

Trees Company for This Curvy Ghent Abode

Like the scales of an unidentified creature, a varied array of red and terra-cotta bricks—and the occasional pale-pink one—make up the curving walls of this two-story residence. The Ghent home is composed of recycled 19th-century bricks and was designed to meld with its surroundings, curving around preexisting trees. Its organic shape allows the building to be freestanding, without the need for cross walls or support beams, and the facade is punctuated by large windows that reflect the surrounding forest. Internally, the levels of the home are sectioned off in platforms, allowing some areas to have dramatic double-height ceilings. For the most part, the internal brick walls are exposed and determine the shape of each room. Where the brickwork is

obscured, it has been done in such a way that the curves are accommodated, just like the nearby trees. For example, the blue tiles and bespoke wooden cabinetry of the kitchen occupy a bend in the wall, and are purposefully shaped to follow its curve.

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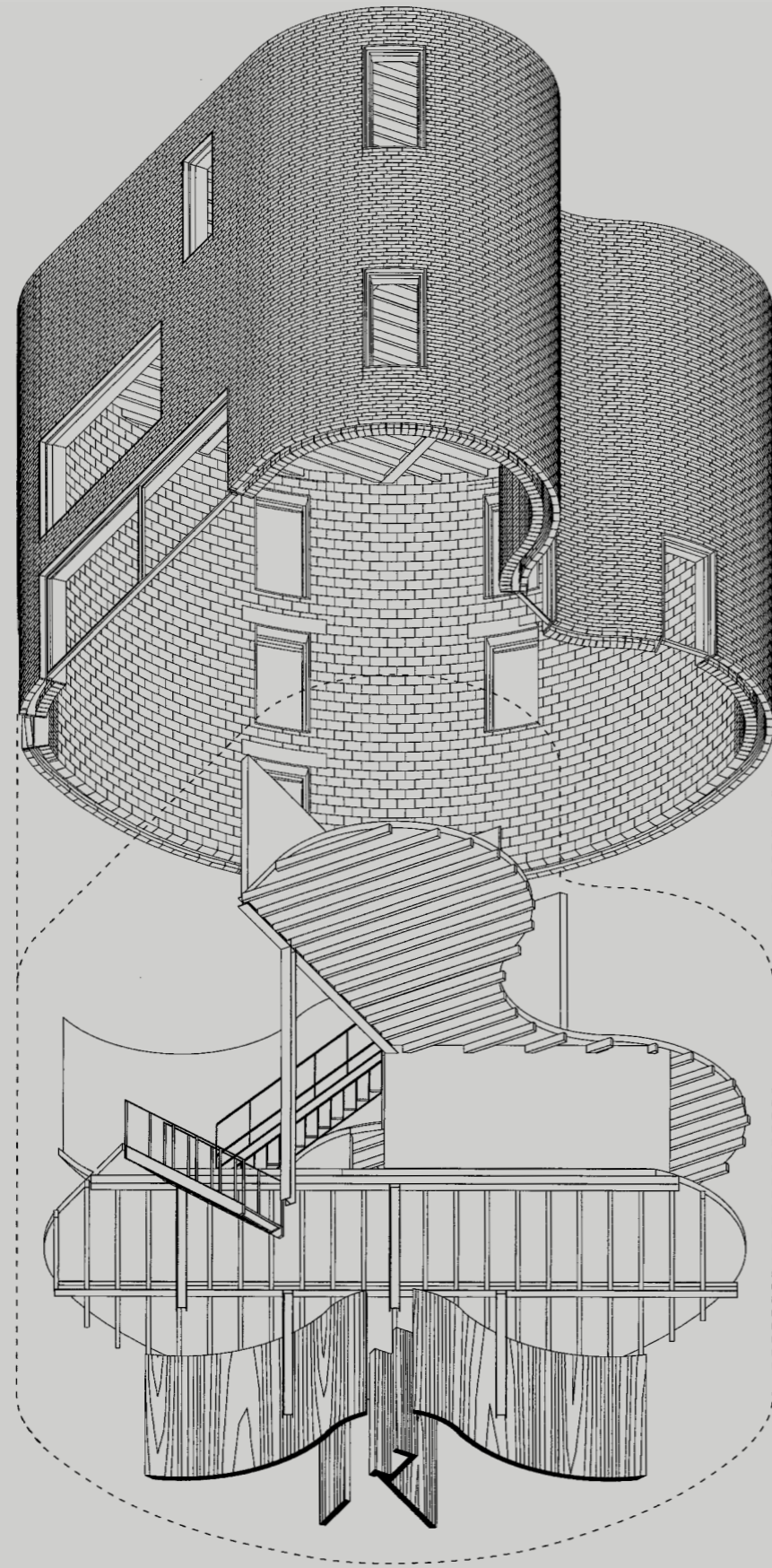
GHENT, BELGIUM





The brickwork facades employ the stretcher-bond technique, albeit with the occasional half unit here and there, since the bricks are reclaimed and likely not all whole. Bricks are also laid as headers in places—above and below windows and doors, for example, as if to reinforce their neat geometry. The building's organic shape is emphasized by the brickwork remaining exposed both inside and outside.





(Above) An exploded diagram shows how the building's internal timber and steel structural elements fit within the outer brickwork shell, allowing the building to be freestanding without the need for cross walls or additional supports. (Opposite) An impressive double-height living space benefits from the natural light that streams in from windows on all sides.

