors. It's pretty magical bearing in mind that we are just five minutes outside the city.'

■ Jenni Kayne, jennikayne.com; Vincent Van Duysen, vincentvanduysen.com

"I LIKE TO WALK INTO A ROOM AND FOR IT TO FEEL VERY QUIET AND SERENE"



HOUSES





