



NATURAL PHILOSOPHY

In this interior designer's renovated family home, timeless materials and textural finishes are used to masterful effect

photography **kasia gatkowska** design **anne claus** words **lindyl crabb**



Neutral habitat Interior designer and owner Anne Claus, pictured, has created a family home that feels both spacious and comforting. To achieve this, not one surface has been left plain white and the same flooring and wall finish have been used throughout the entire house. "I wanted to create the feeling of a cocoon. I even tried to match the colour of my wooden floor to the walls, and this creates visual continuity and flow," Anne explains. A 5m-long island that visually connects the kitchen to the open-plan living area is made from marble Anne found in Italy while sourcing materials for another project. "I saw it and fell in love," she says. **Succulent style** A platter from Imperfetto Lab is displayed on the marble kitchen island (opposite). →

who lives here?

Interior designer Anne Claus with her husband Roger Peetoom and children Finn, 11, and Joe, 8.
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ANNE CLAUS IS THE SORT OF DESIGNER that isn't persuaded by the comings and goings of trends. She's also the sort of designer that would willingly take on an enormous renovation in order to realise her vision, which is what it took to build her dream family home. When Anne found this property near Amsterdam's city centre, just minutes from her interior design studio, she seized the opportunity to work on a project without compromise. Although the foundation was in terrible shape, Anne was able to purchase the entire four-level building, obtain a permit to build a basement and turn the top two floors into flats to rent out. What's more, Anne says, "it has a nice garden, which I really longed for after living in a top-floor apartment for 10 years".

COMING OF AGE Although Anne admires the classic detailing of Dutch homes built around 1900, she felt it didn't quite suit this project. "I switched styles a few times before we started. It's more difficult to make decisions for myself than for my clients!" Anne admits. Because the building isn't very wide, she selected elements that would evoke visual spaciousness, starting with a harmonious palette of base materials and finishes. On the ground floor, a marble island connects the kitchen to the living area where the garden is framed by a glass facade. All walls and doors are covered in chalk plaster by the Belgian specialist Atelier 51 and the kitchen and bathroom cabinets are finished in stucco in a matching shade, which Atelier 51 created with Anne. The effect, she says, is "quite modern" and complements the softly curved staircase. Some new elements also appear to have been there forever, including the Hungarian point oak parquet flooring treated in a soft grey so that it looks like it belongs to the original house.

UNISON INTERIOR This visual continuity is also seen upstairs in the master bedroom, which features a walk-in robe and bathroom with an open shower and marble-clad bathtub. Anne's design ensures the spaces on this level seamlessly connect, like a luxurious hotel retreat. The basement has been turned into kids' bedrooms and a study with 3m-high ceilings. Here, too, Anne has worked the garden into the design – the glass facade continues to this floor thanks to a lower outdoor area. The project may have taken more time and work than expected, but as Anne says, "it's very satisfying when it turns out the way you had in mind all this time".

Breathing room In the living area is a coffee table designed by Anne and made by Behout. The Sem sofa is from L'Authentique, the seat is by artist Jan Janssen, the stools are from Baxter and Serax, and the vases near the fireplace are by Gloria Landenberger of 2222Studio. The rug is from one of Anne's suppliers in Morocco. →





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT **Shelf love** For Anne, seeing her own designs come to life was one of the most rewarding parts of this renovation. She designed the joinery, which was made by Van Venrooij. **Set the bar high** The kitchen material palette is a feast for the eyes, from the marble bench and splashback to the wall plaster, the water-resistant stucco cabinet fronts and the aged Hungarian point floors. The bar stools are from By Volt Kitchen. **Work of art** On the living room wall behind Anne is an artwork by Dutch duo X+L. The armchair is by Wiener GTV Design. **Positive outlook** Although Anne says the renovation took longer than expected and went over budget, the new design is breathtaking and a true representation of her style. "I only worked with a few beautiful basic materials, which I love. It gives the house a really good flow and it calms me down when I arrive," Anne reflects. The 5m-long island (opposite) is one of her favourite features. "It's the centerpiece of the house, especially when we have friends over."

style tip Seen a finish you love? Ask who made it – that's how Anne came to use this specific wall plaster →



how to create visual harmony and continuity

1 Repeat materials! For example, Anne used the same wall plaster, flooring and marble throughout her home.

2 Remove visual boundaries. Anne says the doors don't have frames and the ceilings match the colour of the walls.

3 Use an extended kitchen island or joinery to connect separate zones within a long, open-plan space.



Quiet tactility In Anne's bedroom, a vintage print hangs above the custom bedhead in Dedar fabric. The bedding is by Society Limonta, the black sconce is by Apparatus Studio and the Belgian linen curtain fabric is by Designs Of The Time. On the Ferm Living side table is a vintage vase. **Light show** The beautiful custom bath (opposite) was designed using the same marble that features in the kitchen. The artwork on the wall is by San Ming; the flooring is Soares. ->

In great shape The organic shapes that appear throughout the interiors are repeated on a smaller scale in the dining area, from the Pinch Design pendant lights to the curved Baxter chairs. The table was custom-designed and finished in plaster, just like the walls. Keramiikkantoor ceramics are displayed on the table. On the wall is an artwork by X+L.



shop it! Get creative with sculptural objects and textural finishes



- 1** Berit Mogensen Lopez 'Beige On Black' art print, from about \$78* unframed, The Poster Club. **2** Halo Rugs 'Toledo Hunter' reversible rug (2.3m x 1.6m), \$149, Temple & Webster. **3** Danish porcelain pendant lights, \$679 each for large, Lighting Collective. **4** Hikaru ceramic vase in White, \$69.98, Gro Urban Oasis. **5** Katarina Wells 'Pedestal' bowl in Black Stoneware, \$220, Modern Times. **6** Leon ceiling/wall ADJ light in Black, \$149, About Space. **7** Fairfax chair in Velvet Nut, \$1895, Coco Republic. **8** Hugo Ridge bedhead in Chalk Boucle, \$1790 for king, Aura Home. **9** Rogue Mimosa flower spray, \$24.95, Freedom. **10** Robert Gordon 'Monument' tall vase in Liquorice, \$139, Domayne. **11** Beatrix square cushion, \$129, McMullin & Co. **12** Zephyr 3.5 seater sofa in Oyster, \$3795, Sarah Ellison. **13** Bill boucle pouf in Ivory, \$449, McMullin & Co. **14** Capella timber stool in Black, \$350, Clo Studios. **15** Rory Hong counter stool with Matt Black frame/Black Solid ash seat, \$219, Relax House. **16** Noir oval dining table in Oak, \$1695, Life Interiors. **17** Como round marble tray, \$129, Alfresco Emporium. **18** Tear vase in Slate, \$77, Mud Australia.

still-life styling alice lerace
*conversion correct at time of print



Colours and finishes

FROM LEFT Fienza calacatta marble stone top, \$495 for 600mm slab only, Accent Bath. Matt emulsion paint in Barker Grey, \$160 for 4L, Graham & Brown. Italian porcelain outdoor tiles in Sand, \$112 per sq m, Perini. HanWood Design 'Elegance' chevron laminate flooring, \$106 for 2.2 sq m, Bunnings.