



ARJAAN DE FEYTER

Antwerp

Interior Architect Arjaan De Feyter graduated from the Antwerp Henry Van de Velde Institute in 1999. He started his own design bureau virtually immediately afterwards, combining this – until 2005 – with a freelance position. Since 2006 he also holds a teaching position in Interior Design at the Department for Architectural Sciences at the University of Antwerp.

The bureau specializes in overall concepts custom-tailored to the needs of the individual interior. It has broadened its focus to include exterior designing, with a view to optimizing the perception of the interior space through providing overall solutions for interior and exterior design. To this end, the design bureau operates in close collaboration with specialists from other architectural disciplines.

His work is characterized by a fondness for purity, the use of honest materials and a strong sense of detail. The emphasis is on a quiet minimal design, stripped of all things unnecessary without compromising functionality and comfort: ‘Architecture from the soul’. In this, the story and the personality of the client are of central importance.

The new office (pages 182 to 187) is housed in the Cubes (architecture Bogdan & Van Broeck) of Axel Vervoordt’s Kanaal project.

Arjaan’s private house is pictured on pages 188 to 193. He and his wife bought the house in total decay and ready for demolition.

They retained the original plan of the first floor, which is where they were to live.

They extended the ground floor to install a workspace, whose visual impact was mitigated by large glass walls with profiles that were barely visible.

The house was first stripped down to the steel skeleton and the vaulting.

A lot of attention was paid to designing new and better joinery details. The biggest challenge in the renovation was the problem of cold bridges that is characteristic of steel skeletons that are also exposed to the outside. The solution was provided by a quick-drying two-component resin, which was sprayed onto all the beams and pillars in contact with the outside air.

On the inside of the house, the steel skeleton is now completely enveloped in an amorphous layer of polymer and then encased in painted MDF.

The villa does now comply with current standards for domestic comfort, while the memory of the original house remains alive.

In notion to Bauhaus this steel house was originally designed as a prototype in 1969 that could be erected elsewhere on the still largely empty residential estate. The original plans show a villa with steel skeleton and a half-open ground floor that reminds us of the Villa Savoye, with its central core and industrial materials.

The steel skeleton forms a perfect grid of nine squares two storey’s high.

The domestic functions were clustered in the nine squares on upper floor, and on the ground floor filled two of them with an entrance hall, a staircase and a store-room – the rest formed a sort of open carport.

This intention of reproduction on a large scale did not come true, however the surrounding landscape, at that time still almost unspoiled, has in the meantime been covered in homes in the ‘fake-farmhouse-style’ and the steel house, built as a Case-Study house, stayed on its own and has been converted and extended unrecognizably.



The "Cubes" building in Axel Vervoordt's Kanaal site has been designed by Bogdan & Van Broeck architects.

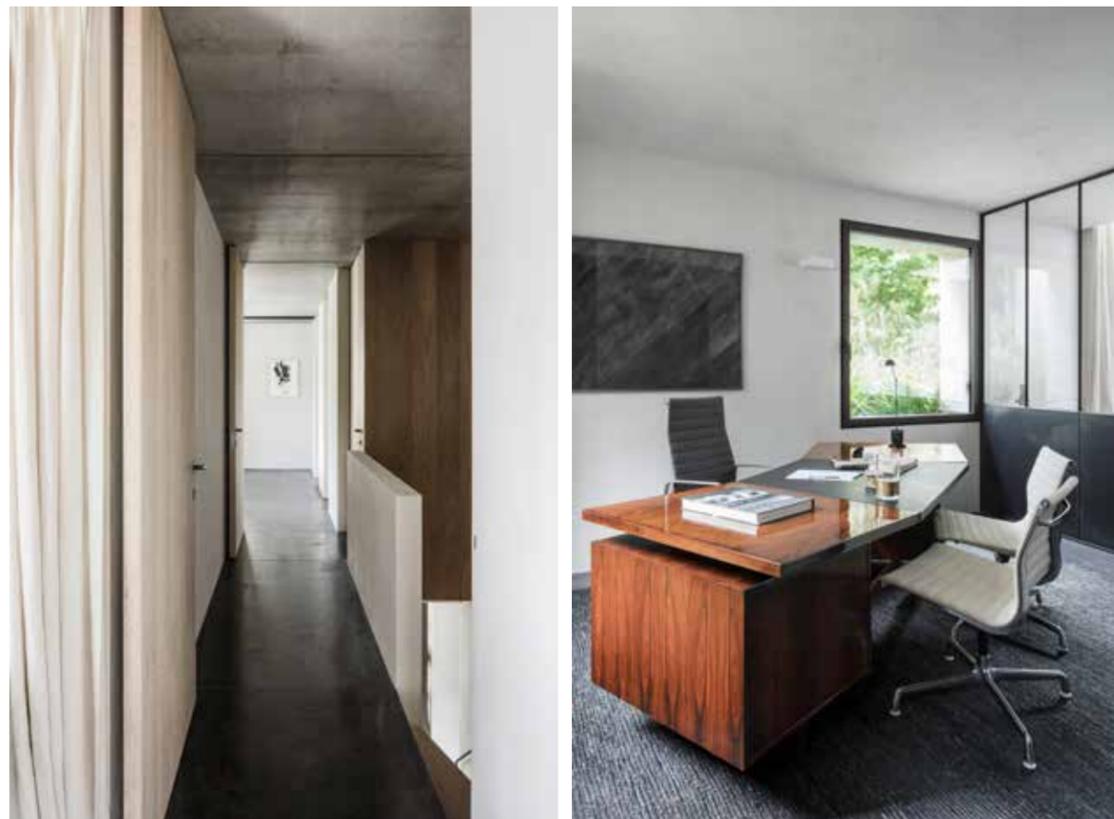


*Left: Six armchairs in the style of Illum Wikkelsø made by furniture maker N. Eilersen in Denmark in the 1960s around a 1960 table by Martin Visser for 't Spectrum.
Lighting: Tube Chandelier designed by Michael Anastassiades.
Steel windows by Philip Vosselmans.
Above: Vitra chairs designed by Jean Prouvé around a Tim Vranken table. Linen curtains and a polyconcrete floor. The oak doors have been bleached.*



*Two LC93 Low Chair by Maarten Van Severen.
Travertin natural stone by Van Den Weghe, Vola fittings and Fresnel lights by Joe Colombo.
Spots by Modular, a rug by Zozan.
The sofa is a Maarten Visser design.*



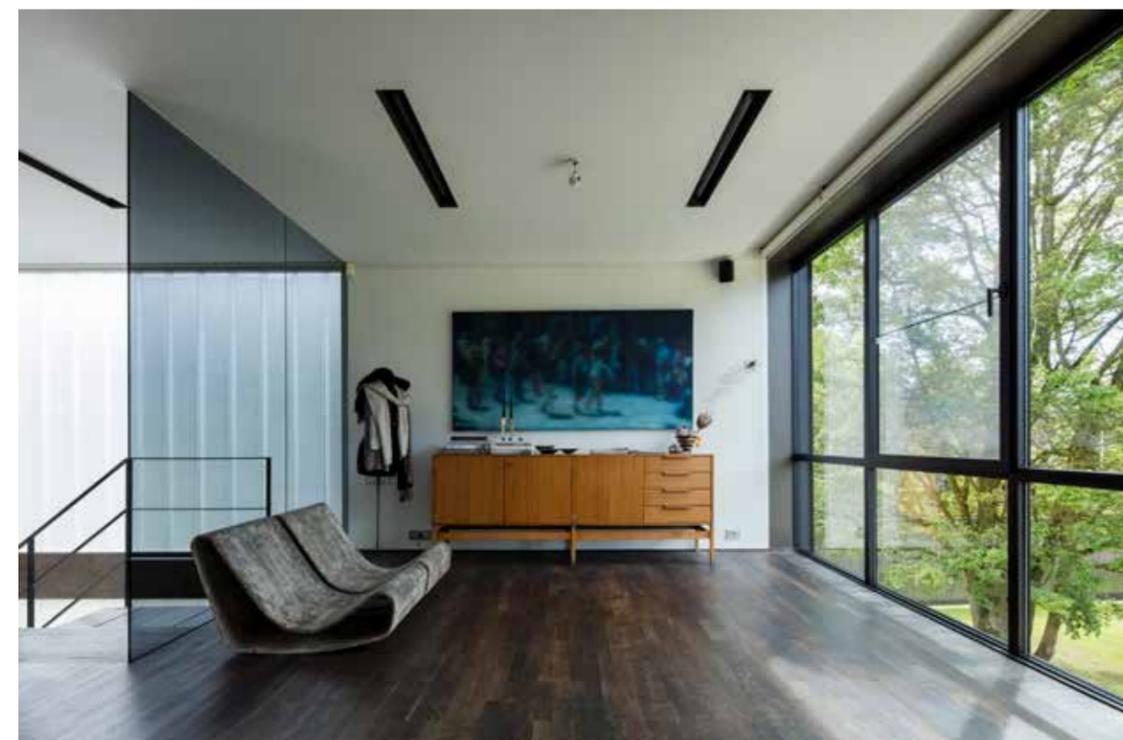
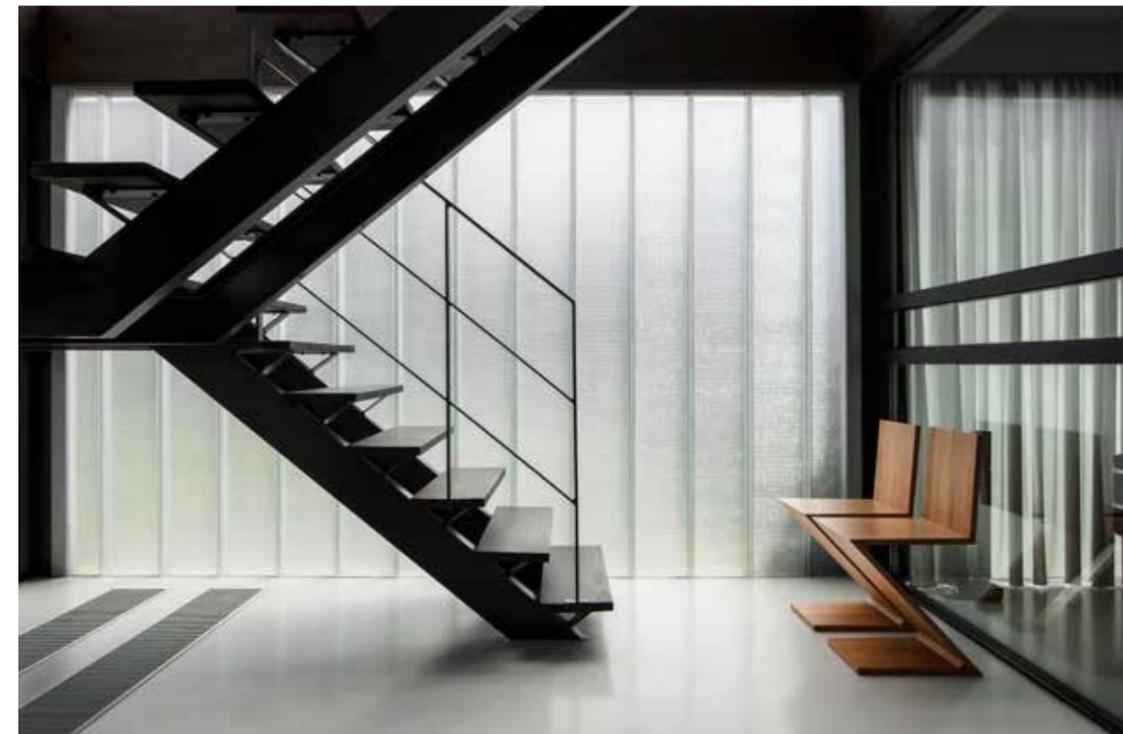


*An artwork by Annette Nährlich in the hallway.
In the office: a Rosewood Desk by Kho Liang Le for Fristho and an artwork by Gilbert Swimberghe.
Eames office chairs for Vitra.*





The cupboard is by Pieter De Bruyne. Coffee table by Poul Kjaerholm.



Willy Guhl lounge chairs and a cupboard by Pieter De Bruyne. Artwork by Xavier Visa.



*The table and chairs are designed by Alfred Hendrickx. Artwork: Jean-Pierre Maury.
The kitchen has been made in bog oak.*

