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DESIGNING YOUR WORLD

Wolterinck

PHOTOGRAPHY: MARCO PETERS

We are delighted to bring you the second volume of *Designing Your World*. And what a different world we found ourselves in this past year. The impact of the global pandemic highlighted as never before the centrality of home: not only as a place to return to, but as the place one spent nearly all of one's time. Home was where we worked, played, cooked, ate all our meals, and above all, spent more time with immediate family; not even entertaining friends. Instead of traveling, we cultivated our gardens. All of these changes were felt at Wolterinck, too, where we worked tirelessly and with passion to keep making homes of all kinds better and more beautiful.

The team of designers, architects and stylists at Wolterinck is itself like a family, with a strong penchant for cooperation and teamwork, all working to fulfill the design philosophy of serene, harmonious, yet exciting living environments. Marcel Wolterinck believes in giving the team freedom to innovate and surprise, while guiding the work in a collaborative process. He holds regular "office hours," meeting with his staff to discuss ideas and refine solutions. The synergy produces results.

And as for family, the young and vibrant team at Wolterinck is now enhanced by the presence of Marcel's daughters, Maartje (31) and Aafke (27). Both were always encouraged to follow their passion, whatever it might be. Marcel's only specific wish was that they study or work abroad and learn a second language. Both chose to work in design, and both now contribute to the company: Maartje expanding the web and graphic design elements, and Aafke working in styling and interior decoration.

A forward-looking firm, we stay alert to new products and possibilities. Always international in focus and range, the interiors in this book feature custom fixtures and furnishings from top ateliers across the world, many of our own design. The book also includes international homes, in Greece and Ibiza. The projects here range from small suites of offices to large country estates. No two projects are alike, and each fits the clients' wishes to perfection.

A dream project remains a boutique hotel, where all of the disciplines in which we excel might come together—from architecture and design to professional kitchens, luxurious dining, and the finest details of styling. A complete environment of serenity which is never dull; modernity expressed in warm, natural materials and textures, and a seamless interweaving of outdoors and indoors. These are the defining features you will discover in these pages. Here at Wolterinck, we understand the power of home. As the world opens up again, we remain dedicated to making your world beautiful.





A FINE BALANCE

Gooi and Vechtstreek area, the Netherlands

PHOTOGRAPHY: MARCO PETERS

In this large villa, many parts make a greater whole. Built in the 1990s, it had been neglected for years. The clients found its proximity to the village center attractive, but it was also clear that Wolterinck could transform it into a sheltering family home with lush gardens. The family, with two adolescent children, wanted both spaciousness and warmth, featuring a blend of dark and light colors, and a harmonious mix of classical and modern design. Wolterinck took on every aspect of the renovation and specialists from every part of the team participated.

One of the first interventions was defining the entrance; replacing the unattractive staircase with a new, lighter construction to enlarge the foyer-space. Another was the removal of the indoor pool and the creation of a graceful outdoor pool. A whimsical reminder of the indoor pool remains in a cosy niche reached by ladder. The clients have a special fondness for window seats and welcoming corners, which were created throughout the house.

Unusually for this village, the house had a full upper level and a vast basement. Small differences in levels helped to define spaces for a bar, a pool table, a television room, and a dedicated media room. The husband is an avid music lover. A high fidelity "listening" room was created that would approximate the feeling of a live performance. Wolterinck sought out audio expertise, installing the best equipment and furnishing the retreat with luxurious daybeds and lush fabrics in sensuous browns. The wife is a semi-professional cook. There is a state-of-the-art kitchen and a long, striking dining table of wood and bronze, ready for festive meals.

For the upper level, Wolterinck worked with the relatively low ceilings to create effects of spaciousness: a wall of window seats in the dressing room, a spectacular glass and Cappuccino marble shower area, and a play of light and dark colors. The different spaces of the house are distinct, yet flow into each other, creating a harmonious whole. Throughout, classical choices are enlivened by subtle textures and natural materials, yet the total effect is one of calm.

Similarly, in the garden there are distinct areas; soft neutrals in perennials and vibrant colors in pots. Yet a sense of wholeness emerges, underscored by the striking, horizontal water element topped by a pergola. A gate and fences, designed by Wolterinck, and high yew hedges ensure privacy. Dark conifers and excess plants were cleared, allowing the beautiful sweetgum, beech, and holly trees to enhance the woody, spacious atmosphere.

As the project progressed, the clients became more and more interested in improving the technical specifications of the house. Warming was installed in the floors and invisible climate control in the ceilings, and many functions were integrated in smart technology. Both clients have a refined eye for art and for colors. The collaboration with the team was both smooth and mutually fulfilling. The daughter was especially involved with the decoration of her own room, and the experience even inspired her to aim for a career in interior design. This glowing home is truly where it all comes together.



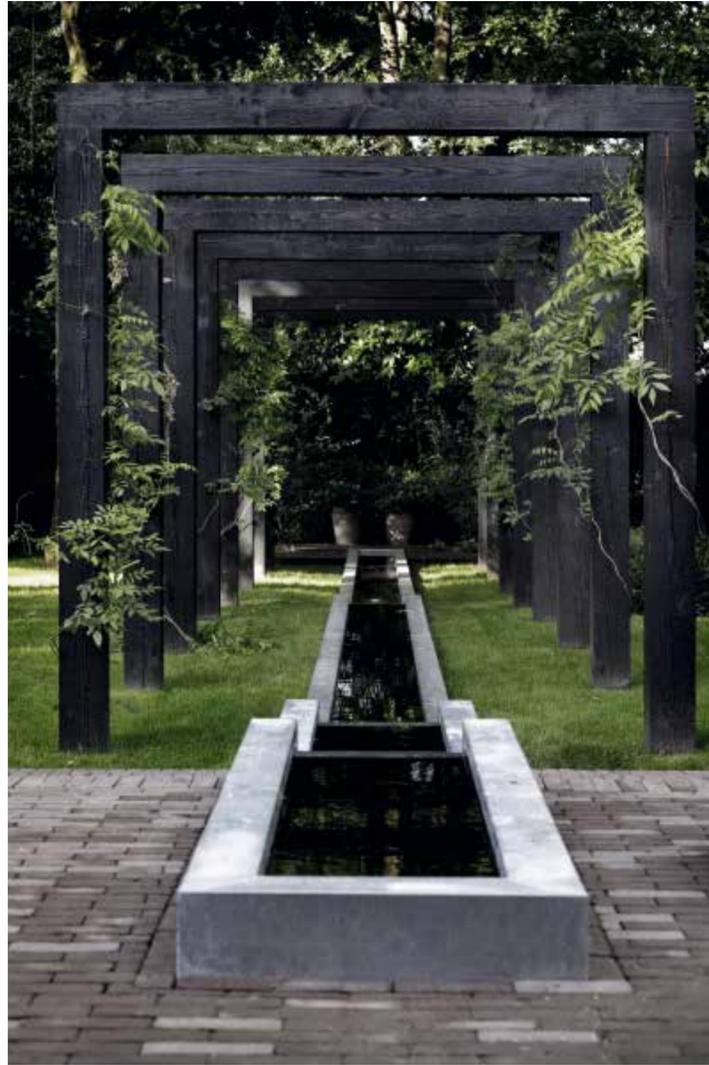














SOFT LANDING

Amsterdam, the Netherlands

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER BAAS

Wolterinck had decorated the couple's primary home in Belgium, and when they bought a pied-à-terre in Amsterdam, they called again. Situated along the Keizersgracht, one of the most beautiful streets in the UNESCO Heritage-listed Canal District, the apartment would be a place for the couple and their adult children to enjoy weekends in the city. It would also supply an alternative to a hotel for the husband, an international businessman who flies frequently. The building is from 1735, but the apartment had already been renovated several times. Few original features of the interior had survived the centuries.

The wish was to make the apartment as light and fresh as possible, with a serene hotel-like atmosphere. Luxurious carpets anchor the living space and, in a hotel-like gesture, fully carpet the two bedrooms. The composition seems deceptively simple, but a great deal of thought has gone into the selection of colors, textures, and proportions. For example, the seating in the living room is purposely low, so as not to block the views to the windows or confront the occupant with high sofa backs upon entering the room. The sofas were nevertheless placed on legs to create visual space between the light carpet and light sofas. The sofas themselves combine leather, fabric, and diverse cushions in suede and linen, adding visual interest and depth within the restricted palette. A generous armchair swivels, allowing the occupant to face the seating area, the television, or the view, as desired.

The wood for the tables and wall cabinets is in harmonious light shades of oak. Wallpapers in the two bedrooms are in a complementary relationship: in the master bedroom, a textured fabric warms the headboard area, while in the other a natural painted raffia paper enhances the opposite wall. The lamps above the dining table were worked carefully into the ceiling, but there was little custom-made in this project, in keeping with the clients' wish to retain flexibility and a feeling of lightness. One exception was a custom-built cupboard for the master bedroom which includes a smoked glass insert to make the relatively small bedroom feel more spacious. Another is the Wolterinck-designed headboards and night tables. The guest bedroom offers a witty take on a clothing rack, chevalier mirror and étagère for one's necessities, in a nod to hotel amenities. There are few personal possessions, and art objects were only added slowly after the completion of the project.

One restriction was that everything in the apartment had to be delivered through glass windows only two meters wide. The living room cupboard was therefore delivered in two pieces. This is still very much a building from 1735, and the staircase is narrow. Yet, once inside, the apartment radiates a serene, feminine, and timeless luxury.





AT HOME AT THE OFFICE

Amsterdam, the Netherlands

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER BAAS

This exceptional office overlooking the River IJ in Amsterdam is as inviting as a private home. The brief was to create a workspace which would also serve as a base for several generations of the family nearby to reunite. In addition to meeting all the needs of an active marketing company, it is where the family might congregate to cook a meal, watch a football game in the lounge, or enjoy an after-work drink on the upstairs terrace. The brief was to create an office which would also feel like a home.

This was a shell-state space with visible pipes, a proliferation of outlets and poor acoustics. The most daunting task, technically, was to dampen sound while retaining a semi-open plan with a prevalence of hard materials. The solution was found in Koto Tai Silver wood veneer ceilings constructed over acoustic materials. A flexible lighting plan was housed within thin wooden grooves. It was a puzzle—what the Dutch call “millimeter work”—to ensure an exact fit and continuity with the hallway, where an integrated paneled door leads to the work area. To avoid a preponderance of wood, and to achieve characteristic Wolterinck balance, the floors were finished with a poured composite, which also reduces echoes. Within the work area, four double offices are walled with glass, isolating sound while allowing desired cohesiveness and transparency.

A striking, minimalistic staircase, constructed of steel and designed by Wolterinck, defines the living and dining spaces while ensuring views and flow. The light visible at the top seems to lead the visitor up to an alluring roof terrace. A meeting room includes a luxurious minibar finished in Grigio Perla marble. Polished steel frames contrast with the free-form, gray-veined marble, each slab of which is unique. The same tints of Koto Tai Silver wood veneer are repeated throughout, creating unity, while the graphically playful end-grain wooden meeting table introduces an element of surprise. The prevalence of refined natural materials in this city office is refreshing. Generous armchairs by Wolterinck for Linteloo create a corner for conversations for two near the river views.

Wolterinck worked with some of the client's existing furnishings and treasured art objects, bringing them into harmony with a completely new interior design, styling, and palette. Custom paint colors were mixed to harmonize with materials and furnishings. The ceiling spots, doubled for effect, were installed with a click system so the client may move them as desired, to spotlight art, for example. This is a project with a high level of custom-built work, yet with a surprising amount of flexibility. Part office, part family retreat, it also feels like a home to its employees, who feel good in these surroundings and who get taken up into the family atmosphere. The client paid Wolterinck the highest compliment, saying of his office that he himself “would like to live there.”













MOUNTAIN PARADISE

Ibiza, Spain

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER BAAS

This traditional Ibizan finca, or country estate, is centuries old. These spare, cubic dwellings made with thick, white-washed walls were built with the materials available to the farmer: clay, stone, and beams of juniper wood for the ceilings. This property had undergone renovations over the years, including even the addition of a squash court, but the décor was dated. Wolterinck gave the entire interior a fresh, colorful and integrated look while respecting the essential Ibizan character of the finca.

Set atop a hill, the house affords splendid views of the surrounding countryside. A highlight of the architecture is the stone olive oil press, three stories high, which includes a round living room, bathroom, and a master bedroom on the top level. A curvilinear seating area and shapely fireplace accentuate the circular form of the living space. In the luxurious master bedroom and bathroom, the rectangular volumes of the custom-made headboard, softly squared lounge chairs, outsize tub and glass-walled shower create exciting contrasts with the round walls. Throughout the house and terraces, curved shapes in chaises, poufs, area rugs, and works of art are highlighted against the traditional square forms of the architecture.

The client, who had worked with Wolterinck on his primary residence, wished to create a welcoming and child-friendly home for his young family, but at the same time wanted a large and adaptable compound for friends and family to visit. The house is in use all-year long. The hillside part of the house, with striking stone archways, features refitted exercise, spa and

meditation areas. The extensive terraces, larger even than the footprint of the house, allow the family to follow the abundant Ibizan sun all day long, from morning swims in the pool to evening gatherings at the outdoor kitchen. There are dedicated terraces for outdoor living, dining, cooking and sunbathing.

The client envisioned a natural and serene interior, yet with strong, Mediterranean colors. The starting point was an abstract circular painting in orange and fuchsia by Jade Jagger, an Ibizan resident. These colors are repeated throughout; the fuchsia especially at the front, echoing the plentiful bougainvillea. The orange near the back harmonizes with the earth tones of the surrounding hills and the local Ibizan stone of the garden walls. The injections of color, in weatherproof furnishings and custom rugs crafted in colorful jute, are balanced by the rich white walls and organic materials. Wolterinck supplied every item in the house, from furniture to dishes to art objects. The house feels like a family home yet offers the luxury and ease of a fine hotel.

Wolterinck also assisted the client with a selection of new fine art, including a bronze by Joseph Cals, a rice-paper abstract work by Zhuang Hong Yi and a bright orange painting by Jan de Beus. The rooms, dappled with light, feel both airy and cozy. This is a house where the owners and guests feel relaxed yet invigorated. It achieves a perfect balance between surprise and serenity, and between a sense of immersion in nature, and in luxury.









UNLIKELY SWAN

Zwijndrecht, the Netherlands

PHOTOGRAPHY: MARCO PETERS

This is a story of place. The house, built in 1978, was one of a row of semi-detached houses with low, slanting ceilings and limited space. The setting on a major Dutch waterway was, however, spectacular—an endless procession of passing ships, large and small. Wolterinck took this lightly constructed, dated house and made of it a luxurious and stylish home, built for durability, energy efficiency and comfort.

The layout was reconfigured. Additions to the back, front and side required a new infrastructure of steel beams. A new foundation was laid for a raised basement to house both a recreation room and utilities. Walls were made thicker, also providing acoustic insulation. The footprint was enlarged from 260 to 340 square meters. The central staircase was moved to allow unimpeded views from the entrance to the water.

This was a successful team effort. Some of the experts in plumbing, electricity and construction came from the client's own Rolodex, and there was smooth cooperation among the entire team. The house is now fully automated with smart technology. The light plan was especially creative, complementing the natural light from different angles throughout the day. Far from a standard series of spotlights, it is a playful and artistic series of customized lamp placements, including a floor to ceiling light strip at the new stairwell, itself a work of art.

The young family, with two teenage boys, wanted a contemporary but warm atmosphere. A spectacular stone, Quartzite, found serendipitously

by Wolterinck in Italy, was chosen for the new staircase and is repeated through the house, generating a palette of brown, gray and silver tints. New glass doors were framed in wood rather than the customary steel. For these clients, the most important room, where they like to gather and welcome friends, is the kitchen. It spans the back addition, complete with bar and fireplace. The walls throughout the house were painted a light ash color, rather than white, to enhance a feeling of warmth and coziness in an often gray and rainy local climate.

The relatively low, 2.5 meter-high ceilings remained a design challenge. Air conditioning and utilities were installed behind the bespoke cabinetry. Wolterinck made use of large windows and careful alternations of dark and light treatments for floors and walls. The sightlines were expanded, whereby the eye is drawn to the views, making the rooms feel more spacious.

The vision for the garden was to enhance its relation to both the indoors and the river setting. The long axis along the water is emphasized by staggered plantings and subtle gradients. Hedge clouds and ornamental grasses that ruffle in the wind evoke the water, while sturdy, robust materials such as wood and concrete emphasize the port setting. Wolterinck took a simple garden and made it seem as spacious as possible, enhancing the seasons with flowers and year-round green, while extending the living space with a windproof porch and a wisteria-clad pergola. This very unlikely, once ugly, duckling is now truly a swan.









MAGICAL BOXES

Amsterdam, the Netherlands

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER BAAS

The clients, who live in the country, wished to have a pied-à-terre in the heart of Amsterdam. This apartment, originally a warehouse from the 1700s, and most recently a dated, small apartment, is along one of the most beautiful canals in the historic Jordaan district. The brief was to create a luxurious getaway, including two bedrooms for visiting adult children or good friends. The challenge was working with the proportions of the heavily beamed space, which measures just shy of seven meters wide and only two meters high at some points. The only sources of natural light are the canal-side windows at the front and the roof terrace at the back.

This was a thorough renovation. The plan was to concentrate living areas near the windows and to create private bedrooms on either side of the foyer in the center. These rooms are striking custom-made “boxes” of dark stained oak and glass with steel muntins. They run along a strong vertical axis further reinforced by oak floorboards. On the long facing wall is a series of cupboards which alternate in height and color to preserve a feeling of spaciousness while meeting storage needs. A color palette of whites, creams, and warm browns was used throughout, softening the robust architecture, and harmonizing the series of distinct spaces. The apartment feels both sheltering and airy, a true pied-à-terre.

The front bedroom has its own seating area, including a Wolterinck-designed fauteuil and ottoman from Cervino in stone-washed leather. A kitchenette is secreted in a niche so that guests may make coffee in the morning while enjoying the view. The bedrooms are made private with

wooden blinds and have a semi-open connection to individual bathrooms via crafted niches, encouraging the circulation of air and light. The bedroom floors are clad in a striking herringbone-patterned Sequoia marble which feels satiny underfoot. Headboards and night tables were designed by Wolterinck. The bathrooms are finished with Beton Ciré, a textured concrete.

The living area at the back has two orientations, one to a block holding the television and wine cellar, the other to a freestanding fireplace. Both are finished with the same rubbed concrete, but in a darker tint. Refined yet organic materials bring a touch of nature to this city apartment. The chaise longue and sucupira wood table are also designed by Wolterinck. Custom cupboard handles were crafted from horn and bronze.

Working with the omnipresent beams and pillars presented special challenges. The lighting plan was extensive. Wolterinck measured the spaces between every beam by hand. The glass walls of the bedrooms were built around structural pillars. To house the pipes to and from the fireplace an extra-thick false wall was constructed.

What started out as an unpromising, rather dark, low space with a limited layout has been transformed into an enviable city retreat with a surprising number of functional spaces. Wolterinck has created an additional home for the owners, and a welcoming place to visit for those lucky to be its guests.













