

ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

Classical forms, sexy shaping, striking furniture and brilliant colour underpin the successful redesign of an Amsterdam townhouse

PHOTOGRAPHY Kasia Gatkowska

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CHESS ROOM
'The red walls and archway typify the owners' desire to take the less-trodden path,' says Francesca Finotti, the designer on the project.

Custom **table**; **banquette**, both Framework Studio. Model 969 **chairs**, Gio Ponti for Montina. **Walls** and **archway** in Geisha, Paint & Paper Library. **Ice cream** by Lola Luk. **Chessboard** by Maximilien Pellet. **Artwork** (on table) by Jeroen van Kesteren. **Painting** (on wall) by Kees van Dongen

LIVING ROOM

A generous walnut-lined arch seamlessly connects living spaces. 'Downtime usually happens here on the first floor, reading books or watching movies,' says the owner.

Custom **fireplace** in Botticino Fiorito natural stone. **Artwork** (above fireplace) by Joana Schneider, Rademakers Gallery. **Artwork** (right wall) by Jan Schoonhoven. Large yellow **artwork** (by arch) by Maximilien Pellet



LIVING ROOM

The clean, classic bones of this home provide a perfect backdrop for statement art and furniture, as well as shots of colour. 'We chose a mix of contemporary, custom-made and vintage pieces for both longevity and impact,' says Francesca.

Cloud pendant light, Apparatus. Slabs coffee table by destroyers/builders, Aequo Gallery. Vase by Dirk van der Kooij. Custom-made sofa in Pierre Frey's Bold, Framework Studio. Rug, Frankly Amsterdam



Although intuition plays a part in every home renovation, it takes guts to lead fully from the heart. But in the case of this classic Amsterdam townhouse, that's exactly what its owners did, in collaboration with Dutch interior design studio Framework Studio. Despite the rigour that its name suggests, the firm has earned its credentials by thinking outside the box, whether creating Karl Lagerfeld's headquarters in Amsterdam or boldly combining classicism with colour in the home of the studio's founder, Thomas Geerlings. So, it's no surprise that this house features all its signature moves: expect the unexpected.

Owned by a Dutch couple – one half of which has Turkish roots – and their two boys, 10 and 14, the 18th-century house is close to the Amstel River in a central neighbourhood they were long familiar with. But they knew it needed a significant restructure to accommodate family life. The solution was to bravely take the building back to brick, adding a basement and extending the first, second and third floors in line with the ground floor's footprint.

'We wanted to create elegant spaces where we could come together as a family, as well as cosy rooms in which to hibernate and be alone at times,' says the female owner. 'And, given my Mediterranean roots, I was also looking to create a different layout to those you'd typically find in historic Dutch buildings. Flow was important, but so was the idea of being both timeless and bold.'

Those ambitions, often opposing, were brought together in easy confluence by the studio. Described by Francesca Finotti, the project's co-lead, as 'quietly surprising', the interiors balance entirely classic elements (think geometric stone flooring and elegant fire surrounds) with deeply confident pieces (inflated stainless-steel wall sculptures and chairs as art objects). The ground floor's tendency to darkness was countered with exposed painted beams, as well as generous arches connecting one space to another. That shaping is repeated in the sweeping curve of the wildly generous kitchen banquette, the trellis-like backs of the dining chairs and the bold marble-clad tub in the main bathroom.

Much of the space has been turned over to meaningful 'pause points' throughout: the library table is stacked with books and two 1970s stools to perch on; the kids' floor features a built-in daybed to lounge across and a whole room, finished entirely in red, is devoted to chess playing.

Though the shell of this house is essentially neutral, surprising colour moments hold their own. 'The light blue of the kitchen cabinetry wanted to suggest a connection to the Mediterranean,' says Francesca, 'while the red study just wanted to be unexpected and sexy.'

A relaxed rejection of trends contributes to that easy design confidence. And function works just as well as form. 'The house now accommodates all our needs, including the boring logistics like utilities and cloakrooms, which leaves more time for fun,' says the owner. 'We cook together as a family, host dinner parties, work, study, watch movies and have big sleepovers.' Fresh and dynamic, yet grounded and timeless, this is a renovation that shows fortune really does favour the brave.

The download

THE DESIGNERS

Francesca Finotti and Thomas Geerlings of interior design studio Framework Studio renovated this townhouse in Amsterdam for a young entrepreneurial couple and their two sons.

THE PROPERTY

The house comprises five storeys, including a basement. On the ground floor, there's an entrance hall, kitchen, dining room, powder room and study. There is a chess room, library, powder room and living room on the first floor. Above that is the main bedroom suite, while the children's en-suite bedrooms are on the top floor, along with a sitting room. A guest suite is in the basement.

LIBRARY

'Because of the family's love for books and art, every corner is designed with comfortable seating in mind, perfect for reading or chilling,' says Francesca. Wide French oak boards and traditional joinery are offset by highly decorative ceramic furniture for a classic-meets-modern feel.

Custom joinery, Framework Studio. Fortress dining table, Floris Wubben. Vintage 1970s stools



DINING AREA

Cherry red chairs pick out the notes of the flooring, harmonising both classic and modern elements in this seating corner.

Vintage Carimate **chairs**, Vico Magistretti. Similar **table**, Heal's. **Curtain in** Batiste, Nobilis. **Lighting design**, PSLab. Custom **flooring** in Pietra di Trani and Rosso Orsini stone, Framework Studio





KITCHEN

Soft greens, off-whites and hints of terracotta add a light touch to this previously dark space. 'We exposed the wooden beams, which helped to add as much height as possible, as well as texture,' says Francesca.

Custom **kitchen island** with a natural stone top; **dining bench**, both Framework Studio. **Bench** upholstered in fabric, Alcantara

DINING ROOM
'Green is a recurring motif throughout,' says Francesca of the 1970s lacquered pine chairs, 'perhaps because it connects nicely to the garden at both the front and back of the house.'

Pendant light, Rose Uniacke. Vintage 1970s **chairs**; seats upholstered in Teddy mohair, Pierre Frey. Custom designed polished walnut **table**, Framework Studio. **Artworks** by Stan van Steendam



MAIN
BATHROOM

'With its aquamarine natural stone that flows from bath to floor, soft arches and semi-sheer curtains, this room feels very easy on the eye,' says Francesca.

Pendant light, François Bazin. Indigo Jeans **stool**, Jordi Sarrate. Custom made **bath surround**, Framework Studio. Similar **bath**, Lusso. **Lighting design**, PSLab



MAIN BEDROOM

A moody palette creates a cocooning effect. 'We carried through that softness seen throughout the house with a gently curving vintage sofa,' says Francesca.

Stool, Christian Fregnan. Custom **headboard**, Framework Studio; in Atelier Moderne fabric, Dedar. Similar **sofa**, Six The Residence

