

Buenos Aires can be deafening: the car horns and the barking dogs rarely let up. But away from the bustle, the tree-lined streets of the northern neighbourhoods where this bolthole is located are a welcome respite.

Tucked away on a residential street in Vicente López, this solid 1960s structure is unremarkable from the outside. But step through the *lapacho* wood fence and you enter a whole new world.

The expansive ground floor is open-plan. Architect Alejandro Sticotti spent a year working on the refurbishment with owners Fernando Trocca, a chef and restaurateur, and his wife Delfina. The inside was gutted and a staircase extended to give access to a roof terrace.

One of the great assets of this house is the light. However, when the couple bought the property it was so dark it was "like a cave", says Fernando. Now skylights installed upstairs and floor-to-ceiling windows at the back of the house allow sunshine to flood in.

The uncluttered residence is full of warm touches. Wood dominates, from the Brazilian-pine walls downstairs to a Scandinavian-style light made by Sticotti on the first floor. A bookshelf opposite the kitchen acts as a nifty room divider.

The cooking space is ample, as you'd expect given the owner's profession, with all the requisite mod cons and elegant grey-hued marble surfaces. The walls of the apartment are full of photographs and art. Colour is abundant thanks to the many mementos collected on the couple's travels.

The master bedroom has been given an earthy feel by the wooden boards slotted together on the walls (rescued from demolished houses in the city's La Boca neighbourhood), with impressive views of the palm below. "I love the way they've done this house," says Sticotti. "The style, the books, the colour – in truth it couldn't be any better." — (M)



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SILENCE IS GOLDEN

— *Buenos Aires*

Preface:

Earthy tones, a pared-down design mantra and plenty of natural light give chef Fernando Trocca's family home an understated charm away from the din of downtown.



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01 Living-room on the open-plan lower floor looking onto the garden, complete with palm tree and 'parrilla' (barbecue)

02 Wood-and-marble kitchen allowing chef Trocca plenty of room to get creative

03 Ground-floor bathroom that extends towards the garden