





lashing styles, colours and patterns is not something that deters intrepid interior designer Roelfien Vos. 'There shouldn't be any rules,' she says. 'Mixing colours and prints comes naturally to me. I don't think you can teach that, but the trick is to ensure that an overall interior remains in tune, despite any bold elements. In fact, my most surprising and "gut-driven" designs were why these clients came to me in the first place.'

Said clients live all over the world, regularly travelling between Dubai and South Africa, but still very much considers the Amsterdam neighbourhood of Jordaan as their touchstone. 'I think the family will spend Christmas here, as their elder children live in Amsterdam,' reveals Roelfien.

The house was bought as a newly built shell with the owners asking Roelfien to design an interior that would reflect their cosmopolitan outlook. 'The layout was entirely up to us to design,' explains Roelfien. 'The first thing we did was to remove the solid wall between the kitchen and hall and replace it with brass-inlaid glass. Looking through, the staircase now appears to float, which creates a tremendous feeling of space.

'My work is known for the level of customisation I offer. Here, it's all about the architectural detailing, which deceives people into thinking it's a historic building. For example, I took the steel and brass from the staircase and replicated it in the railing upstairs to create a connection between floors. I then repeated shapes: the marble inserts in the railing are mirrored in the hallway mouldings. While I play with materials, shapes and colour, I am always keen to create a cohesive and connected feel.'

Throughout the property ceilings were lowered as a way to hide all the requisite tech. Subsequently enhanced with decorative mouldings, a shadow gap is used to cleverly introduce a seam of illumination that creates the impression of greater height, as well as the key feeling of luxe that Roelfien was after.

In the main bedroom suite, the spaces flow in a way that's evocative of a high-end hotel. Thus, black-panelled bamboo cabinetry provides a sophisticated framework around a tub, while the same panelling is replicated by the bed. Another repeated theme is the shade of avocado green used throughout. 'When I was 13, I had a green bedroom and since I started my studio it has been a recurring theme in my projects,' says Roelfien. 'Green brings tranquillity and can be combined with almost anything. In this home, it looks bold with the dark grey, wood and white in the hall. But with the pink paper in the living room it's a more unusual pairing and exactly the kind of experiment I love so much.'

After putting so much thought and energy into a job as here, Roelfien admits it's sometimes hard to let go. 'When you are so involved in a project, it ends up feeling a bit like your own home,' she says. 'When I hand back the keys, it always takes some time to get used to the fact that I am now the guest in the house!'





DINING AREA Geometric motifs punctuate the scheme for standout style and they act as a foil to the swathes of verdant green.

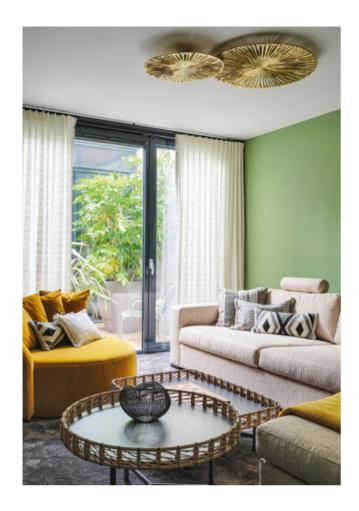
For a similar wall colour, try Yeabridge Green, Farrow & Ball. Verpan pendant, Chaplins. Dining chairs, Satelliet UK. Wallcovering, Élitis. Opus table. Potocco. Curtains in a Manuel Canovas fabric

KITCHEN

Roelfien (right) believes bold decisions pay off so teamed the custom circular shelves with a baroque-style wallcovering.

Try the Highgate units by Naked Kitchens for similar. Worksurface. Marazzi. Wallcovering, Glamora. Amber hobnail jug, Mrs. Alice







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'PYJAMA' LOUNGE With a view out to the courtyard, this corner sofa invites relaxation.

Chiro armchair, Macazz. Ropu coffee tables, Potocco. Ceiling light, Pieter Adam. Curtains in fabric by Karin Sajo

BEDROOM

A dressing area was created with a bespoke table and curtain.

Arcadia stool, Sweetpea & Willow. Wallcovering, Phillip Jeffries. Photograph, Petrovsky & Ramone

MAIN BEDROOM 'The client requested the atmosphere of a luxury hotel,' says Roelfien. An upholstered headboard panel does the job.

Upholstered **headboard in** fabric by Karin Sajo. Messalina wall lights, Contardi. Bolle **pendant**, Massimo Castagna at Chaplins. Key Shadow rug, The Rug Company

MAIN EN SUITE

The bath is enclosed in black bamboo panelling that both recalls Japanese interiors and forms cohesion with the rest of the panelling in the room.

Curtains in Karin Sajo fabric. For a similar green wall colour, try Yeabridge Green, Farrow & Ball







CONTRAST IS KEY TO MY WORK - I LOVE THE TENSION BETWEEN STRAIGHT LINES AND CURVES

home truths

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FAVOURITE FURNITURE DESIGNER?

Pierre Paulin. I just love the way he plays with form.

IF YOU COULD GO BACK TO ANY DECADE, IT WOULD BE...

The roaring Twenties. I still use patterns and themes in my work that take their cue from this era.

THE BEST DESIGN TREND OF THE LAST CENTURY?

Mixing styles. Letting go of the rules. Everything can be combined, even if it clashes, as long as it has the right balance.

WHAT BUILDING WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE LOCKED IN OVERNIGHT?

The Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. I'd enjoy having the museum to myself and the opportunity to really live the experience.

DESIGN HERO?

Kelly Wearstler - I adore the way she works with different layers.

THREE VITAL INGREDIENTS
THAT MAKE A HOME?
The right mix of colour, texture and form.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING TRADITIONS?

A real tree filled with pieces that remind me of certain times or people in my life and lots of candles everywhere.

BEDROOM
The velvet headboard and textural wallpaper make for a cosy, relaxed mood.

Curtain and wallcovering, Élitis. Headboard, Pierre Frey. Wall lamp, LZF. The Raphia bedside table at Swoon is similar CHILD'S BEDROOM

A floating vanity unit can be seen in the neat en suite.
Decorative details and colours deliberately reference back to other parts of the apartment.

Armchair, Thonet. Cushion and curtains in fabric by Gaston y Daniela. Wallcovering (reflected in mirror), Élitis