

VOGUE

APARTMENT LIVING



SUMMER AND THE CITY

**SPACES BIG + SMALL
BALCONY BARBECUES
DIE-HARD PLANTS**



21ST CENTURY DESIGN TRENDS

\$6.49 No. 2 2001 NZ \$7.95

11

9 771328 483004

contents



COVER It has no past, but its future looks colourful. The designer couple who created this apartment on Java Island outside Amsterdam have used strong colour combinations to show off their ever-changing collection of furniture and glassware.
Photographer: Hotze Eisma/Taverne Agency



22



11



33



50

08 editor's letter **11** furniture design now **16** space-age reality **18** tips for first-time apartment buyers **22** triple vision: three looks for a sydney skyhouse **29** sound affects **32** trash into treasure **33** art for walls **40** talent: steven vella, mosaic maker **43** self storage **47** ten ways with a trolley **50** barbecues for balconies **60** modern mariner: inside a dream yacht **66** colourful, idiosyncratic and easygoing in amsterdam **72** treasure trove: a collector's apartment

PHOTOGRAPHER: BEN DEARNSLEY

apartment living takes on new identities. See how new homes are created in an old school hall in Amsterdam and an ex-army residence in Singapore. Commercial goes residential in former factories in Melbourne and an office building in Wales finds new life as a cool hotel.





Two designers with a love of spontaneity bring their inspired touch to a luminous

Meticulously displayed books, OPPOSITE, in the study-cum-dining room. The chairs echo an Arne Jacobsen design. THIS PAGE: in the living room, Minotti-inspired white leather chairs sit opposite an IKEA sofa bed. The lacquered locker and purple vases are also from IKEA. The record player and chrome standard lamp are seventies originals.

COOL

space on an island in Amsterdam

PHOTOGRAPHER: HOTZE EISMA/TAVERNE AGENCY PRODUCER: REINHOLD SMIT



SUGAR CUBES

regina

COLOURBOX

COLOURBOX





LIANNE ERNST AND PAUL SNELDERS seem to have city living down to a fine art. Four years ago the couple realised that while they didn't want to forgo the pleasures of living in Amsterdam, they were fed up with being in the city centre. The solution was to move to a brand-new apartment on Java Island, just six minutes from Amsterdam by ferry yet seemingly a world away.

"This place has a special atmosphere and many homes were designed by well-known European architects," says Ernst. "Our building is by Dutch architect Sjoerd Soeters, who takes a really fresh, practical approach. Our apartment appealed to us because it has enormous windows on either side. It couldn't be more light-filled and we look out over the water – it's a perfect combination."

When it came to decorating their home Ernst and Snelders – who are both designers – were keen to reflect their spontaneity. "We're not people who plan things weeks in advance, we like to change things as it suits us," says Ernst. "It makes a lot more sense to simply paint a wall a different colour when we fancy, rather than having complicated design schemes, fitted furniture and so on. This way we can adapt and modify things almost instantly."

While the whole apartment is painted in a soft, unifying lilac, every area features one wall in a dramatic shade: sunny yellow, chocolate brown or opulent, sexy purple. "Colour is such a great way to ensure that a brand-new home loses that 'too clean, too new' look. And we're lucky that we don't have to be afraid of colour here – there's so much light that the place can take it. And because we only paint one wall the effect is never overpowering."

Downstairs, the large living space is furnished with an intriguing combination of pieces. For a start there are the late-sixties Artifort coffee table and cupboard, both made from rosewood by the

iconic Dutch designer Kho Liang Ie. The couple rescued them from Ernst's aunt's attic and couldn't believe their luck when they spotted the designer's label. Then there's a fabulous multi-bulb hanging lamp from the seventies, a couple of Minotti-inspired white leather chairs, not to mention the odd IKEA bargain.

A half-wall divides the living space from the kitchen. On display here, as elsewhere in the apartment, is a collection of seventies-style glassware. "I think there's nothing better than a few vases to give the feel of what sixties and seventies design was all about. And it's much more practical to fill your place with small accessories than with enormous pieces of furniture – if we get tired of them we can pack them away."

A winding staircase painted metallic silver leads up to the bedroom and bathroom. The couple's bed is a new take on the traditional four-poster – it's romantic but understated, and has one decadent feature. "Because we spend our working lives dealing with corporate logos we thought it would be fun to design one for ourselves," explains Ernst. They combined their initials and now 'PSLE' is picked out on their bedhead in Swarovski crystals and embroidered onto their white cotton bed linen. "When we're lying here watching TV or stargazing we feel we have the best of all worlds," says Ernst.

Ernst and Snelders have managed to combine big ideas with small-scale living, creating a home that's light, bright and hip without being slavish to fashion. Given the couple's instinctive approach, it's only a matter of time before a wall is repainted or a vase is added to their collection. But whatever else finds a home here, one thing's for sure: it's bound to be colourful, idiosyncratic and easygoing – rather like the couple.

ANNA LAMBERT

The 1970s record player, PREVIOUS PAGES, LEFT, and vintage LPs. RIGHT: a lampshade from Spain hangs over a chrome and plywood dining table designed by Snelders. OPPOSITE, TOP: the simple brushed-aluminium four-poster bed, with bedhead and bed linen embroidered with the couple's initials 'PSLE', is offset by a purple backdrop. BOTTOM: the stair wall is yellow – for the moment.