

CONTENTS



WHERE TO LIVE

- 16 Agents' angle
- 17 Storybook homes
- 18 Price points
- 28 Moving daze
- 35 £1 million-plus
- 36 Under £500,000
- 40 Election results
- 52 Herts re-born
- 54 Retirement views

INTERIORS

- 22 Garden grandeur
- 38 Cleaning genius
- 44 Go-to beds
- 46 Wardrobe fashion
- 56 California wishlist

PROFILE TAMAR JACOBS AND OSHRI YANIV

PHOTOS: AMIT GERON



The Jacobs-Yaniv partnership: award-winning Israeli team with a British sensibility

Architect couple bare all

BY ANTHEA GERRIE

Setting yourself a date to move into a new house is always a bit risky. But when the reason for that deadline is a home-based barmitzvah for 100, the gamble is positively terrifying.

"There were two deadlines, in fact — as well as our son's barmitzvah, there was a book about houses in Israel for which we had to meet the date for photography," says Oshri Yaniv, one half of the Jacobs-Yaniv architectural partnership he runs

with his wife, Tamar Jacobs. Their Herzliya home, completed only in August 2016, has already won the couple a Best House of the Year award in Israel.

They waited a very long time to realise their dream: "We bought the land 14 years ago and lived in a smaller house over the two years it was being built in our back yard," says Yaniv.

The garden was crucial to the design, adds Jacobs: "We had several 60-year-old pecan trees to accommodate. Over the years we became so used to living our lives beneath them that taking them out was unthinkable.

"Building our own home was

emotionally draining... But the fact it looks a bit rough, slightly unfinished, is deliberate; we find natural colours and materials more appealing than slick coverings which act as a mask."

"Think of it like a person without make-up," says Yaniv. They call it the Bare House.

A profusion of uncompromising bare concrete blocks inside and out tells the story.

"Concrete is a good choice for Israel," says Yaniv, pointing out they have taken care to soften what could have been an industrial look with warm wood and natural stone. "The house feels homey." It also looks chic and rather Japanese.

The home effectively comprises three modules, arranged in cubes on one level — the master suite on one side, rooms for Arnon, 13 and nine-year-old Alma on the other and a large living space in the middle, which Jacobs says is intended to feel like an extension of the garden.

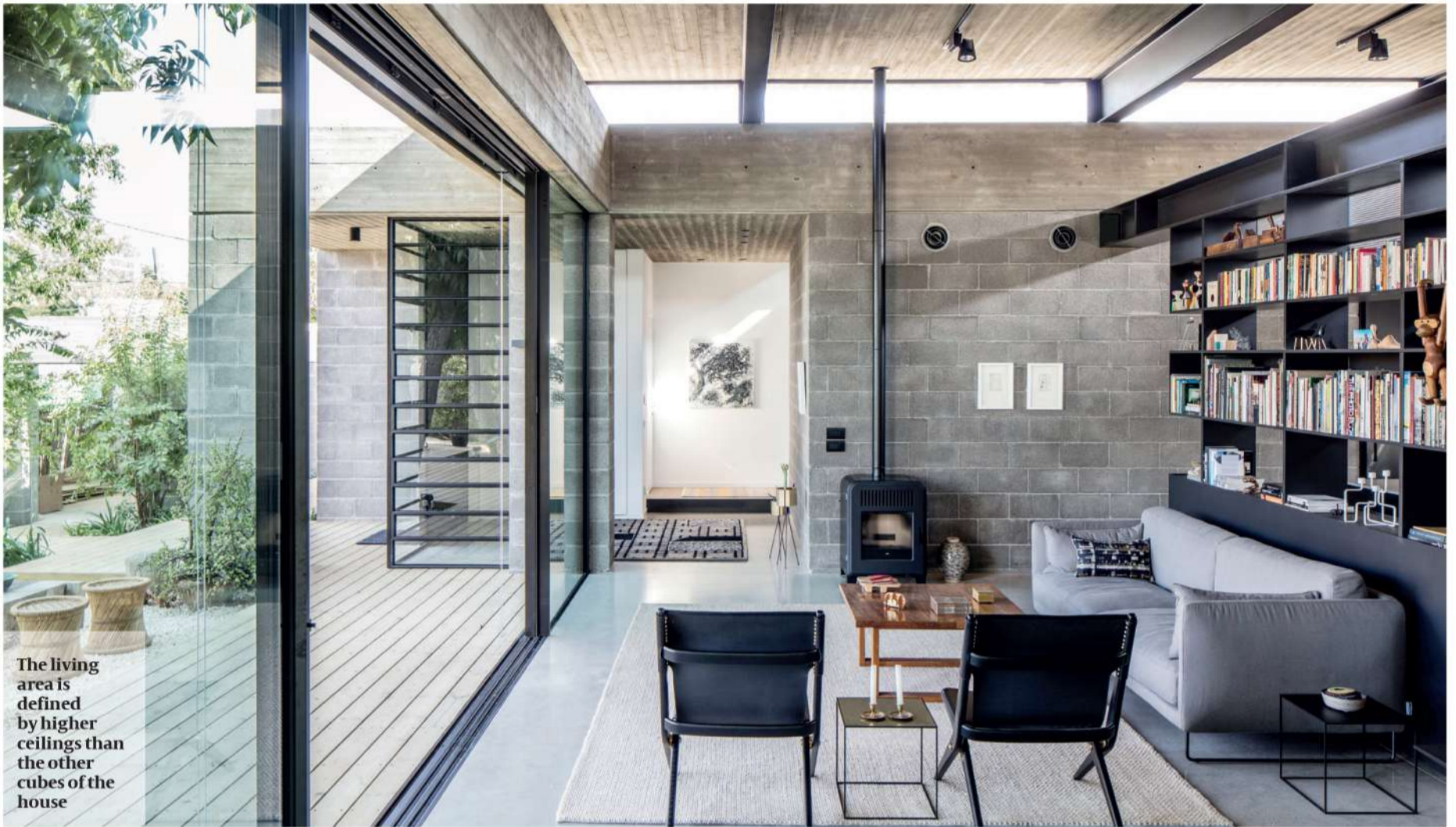
Visitors can see in through the glass walls which run uninterrupted across its front but this is not as intrusive as it might seem: "From the street, you can't see the house at all," says Yaniv.

Jacobs says the living area was given higher ceilings than the cubes on either side, to help define the space.

► CONTINUED ON P14



COVER PHOTO
St Margaret's Park, Bushey, Herts, Crest Nicholson apartments from £449,950; houses from £1.649m



The living area is defined by higher ceilings than the other cubes of the house



In the kitchen, the industrial feel is softened with warm tones and rounded shapes

Real
rugged surfaces are preferred to a slick mask

PROFILE TAMAR JACOBS AND OSHRI YANIV



In the bathroom, the precision of design and beauty of the materials are even more evident

◀ CONTINUED FROM P12

A high strip window runs just below the ceiling. “At night we can see the moon through it from the kitchen,” she says.

She cherishes the memory of emerging from the small, cramped house they lived in for so long to see their dream home finally taking shape: “Seeing the skeleton go up was the most beautiful moment.”

While the partnership, based in Ramat Hasharon, has a clutch of sophisticated Israeli clients, Jacobs-Yaniv actually honed its style in the UK and the couple feel they have a very British sensibility.

“We studied at the Architectural Association in Britain (where we met) and spent 10 years in London before returning to Israel,” says Yaniv.

Jacobs taught at the school after graduating and worked for Zaha Hadid, while Yaniv also worked for prestigious British architects including David Chipperfield: “The plan had long been to work together but our approach is very different,” he says.

“I go with my gut, while Oshri works from his head,” says Jacobs, conceding that the couple do complement each other, both functioning as interior designers as well as architects.

They returned to Israel 14 years

‘In Israel, blue is just blue. Brits appreciate its many shades’



Glass walls make the garden – with its special pecan trees – feel like an extension of the home

ago, which proved perfect timing. “The year after we moved back, lots of British Jews bought property in Tel Aviv and Herzliya. We understood their mentality, as well as being able to speak their language.”

Part of this mindset, she believes, is a subtler understanding of colour than is generally appreciated in Israel: “where blue is just blue. Brits appreciate that there are many shades of blue and that even greys come in a nuanced range.”

Brits also, they feel, tend to be more appreciative of vegetation, important for a couple who feel so strongly about their beloved pecan trees. As one would expect of such forward-looking architects, their house is green – “we were determined to harness the power of sunlight and natural daylight” – and the couple are committed to social responsibility.

While much of their work has been residential, they are also very proud of a shelter for battered women they recently completed in Tel Aviv.

“It won a prestigious international prize and we were the first Israeli architects ever to be named for that prize,” Yaniv says, with satisfaction.

“Everything is there that 12 women and their children could need,” says Jacobs, “from kitchens to counselling rooms to activities for the older kids. There’s a school and a nursery; it’s like a little village.”