



This is a house with a soul. It's an ages-old place... But one with a contemporary touch. It was quite an extensive renovation project and certainly not an easy one, but the farm now has a timeless look and feel to it. Without denying its past. A great place to come home to, cosy and very homey!

Creating a Cosy Cottage

TIMELESS STYLE

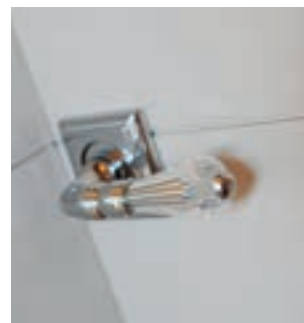
Jean-Jacques Soenen of Marcotte Style takes us to Leefdaal, a village surrounded by nature, close to Louvain, the student capital of Belgium. A little while ago, we were invited by Peter De Prins, who teaches change management, coaching and leadership techniques at Vlerick Business School. As soon as we set foot on the premises, we feel that the house has a soul. ‘We were looking for an interior designer because this authentic seventeenth-century farm needed a complete home makeover’, says the professor. ‘Someone told us about Marcotte Style and we visited the website. Jean-Jacques has a unique style. It was exactly what we were looking for. We particularly love the atmosphere he creates in his timeless cottage-style homes.’ Marcotte Style clearly made sure the memory of the past would be preserved after the home makeover and interior renovation. The house entirely reflects the life style of its residents.



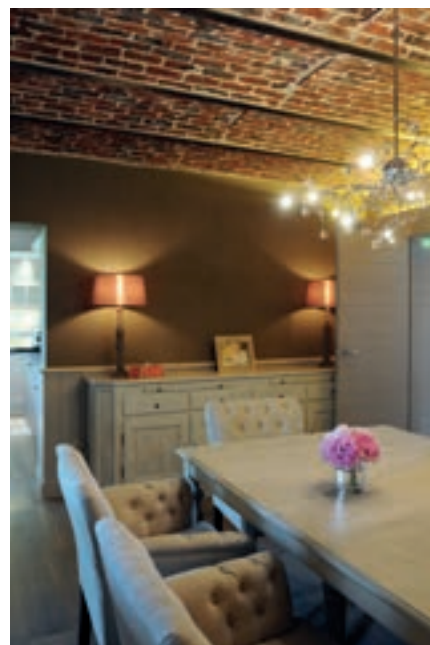


Several authentic elements were preserved: the vaulted ceiling, the roof beams and the iron wall elements. A low wooden panel preserves the openness and still separates the dining room from the sitting area where a bench was installed against the panel. A clever combination of open and closed spaces.

The door handles are quite unique. Swarovski crystal adds the finishing touch.



The long wall was left bare on purpose. It allows the chandelier to play its role of the eye-catcher in the dining room.



The residents wanted their old silk lampshades to be part of their new home interior. Their decorator found the perfect base for them. Marcotte Style selected an intimate earth colour for the feature wall.

THEATRE CURTAINS

The curtains in the living room remind us of a theatre stage. Just pull the rope and the room bathes in sunlight. Ladies and gentlemen, the show is about to begin... Closing them is just as easy. 'This system allows you to quickly open and close the curtains. It was purchased in Paris and is actually based on theatre stage curtains', Jean-Jacques tells us. The combination of colours in the concept drawing was just superb. 'You always have to wait for the real thing, of course. But once I saw the actual colour nuances, I was really satisfied with the result!'

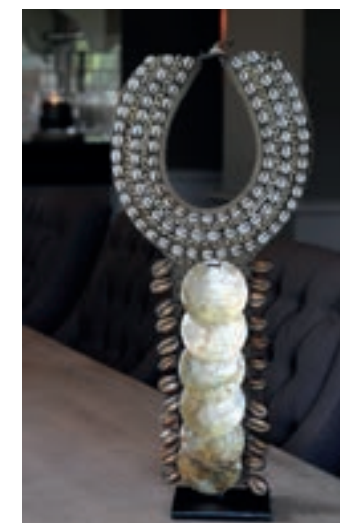
CHARMING IN EVERY DETAIL

What used to be a stable, is now the dining room. The only thing that reminds us of the past is the stunning vaulted ceiling. Preserving it was a really good idea. It gives the room a charming look. 'At least thirty different chandeliers made it to the final selection, but in the end I chose this playful yet very stylish model', the interior decorator adds. The wainscoting gives the walls of the dining room a Long Island look and a bit of a holiday feeling. The seams of the wall covering were repeated on the surface of the interior door. A nice touch that will conceal the door when it is closed.

In the living room, Marcotte Style surprises us with multi-coloured curtains.



The windowsill is adorned with an elegant and intriguing object that perfectly matches the colour palette of the home interior. 'It's a souvenir from South Africa, it's actually a necklace', Veronique explains.



MARCOTTE STYLE HAS GOT IT COVERED

Marcotte Style is a trustworthy partner who will always find a solution, no matter what the problem is. Here, the walls suffered from rising damp. The wainscoting is not merely a supplementary buffer. Visually, it's the ideal wall embellishment. And it shows the residents have good taste. Covering the radiators by means of radiator cabinets adds the finishing touch. Jean-Jacques Soenen is a perfectionist. And it takes a perfectionist to satisfy a demanding customer.

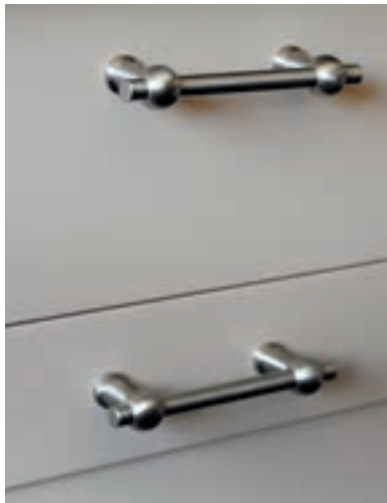




The exquisitely beautiful kitchen offers the family all the modern amenities: a steam oven, a large cooking range and an American fridge.

OLD AND NEW

In the grey and white kitchen, Marcotte Style preserved a couple of authentic elements: the sink, the shelf and the overhang above the cooking range. 'But we did paint the dark wooden shelf and the overhang white to create uniformity.' Some of the cabinets are new and some were recovered, but you can't tell the difference. The same goes for the natural stone worktops. The new slabs seamlessly match the old ones. 'We selected different furniture fittings though... And the English-style faucet is also new.' An incredibly beautiful made-to-measure dining table from the Marcotte Style collection was placed perpendicular to the kitchen cabinet and draws your eyes towards the idyllic garden at the back of the house.



The made-to-measure kitchen cabinets supplied by Marcotte Style look stunning. Jean-Jacques adds the finishing touch with elegant furniture fittings.



The original oak wooden overhang received a coat of white lacquer to match the rest of the renovated kitchen.



An impressive renovation project.



A low cabinet separates the kitchen from the dining room. One side was lacquered and the other side greyed, so it would match both worktop and dining table.



A practical detail: the lid of the garbage bin has been integrated in the worktop.





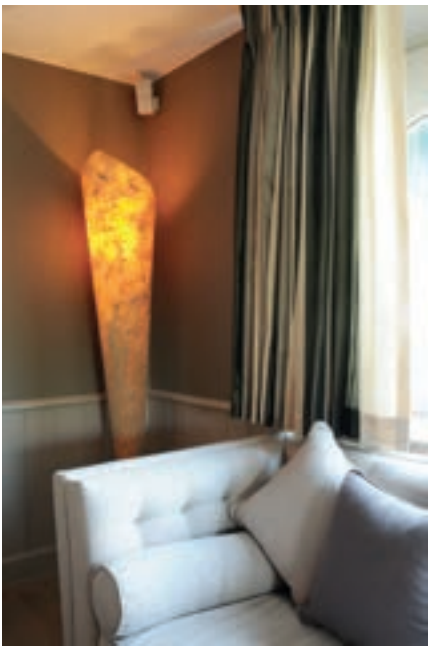
The couches and chairs are padded and have a luxurious feel to them. Clever detail: the two armchairs are equipped with wheels and can be turned around in no time if you feel like staring into the flames of the fireplace.



Sitting on the chair by the window, feet on the footstool... Heaven! The copper lamp is a family heirloom.



The wainscoting serves as a stylish picture frame and with strategically placed candles and lighting accents, Jean-Jacques creates a dreamy and cosy atmosphere. Stress will flow away in no time.



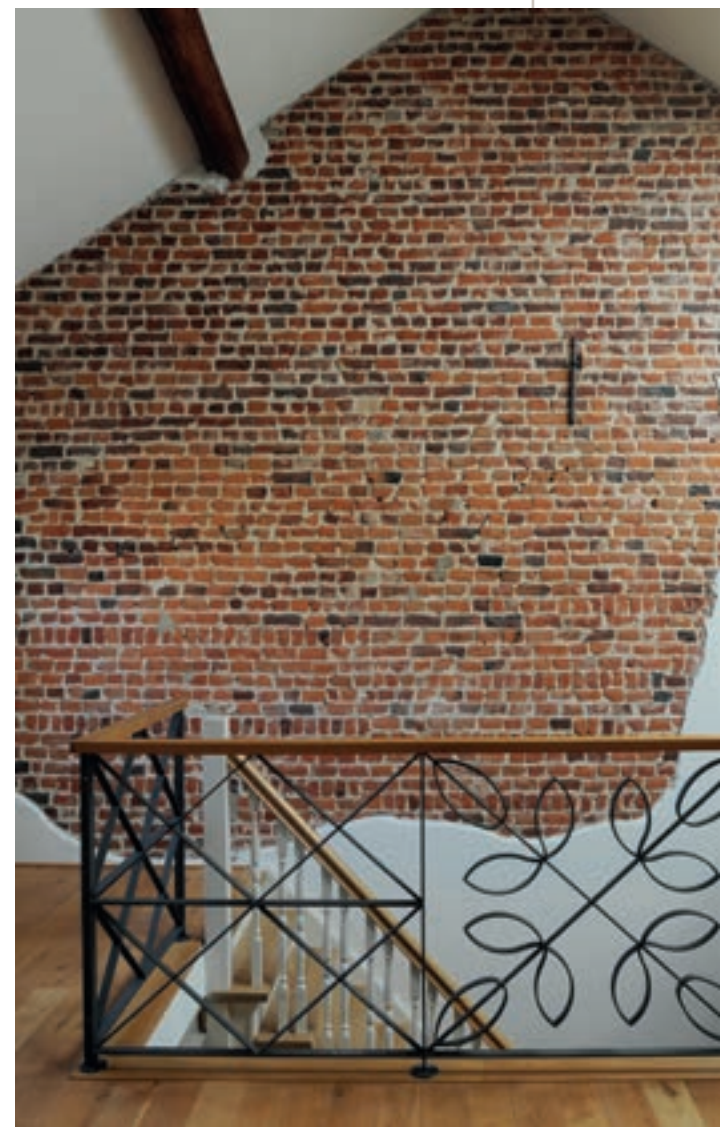
IN CLOSE COLLABORATION

Marcotte Style is specialized in complete home makeovers. First, Jean-Jacques will ask the customer what his expectations are. After all, only a good understanding can lead to a successful collaboration. Then, he will start making plans. Every element or phase of the project is presented in detail, the timing is agreed upon and, when a green light is given, Marcotte Style will start building the house of your dreams. Every single one of his projects bathes in that typical cosy atmosphere. Unique home interiors with a personal touch by the residents.



‘I’ve had these lamps for more than twenty years. This is the fourth home interior they embellish’, Peter smiles. ‘They are handmade and add a warm touch to our home interior. I can’t part with them. And anyway, this is the perfect spot for the lamps.’

Only part of the wall in the hallway was plastered. Showing the old bricks was a wise decision. It’s charming. One of the advantages of a house with a past.

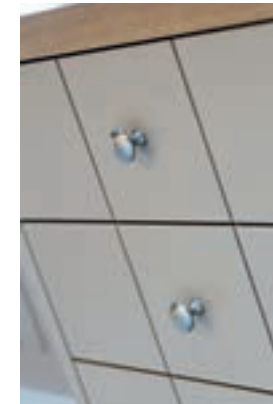


The bronze statuette of the carefree girl in the hallway immediately tells us that this is the home of true epicureans.

GLOBETROTTERS

A statuette of a reading girl next to the mirror in the hallway reminds us of our carefree days as a child. ‘It is a source of inspiration for the children of our guests. They will always adopt the same position to read’, says Veronique. Judging by the many souvenirs from all over the world, we are dealing with real globetrotters. The style of the home interior really reflects the personality of the residents. A while ago, Peter had to describe himself in three words for a Radio 1 show. His reply: ‘eclectic, aesthete, epicurean’. The very same words that come to mind when walk-

ing through this beautiful house. Indeed, every single element in the home interior was selected with great care and quality was the main requirement. It all looks very decorative. Veronique and Peter definitely are pleasure seekers. ‘We have quite a lot of stuff we are attached to. Souvenirs from our holidays, but also objects that trigger good memories: the necklace we brought back from Africa, the reading girl statuette and the cute little copper lamp. Jean-Jacques found a great spot for every item. We really appreciate that’, Veronique and Peter add.



This is where Peter works. The home office has more than enough space for Veronique as well. Even their daughter Sarah can use the quiet room to study if she wants.



An ages-old house
with a soul.



We notice a small clock that looks charmingly British. ‘I bought it in London, in Oxford Street. I always have it around. It helps me with my time management.’

FROM RENOVATIONS TO WEBSHOP

Jean-Jacques Soenen is not afraid of a bit of hard work when renovating a house. ‘Here, we created a large storage niche between the kitchen door and the hallway. And in the office, we have added roof windows’, the interior designer tells us enthusiastically. But Marcotte Style offers more than complete home makeovers and interior decorating services... Visit the webshop. You will discover an exclusive range of interior design products. Simply click on one of the pictures to learn everything you need to know about the item you selected. The possibilities are countless: tables in all sizes, all the chair fabrics you can imagine, original accessories, lamps...



Peter is an excellent pianist. 'During my lectures on campus or during training sessions for companies, I work with music to create a certain atmosphere and to stimulate creativity', he reveals.



MUSICAL HOME

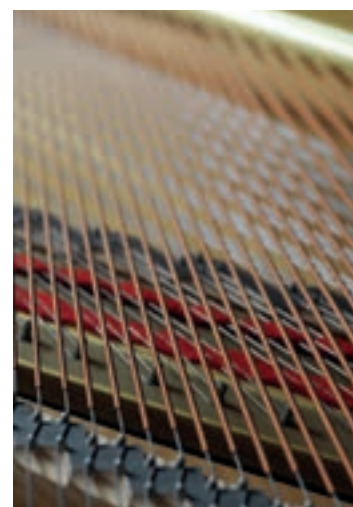
The library upstairs is equipped with a grand piano, proudly standing in the middle of the room. Peter gives the very best of himself and Vivaldi's music fills the library. The playful notes make us feel cheerful. Here, under the roof ridge, the acoustics are fantastic. The wall was embellished with a painting of a zebra. Another souvenir from one of the many trips. China this time. Peter bought it in an art gallery in the metropolis of Guangzhou.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

'If you select Marcotte Style for your home improvement project, you know the customer comes first. And working with Jean-Jacques is a pleasant experience. He felt exactly what we wanted and we are one hundred percent happy with the result. Our boldest expectations were surpassed by far...' The words of Peter and Veronique's daughter sum it up: 'You guys have to promise never to sell the house. This place is awesome...'



Young Mozart's bust was strategically placed near the piano.



A concept completely tailor-made for the customer.



Peter, his wife Veronique and their daughter Sarah: 'This home interior surpassed our boldest expectations.'



'It's always a challenge to put myself in the customer's place and build him the home he always dreamed of', says Jean-Jacques of Marcotte Style.

info

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