



# NOTTING HILL HOUSE

ARCHITECT: MAKE ARCHITECTS / DESIGNER: SCOTT MADDUX

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**B**orn and raised in Kingsport, Tennessee, interior designer Scott Maddux initially studied architecture at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. "The course was classically based and provided a solid grounding in architectural design, but after four years I took off for London," he recalls. For a while Maddux supported himself in the time-honored American way by waiting tables, but when he heard of a vacancy at the interior design studio of Ann Boyd, he applied for the post. "Ann took me on, and I worked for her for the next seven years," he says. "Before establishing her own studio, Ann had been creative director for Ralph Lauren Home in Europe. She's a talented designer and she had an excellent team of people working for her. I learned on the job, and it was a lot of fun."

Fun was to be a key element in the total renovation of a mid-nineteenth-century family home in London's Notting Hill, a project Maddux embarked on shortly after setting out on his own. "I had done a couple of smallish projects for an Anglo-Danish client who then recommended me to her brother, who was moving back to London from New York," Maddux says. "His wife, who is American, comes from a Spanish-speaking diplomatic family and spent much of her early life in Colombia; I quickly came to understand that color and art are an integral part of her life. My role was to help them create a home that reflected their individual tastes while maintaining a sense of unity and cohesion."

The location, which backs onto one of London's most beautiful private garden squares, was highly desirable, but the condition of the Grade II listed house necessitated an almost total rebuild. "It had been converted into several apartments, so we decided to start fresh and completely gut the interior," Maddux notes. "Being a corner building, the house has an unusual layout, with bay windows and curves at every turn and the added bonus of an original elliptical staircase that rises gracefully from the ground floor to the top. We were keen to emphasize those period features, but we also introduced strong contemporary elements such as the bronze spiral staircase that provides access to the basement." Throughout the process Maddux worked closely with Make Architects, and from planning stages to completion, the project took two and a half years. "But once the builders were out, the fun part could begin," says the designer.















**M**addux maintains that the quickest and truest way to understand a client's taste is to take her shopping. "We found a whole new batch of designers and dealers at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago," he says. "Mecox Gardens and Wyeth in New York were also excellent sources, with a wide range of unusual vintage pieces. Then we were off on a nonstop four-day whirl around Paris, where we honed in on places such as Galerie Jacques Lacoste, which specializes in iconic French designers of the 1950s, and Thomas Fritsch's Atrium, where we found work by outstanding midcentury ceramists such as Georges Jouve. Later on we bounced back to New York on a lighting mission. Finding pieces of the right scale and style was what we struggled with most. But by that point the client and I were in tune with the house and with each other."





In order to complement the soft London light, Maddux specified that the walls throughout be painted in a subtle dove gray created by expert colorist Patrick Baly of London-based Papers and Paints. "Although the walls throughout are softly neutral, we decided that each room would have a statement piece of furniture or art," Maddux says. "For the living room that was going to be a large curved sofa, but finding one the right size was proving difficult until it dawned on me to approach Vladimir Kagan, who has been designing furniture along those fluid lines since the 1950s. I called him up and asked if he could do a custom-made design, and he said he'd love to. He came on a visit to London, where coincidentally he had friends living on the same street. He got a feel for the space and made some drawings, and in due course the finished sofa arrived on a ship from America. Swinging on a crane as it was inched toward the window, it looked like a giant comma floating through the sky."

Understated references to the client's South American upbringing are found in the dining room, where a portrait of a matador by Vic Muniz, drawn in chocolate, contrasts with the vibrant colors of a painting by Elizabeth Kelly. A rustic table from Mecox Gardens contrasts with B&B Italia Maxalto dining chairs, all set on a cowhide rug from The Rug Company. "This is a

space for contemporary entertaining," says Maddux. "Whether it's tea parties for the kids or a dinner for grown-ups, it works equally well." In the adjacent kitchen, a sleek Bulthaup design fits neatly into the lofty proportions of what was originally a main reception room. The bold copper light fixtures are by San Francisco-based designer Michael McEwen, whose work is shown at top U.S. showrooms such as Thomas Lovin in Los Angeles, DeSousa Hughes in San Francisco and Dennis Miller in New York.

In the master bedroom, a bay window offers views across the trees and lush shrubbery in the square. While it's quiet enough to seem deep in the country, the bedroom is far from rustic in style. The period proportions of the room were left intact, but a bank of wardrobes runs the length of one wall, providing storage as well as a wow factor, as the high-gloss lacquer finish is an abstract vision of purple, silver and copper. Maddux based his concept for the adjoining master bath on the existing curves of the space, designing an elliptical vanity unit fitted with twin basins that runs around the bay window. In the center of the room, an oval Agape bath takes pride of place. That too was delivered on a crane, and neighbors still recall the day when they looked up into the London sky and saw an enormous egg floating through space. ■ Maddux Creative +44 20 3137 8073 [madduxcreative.com](http://madduxcreative.com) Make Architect [makearchitects.com](http://makearchitects.com)