

# cut & COLOUR

By carving up its spaces and filling it with saturated hues, designer Roelfien Vos has given this new build serious character

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## home front

### THE DESIGNER

The Amsterdam-based interior designer Roelfien Vos of Roelfien Vos Interior Design & Architecture. She designed this Amsterdam apartment for globe-trotting clients to use as their base.

### THE PROPERTY

A three-storey apartment in a new development in the Jordaan area. On the lower ground floor is a child's bedroom and bathroom, a storeroom, a 'pyjama' lounge, a guest bedroom and a courtyard patio. On the ground floor is an entrance hall, dining area, kitchen and living space, plus a balcony. On the first floor is the main bedroom suite, with a walk-in wardrobe and bathroom, plus a guest bedroom with a shower room and WC.



### LIVING ROOM

The wood-effect vinyl wallcovering (left) feels very mid-century modern.

Sinabaye Metal wallpaper by Élitis. The Luna Mustard Yellow sofa, Oliver Bonas, looks like this one. Rug, Ebru. Coffee table, Duran Interiors

### FIREPLACE

Newly introduced architectural detailing like the walnut panelling with inlaid-brass seams gives the new-build home a sense of age.

Lady chair by Cassina; in Janano fabric by Gaston y Daniela at Jane Clayton







Clashing 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!'

x

roelfienvos.com



## 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







### '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

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