

PACKING A PUNCH

This Netherlands new build showcases the modish way to use print, shape and colour for a cool, personality-filled abode



PHOTOGRAPHY Space Content Studio/Living Inside
WORDS Rachel Christie/Fidessa van Rietschoten

BREAKFAST AREA

One of design studio Even Eleven's style rules is to repeat patterns – such as the wavy motifs here – to make them purposeful and coordinated.

Bespoke wavy **bench** designed by Even Eleven; covered in Igor Chenille fabric, Pierre Frey. Vintage red **table**, 1stDibs. **Wall light**, vintage; try Vinterior for similar. **Curtain in** Be Bop A Lula, Dedar

KITCHEN

'The cabinets are made from liquid metal, which is quite a new product – the carpenter came up with the idea,' says Pieter. 'It's like a brass colour and when you paint it on it's very shiny, but you buff it to create the pattern and level of shine you want. We wanted it to look like aged brass, complementing the mirror above the sink.'

Patagonia Quartzite **worktops**, LSN. Bespoke liquid metal kitchen **cabinets** and bar, Roode Interieurs. **Wall lamp**, Rothschild & Bickers. Vintage Borje Johanson **bar stools**; upholstered in Kelly Wearstler Oblique fabric. **Curtains in** fabric from Gancedo



DINING ROOM

'This flows into the kitchen yet stands out as a separate space,' says Michelle. 'We achieved this by playing with colours, adding textured wallpaper and laying the floor in a unique pattern.'

Ceiling in Picture Gallery Red, Farrow & Ball. **Seagrass wallpaper,** Greenland. **Vintage MR10 chairs** by Mies van der Rohe for Knoll. **Vase,** Xanthe Somers.



W

hen a rarely available plot of land came up for sale in their home village in The Netherlands, design duo Michelle Jager van't Hof and Pieter Jager couldn't resist snapping it up in order to build their dream family home. 'We were living a stone's throw away in a small neighbourhood filled with homes from the 1920s and 1930s,' says Michelle. 'Despite the paint being barely dry in our previous home, we didn't hesitate for a second and decided to seize the opportunity.'

Designing a new build with three small kids in tow is no mean feat, but the couple has managed to create something they hope will stand the test of time and be enjoyed now and well into the future. 'We designed this house with the aim for it to fit seamlessly within the neighbourhood's aesthetic, while incorporating our own modern touches, hence the thatched roof that will age quickly, the white limewashed walls and the scorched timber on the facade,' explains Pieter. 'But we certainly did not want to recreate a 1920s/1930s house. Instead we wanted to merge the style of that era with modern touches, like the contemporary vertical window at the front, all in a thoughtfully balanced way.'

Despite the challenges that come with building a new home, the upside is the luxury of being able to decide exactly how you want to live and breathe in your own space, and for Michelle and Pieter that was in creating open-plan living that could also be easily closed off. 'Architecture and interiors are closely intertwined. You get the best results when you are involved from the start of construction,' says Michelle. 'We wanted an open home where different areas are interconnected yet stand alone. By having separate spaces, it becomes easier to incorporate various colours and styles. And by repeating those specific colours and shapes, we ensure there's a connection between the different areas.'

There's certainly no shortage of colour and pattern in this exciting home: from punchy purple, burnt amber and pale yellow hues to fun curves, squiggles and arches, each colour and shape evokes a different atmosphere and feeling, whether that's the calm, earthy pink bedroom or the cosy, deep pink/red dining room. The blend of materials such as rich woods, coloured natural stones, glossy surfaces and plush fabrics represents a balanced combination of diverse styles, enriched with vintage pieces and well-considered art. 'Our design process always begins with establishing the desired ambience, after which the layout, materials and colours naturally follow,' says Pieter. 'Then it's about incorporating lots of personal stuff. We love to collect vintage art and furniture from our travels, so we have lots of unique pieces that tell a story. Your home is your most important, sacred place, so you want it to feel personal.'

Personal it certainly is – Michelle and Pieter have succeeded in bringing to life the unique residence they envisioned from the moment they first spotted that plot of land; not just a showcase for their design talents, it's a joy-filled, functional, warm family home.

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THE OWNERS/ DESIGNERS

Michelle Jager van't Hof and Pieter Jager, who co-own interior design studio Even Eleven. They live here with their three children: Olivier, six, Fé, four and Tommie, one, plus their pet rottweiler Billie.

THE PROPERTY

A detached villa built in 2023. There are four bedrooms, a guest bedroom, two bathrooms, three separate toilets (including a downstairs loo), a boot room, an open-plan living room and kitchen, as well as a dining room and separate kids' TV room. The Even Eleven design studio is located adjacent to the house.

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LIVING ROOM

Even the doors in this home make a statement - these are bespoke and sliding.

Bespoke Viola Calacatta marble mantelpiece and cabinetry, all Even Eleven. Game On rug, Even Eleven at Frankly Amsterdam. Vintage Gubi Pacha chair, re-upholstered by Designs of the Time. Bird artwork, Isobel Harvey. Rembrandt sofa, Interiors DMF; in Chouchou, Élitis. Artwork (on pillar), Klaus Staudt. Sliding doors, designed by Even Eleven; made by Roode Interieurs. Vintage wall lamp; wicker chairs, all Cocoon Collectables. Red table, Normann Copenhagen. Chess set, Man Ray





THE EXTENSIVE USE
OF COLOUR AND
UNEXPECTED SHAPES
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A UNIFIED AESTHETIC



ENTRANCE HALL

A buttery pale yellow hue keeps this space sunny all year round. 'In the Netherlands, the weather isn't always great, so I wanted to create a warm welcome every day,' explains Michelle. 'It took a while to find the perfect yellow! We tried 10 different shades and in the end a local Dutch brand won.'

Walls in Straw, LAB Paint. Nero Marquina, Bianco Carrara and Moka Creme marble **floor tiles**, designed by Even Eleven; made by LSN. **Spotlights**, Bocci

OUTSIDE DINING AREA

This space is where the whole family gathers most evenings during the summer. The worktop is made from marble and is teamed with a checkerboard pizza oven. 'We go to Italy quite often, and I fell in love with making

pizzas,' says Pieter. 'You can really get lost in all the details of making the dough. Everyone has a barbecue around here, but I wanted to have something different.'

Pizza oven tiled in red and white hand-baked tiles, Cottoceramix. **Ceiling in** Rectory Red, Farrow & Ball. Portuguese bistro **chairs**, Adico

MAIN BEDROOM

'I wanted a warm and cosy space, so I went for a very grown-up earthy pink,' Michelle says. 'We kept everything the same colour to create balance and calm.'

Walls and ceiling in Templeton Pink, Farrow & Ball. **Headboard and cushions**, designed by Even Eleven; headboard in Alchimia Intreccio by Élitis; made by Studio Habib. Oregon **wall lights**, Soho Home. **Bedding**, La Redoute







BATHROOM
'We love that it's warm and enveloping,' says Michelle. 'We decided to make the glossy tiles in the shower the standout feature - though the tiler wasn't too happy with our complex design!'

Walls in Loggia, Farrow & Ball. **Bespoke sink and cabinet,** Even Eleven. **Side table,** Serax. **Hand-baked tiles in** Black and Orange, Cottoceramix