

# SOPHISTICATED LIVING

{Cincinnati's Finest}





# THE SOFTER SIDE OF CONCRETE

Evolo Designer Ana Gomez applies international inspiration to her Mt. Lookout home

*Written by Matthew Millett / Photography by Andrew Kung*





Open floor plan living allows the designs to carry throughout all of the main living spaces



Mexican born designer Ana Gomez  
brings her Worldly inspirations to  
create masterful design



Born and raised in Mexico, Ana Gomez grew up with a love for design, reinforced with studies at both the Ibero University for Design and the Universidad de las Puebla for Architecture. “From a young age, my passion was always more modern design, which came very naturally to me.” As she worked through careers in Mexico, her affinity for contemporary design in particular grew. After marrying, Ana and her husband became global citizens, with stops in Switzerland, Malaysia, Japan, and Cincinnati, to name a few. For their third stint in Cincinnati, Ana—who was recently promoted to Senior Designer at Evolo Design—and her husband decided to build her dream home, a culmination of their worldly exploration and inspirations. This personal project is just one of several she has currently underway with her team at Evolo Design, including the renovation of a

Cincinnati historic landmark, an Over-the-Rhine loft, and a new-build dream home in Indian Hill.

With her architectural background, Ana had always planned to build a home inspired by award-winning Japanese Architect Tadao Ando. Ando and Ana both display a style of architecture centered on zen principles, namely the idea of simplicity and inner feeling rather than outward expression.

Both Ando and Ana make use of concrete structures as key architectural elements in their conceptions. A hefty building medium, in the right hands, concrete can take on visual weightlessness, capturing the simplicity and clean lines of zen design. Ana brought her own unique architectural perspective by utilizing walnut wood on both riveted exterior vertical panels and interior elements—namely the kitchen island—to “Rest your eye on some elements of the design.”

Entrance utilizing furniture sourced  
from travels











Walnut island contrasts against dark black cabinetry and accent walls

The external concrete structure is brought inside via a grand 15' high concrete fireplace, which serves as the main living space's focal point. To remain true to the spirit of an Ando design, which is defined by large concrete slabs with pronounced metal screws, Gomez had to source specialized concrete slabs from Canada.

Upon entering the second floor (main floor), the eyes are drawn to a trio of Tom Dixon 'Melt' pendant lights suspended above the kitchen island. The diffused light highlights an eclectic collection of fine art sourced from the couple's overseas travels.

Faithful to zen design, the contemporary interior design benefits from a large open floor plan flooded with natural light on all sides. Ana says that the home's elevated placement, which places the main floor above the trees, "feels like you're somewhere else." The roofline pitches from 15'-10', creating a subtle

feeling of undulation throughout an otherwise open interior. A continuation of the inside-out design is manifested by vertical blinds that mimic the exterior wood façade and in the thin grey quartz countertops that resemble concrete.

In the living room, brown tones of the leather cocktail ottoman and living room lounge chair hearken to the hues of the walnut island and antique contemporary sideboard. These elements help to soften the overarching grey background and move your eye through the main floor. A functional space for entertaining, the kitchen island is flanked on either side by a pair of comfortable barstools and is directly adjacent to the ten-seat dining table. The kitchen cabinets and walls by the staircase entrance are painted in black and become striking accent features. Still, everything feels bright and light due to the elevated ceilings and a plethora of window walls.

Dining table host chairs spark  
style in Rose Gold finish





Master bedroom is light and airy with large windows and original 'Bugs' artwork collection painted by Ana's brother



Master bathroom continues the organic and earthy feel of the architectural decor of the exterior





Powder room features black accent wallpaper and walnut cantilevered vanity



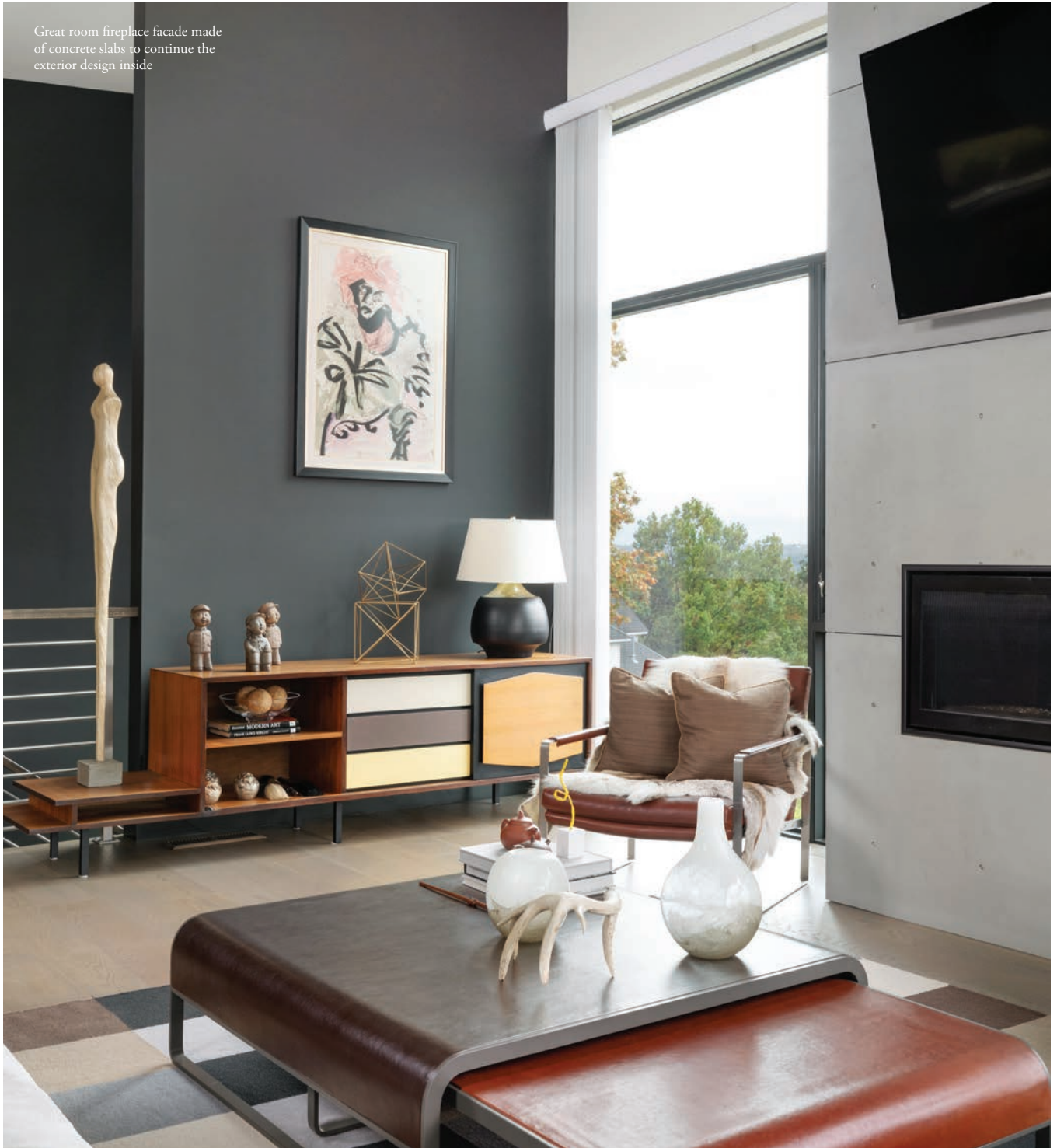
Floating bookshelves offer colorful contrast on black accent wall



Exterior designed using concrete slabs, wood, and black accents



Great room fireplace facade made of concrete slabs to continue the exterior design inside



The juxtaposition of the window framing's large squared angles carries the contemporary design to each room. The formal powder room with black accent wallpaper and cantilevered walnut vanity continues the black and brown color scheme. Venturing into the office one picks up continued details of contemporary art and design with floating book nests on a black painted accent wall.

One of the only rooms without a black accent wall, large windows in the primary bedroom and bath bring an abundance of light and create a tranquil setting. Pops of color fill the room through the eight framed "Bugs," composed by Ana's brother. The

primary bath boasts large earthy floor tiles and a walnut double vanity. A generously proportioned soaking tub and clean marble walk-in shower round out the main living quarters.

Throughout this one-of-a-kind residence, the culmination of concrete, walnut, combined with the interplay of light and black accents, blend beautifully to create an organic and peaceful environment. Whimsical art and pops color provide a visual storybook that is true to Ana's own upbeat personality. The home shines like a gem, with each polished facet representing an aspect of global exploration and inspiration. **sl**