

LABOUR OF LOVE



photography **James Stokes**
text **Lisa van der Kloek**

TO RENOVATE A HOUSE IN THE CANAL DISTRICT AND MAKE IT THEIR OWN, THAT WAS THE DREAM OF THIS INTERIOR DESIGNER AND HIS PARTNER. MISSION: ACCOMPLISHED.

T

After living in Shanghai and Sydney for several years, Dick Mulders and his partner returned to Amsterdam. A few steps from the Amstel river they found a house in need of a serious design intervention. Luckily, Dick was up to that task.

The house on Prinsengracht had served multiple purposes over the centuries: it was a seventeenth-century studio, a tannery, a carriage house and most recently, until a few years ago, it housed the Les Quatre Canetons restaurant. By the time the gentlemen bought the house, it had already been turned back into a residence. The previous owner wanted to open a games shop in the front house and had been particularly meticulous in implementing a Tetris theme, to hilarious effect. “We were actually looking for a house with more classical elements, but this house had large spaces. And you can always reintroduce classical elements yourself.”

They thoroughly rearranged the layout of the house. The front house now hosts the kitchen and the living room. Mulders: “The tulip vase attracts a lot of attention. And when I set the table for a dinner party, people think it’s a restaurant. It’s surprising how curious people can be. Passers-by stare shamelessly at us while we’re having breakfast.”

For many years, Mulders worked as an interior designer for a major design agency, but a few years ago he began running his own agency, DMD Amsterdam, which focuses primarily on residential projects. “Being my own client was a novel experience. I was very demanding on myself, but that has enabled me to better understand how to translate clients’ wishes. This house gave me the confidence to start my own business.”

What Mulders is most proud of? “Definitely the layout of the house. The front house faces outward and the rear house offers more tranquility and privacy. The patio provides all the rooms with access to daylight. I’m also pleased with the mix of state-of-the-art materials combined with more timeless and authentic materials. Like the custom-made wallpaper in the bedroom, the new copper cupboard that was treated with citric acid and the bespoke stairway made of steel, but the old wooden floor created out of century old beams from a farm house in Schagen is also special. I felt it was important to design a signature piece. Something unique, something entirely bespoke. That’s what the cupboard, the library wall and the stairs represent.” Thankfully, Mulders’ partner agreed with all of his choices. The only thing they were hesitant about was the cupboard in the study, which Mulders initially wanted to be made of polished brass. In the end they chose copper, for a more timeless appearance.

Page left Magi daybed by Flexform, T1027 side table by Eileen Gray, porcelain Chinese tulip vase, En Suite rug by Frankly Amsterdam from Mobilia

ALL THE
CUPBOARDS
WERE
CUSTOM-
MADE



This page Bespoke wall cupboards and sideboard finished with smoked eucalyptus veneer

Page right Hamptons modular sofa by Linteloo, Colour Me Eucalyptus by Frankly Amsterdam, Fly coffee tables by Flexform, Aura chandelier by JSPR, green cushions by Hay, other cushions by Kvadrat/Raf Simons through Mobilia, plaid by Mae Engelgeer and wooden board by When objects work, both from Mobilia

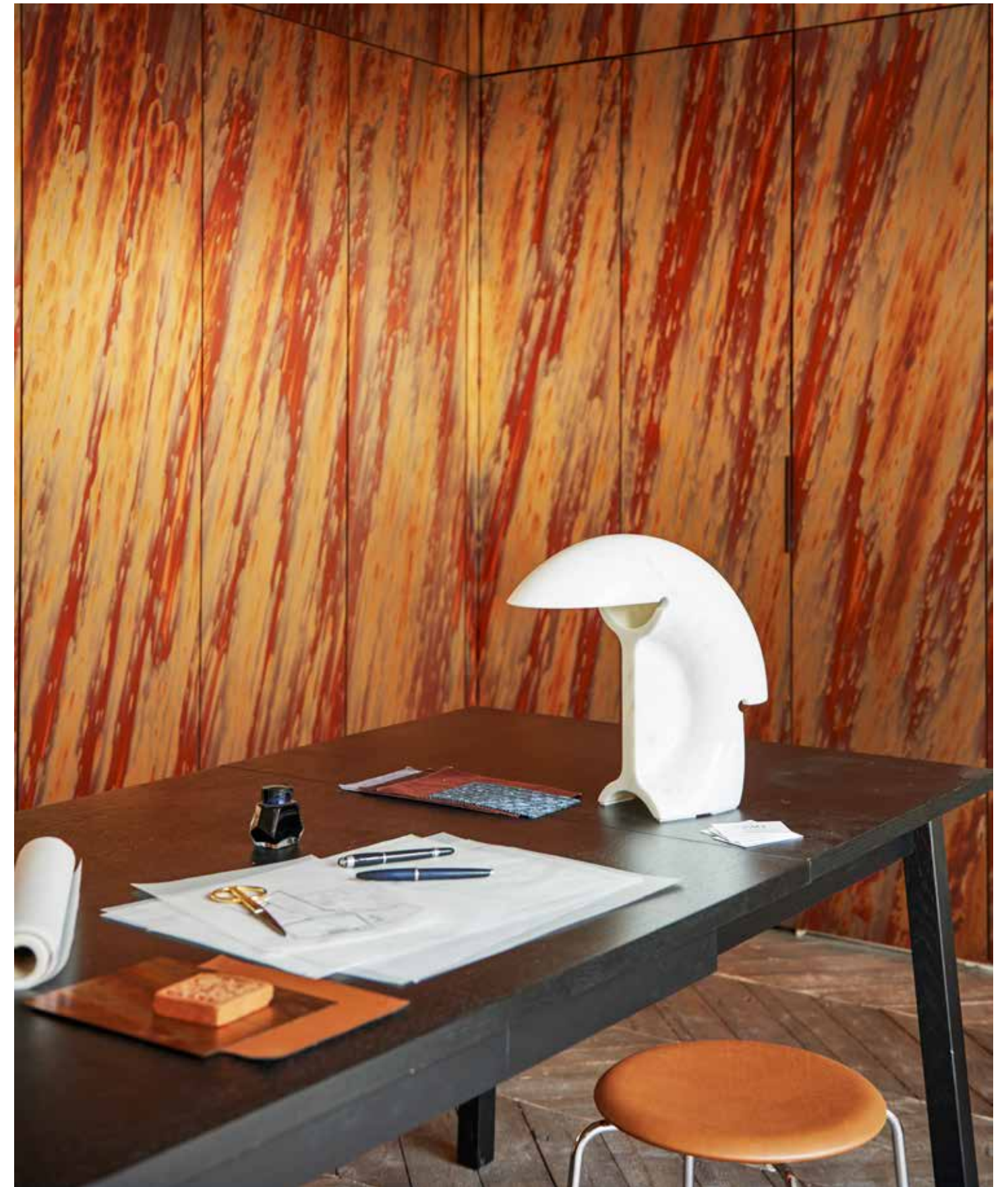


This page Custom-built kitchen in colour Indigo blue, Vola KV1 Gun Metal tap, wallpaper Igneous Wallpaper in Granite by Custhom
Page right Driade chair by Philip Starck, vase by Ronald A Westerhuis, En Suite rug by Frankly Amsterdam, Magi daybed by Flexform





This page Eden Queen 350 rug by Moooi carpets, custom-made table by Ghyczy, bespoke sideboard, tulip vase by Van Tetterode, Energy 2016 wall sculpture by Ronald A Westerhuis, chandelier Marset Nenufar Preset 7b, Hexx table lamp by Diesel, dish by When objects work and Garbo vase by Cor Unum , O&D wire chairs – all four from Mobilia
Page right Sideboard by Novamobili; Buds 3 table lamp by Foscarini from Mobilia



This page Bespoke inbuilt cupboard finished with Homapal Copper Strato, Dot stool by Fritz Hansen and Biagio table lamp by Flos, both from Mobilia
Page left Shape facilities by Bette LUX, single-handle 1111 tap in Gun Metal by Vola