

# Her Eye

Female Dutch Interior Designers

TERRA





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	Foreword by Miluska van 't Lam
6	Introduction by Thijs and Willemijn de Leeuw
8	Leonie Hendrikse
22	Ellen ten Hove
36	Nicole Dohmen
50	Linda Lagrand
64	Michelle Jager
78	Derkina Wiegman
92	Nicoline Beerkens
106	Anne-Claire Winkelhagen
120	Roelfien Vos
134	Evelijn Ferwerda
148	Martje Overmeer
162	Judith van Mourik
176	Sophie van der Graaf
190	Sascha Faase
204	Lisca van Everdingen
210	Mariska Jagt
224	Mabel Muijres
239	Acknowledgements
240	Credits



## FOREWORD

# The Dutch Devil is in the Detail

I have always had a soft spot for female interior designers. Time and again, they prove to be unique storytellers – stories in which the distinctive characters come to life. Because that is what a well-crafted interior truly is: it reads like an adventurous, one-of-a-kind book in which, chapter by chapter, you get to know the main characters – the residents – more intimately.

The secret lies in the fact that these female design talents possess the authentic ability to combine empathy with a unique sense of beauty, functionality (let's be honest, women think practically) and an infectious drive to create dream interiors time and time again. An important distinction: not for themselves, but always with the other person in mind.

*Her Eye* takes you on a journey through the Netherlands' most beautiful interiors, designed by the most talented female interior designers.

That all these designers are Dutch is no coincidence. The Dutch are known as explorers, travellers and cultural bridge-builders. This open and connective outlook is reflected in the work of our designers and architects. As a result, their interiors feel layered, rich and worldly, while remaining deeply rooted in Dutch aesthetics. Is it less is more? Is it cosmopolitan? Or is it Dutch Design? You decide.

I have had the privilege of working with many of these female interior designers during my career at *Residence* interior design magazine. I continue to research emerging talent and celebrate designers at *Harper's Bazaar*. Some of them I had the honour of discovering myself, watching their stars rise, in some cases beyond the Dutch borders. What strikes me is that their personalities are just as fascinating as the spaces they create. Without a doubt, this contributes to the human touch present in every home, loft, apartment and villa they design.

The interiors in *Her Eye* have been carefully curated by a woman dear to me. She has an impressive background in interior photography, art direction, interior design and storytelling: Willemijn de Leeuw. This creative multi-talent was the long-time art director of *Residence* before channelling her love for interiors into designing her own colourful spaces. She also co-founded the interior photography agency Space Content Studio with her partner Thijs, driven by her passion for storytelling.

With *Her Eye*, Willemijn, along with all the interior designers and writers involved, invites you to immerse yourself in the interiors and personal stories of these Dutch icons, brought together in this book for the first time. To inspire you to develop your own style, push the boundaries of your interiors, explore new possibilities and, of course, to surprise you with the wealth of female talent the Netherlands has to offer.

Let yourself be carried away and... who knows, you might soon be looking at your own home through her eye.

**Miluska van 't Lam**  
Editor-in-chief *Harper's Bazaar*



## INTRODUCTION

# Her Vision Our Inspiration

Interior design is more than just creating a beautiful space, it's about a feeling. It shapes how you experience a place, how you move through it, and how you connect with it. For me, a great interior story begins with the designer's vision, but it truly comes to life through the way it is captured.

My love for interiors began when I worked at *Residence* magazine, where I had the privilege of meeting designers and architects in person. Their stories filled with craftsmanship, vision and an incredible attention to detail deeply moved me. That fascination evolved into a mission: to capture interiors exactly as the designers intended. Together with my husband Thijs, a photographer, I bring these spaces to life. While he looks through the lens, I search for the best angles to reveal the true essence of a space. With a sharp eye for detail, materiality and the atmosphere a room exudes, we aim to translate each designer's signature style into imagery.

For *Her Eye*, I deliberately chose 17 female designers who are reshaping the Dutch interior landscape. Not simply because they are talented, but because each of them brings a distinctive signature to their work. What unites them is their intuitive approach to design, creating spaces that are not only visually compelling but also evoke a profound emotional response. They work with an unwavering attention to detail, combining craftsmanship with boldness, proving that design is far more than just aesthetics. These designers push the boundaries of what is possible in Dutch interiors today, often challenging norms and forging new directions. Their unique contributions reflect both a deep respect for local traditions and an innovative approach that speaks to the evolving nature of contemporary design in the Netherlands.

For us, it is an honour to capture these interiors. Without their designs, our work would not exist. Photography and design enhance each other, we make visible what they have created. In this book, we don't just showcase spaces; we highlight the vision and identity of each designer. What makes their style unique? How do they make an interior speak? And above all, what feeling does it evoke?

With *Her Eye*, I hope to showcase the power of Dutch interior design and how these female designers infuse spaces with soul through their vision and talent. I hope this book inspires you to look at design in a new way, to see its layers, the choices made, and the details that make all the difference. Let yourself be surprised by their vision and discover what becomes possible when passion and talent come together.

**Willemijn de Leeuw**  
Founder, Space Content Studio





EMBRACING  
HERITAGE

COLOURS

LEONIE HENDRIKSE

AND  
PATTERNS









ELLEN TEN HOVE

## Ellen ten Hove Embarks on a Quest for the Ultimate Destination

When Ellen ten Hove walks through a factory, she often wishes she could step into the craftspeople's shoes. Nothing excites her more than taking a deep dive into techniques, understanding how materials work and absorbing new experiences. She gathers her ever-growing knowledge into her design toolkit and unpacks it to create unique interiors, carefully crafted with her partner to the utmost precision. "I have trained myself to seek connections in the broadest sense of the word: from the use of colours and materials, to how the inhabitants move within their environment. Everything is interconnected," she says.

"For a project in Amsterdam, I envisioned a light fixture with glass spheres hanging above the stairs, like a piece of jewellery. Nothing like that existed, so we had one custom-made in the Czech Republic, where the best glassblowers are based." Once Ellen has a vision for a space, she will go to great lengths to bring her ideas to life. "And if it doesn't exist, we design it ourselves. Anything is possible and that's how we prefer to approach things." This is just one example of how Ellen and her partner – who form Studio Océan, and are partners both personally and professionally – consistently push boundaries to create extraordinary interiors.

"The spaces we create are always unique; they are literally one of a kind. Timothy focuses on the building, the sightlines and the layout, while I start with the human element and then add to the foundation he lays. I used to do a lot of styling work and tended to view materials in their purest form, but now I've learned to apply materials architecturally, giving them greater value within a space." Ellen inspired Timothy by showing him that his clean, architectural layouts can come to life through the thoughtful use of materials.









### ELLEN TEN HOVE IN SHORT

After completing her education at Cibap in Zwolle, Ellen ten Hove (1982, Enter) gained experience at a furniture-making company, a painting and decorating company and various interior design shops in Amsterdam, 's-Hertogenbosch and Zutphen. In Amsterdam, Ellen worked as a stylist for television programmes before starting to design interiors for both the corporate and the consumer market. In 2015, she joined Studio OCÉAN in Apeldoorn, the design agency her partner Timothy Luhukay had founded in 2008. Studio OCÉAN's work is uncompromising and exclusive. It exudes uniqueness and makes no concessions on any level.





on this page — Striking art pieces create a colourful contrast within the already bold interiors.







SERENITY

NATURAL  
TONES

LINDA LAGRAN

AND

SUBTLE  
LUXURY





# VERSATILE SPACES

WITH

EVELIJN FERWERDA

# CRAFTED TEXTURES





EVELIJN FERWERDA

## The Forward-thinking Design Philosophy of Evelijn Ferwerda

In her work as an interior designer, Evelijn Ferwerda sees parallels with psychology: the challenge is to truly understand her clients and create a home where they can achieve their personal life aspirations. Once the design is realised, an interior should feel both pleasant and logical, as if it has always been that way. Evelijn enjoys working with artisanal materials: fabrics that seem to come straight from the loom, woodcarvings that reveal the maker's hand, and ceramics with an authentic texture. "When I have an idea for a specific object, I like to start by experimenting with shapes and materials. By working with my hands, my ideas truly come to life."

"Recently, I was upholstering a round lampshade for a prototype. It was incredibly labour-intensive. By undertaking such a project yourself, you gain a lot of respect for the craftspeople who specialise in this field." Working with her hands is a huge source of inspiration for Evelijn. For instance, she recently attempted sculpting a mirror design she had in mind, using a block of wax. "It was quite challenging, actually; the material was really hard," she says, laughing. "I gradually figured out how to work with it, and now I have a prototype I can take to a bronze foundry to show them exactly how I want it." Evelijn prefers interiors that are not overly polished or excessively luxurious, but rather artistic and full of character. This is evident in her own home, where a mix of vintage furniture and lamps is combined with her own designs. "Not everything in an interior needs to be perfect, but the proportions must be in balance. It should look beautiful, but above all it should feel right. A good design brings people together while also providing space for retreat. It creates a sense of both comfort and freedom."





The living room of this house nestled in the dunes is in harmony with its environment.





MARTJE OVERMEER

## The Subtle Interiors of Martje Overmeer are Filled with Pure Materials and Timeless Classics

When Martje Overmeer strolls through a city, she often gazes upwards to admire the gables of buildings. In this regard, she is still the dreamy girl who, as a child, constantly absorbed her surroundings. This sensitivity forms the foundation of her designs: elegant, understated interiors with a classic twist. At first glance, her work appears diffuse, calm and serene, but upon closer inspection one discovers a wealth of remarkable details. “Perfection makes an interior bland. That’s why I like to work with natural materials that, through being used and touched, gain more character and expression over time.”

Patience and tranquillity are at the core of how Martje works. Whereas she was initially driven by the idea that every project had to be completed quickly, she now adopts an approach in which deadlines are intentionally flexible. This process allows an interior to grow and enables her to look at it with a fresh, professional eye, strengthening the final result. “Quality, for me, means depth,” she explains. “I prefer to start with a minimalist interior that develops gradually, rather than filling everything in all at once. I sketch the outlines, create a furniture plan and allow some room so that the residents can save up for that one special piece, for example.” Sometimes clients have a specific vintage classic in mind. “When you search too intently, it feels like you’ll never find it. But when you let go, it suddenly appears. That’s the power of not forcing things,” she explains. Martje emphasises that an interior is the result of countless decisions. “I don’t believe you can make all those choices correctly in one go. Everything with depth takes time. That aligns perfectly with my vision on sustainability.”





The brass bar and mid-20th-century bar stools create a striking contrast with the monumental surroundings of Parc Broekhuizen.





#### SOPHIE VAN DER GRAAF IN SHORT

After studying in Amsterdam, Sophie van der Graaf (1985) began her career in fashion, working with brands such as De Bijenkorf and Maison Scotch. However, her love for design eventually drew her into the world of interiors. In 2015, she founded Studio Sophie, which is now based in Wassenaar, blending her fashion background with design experience gained from working with renowned designers like Piet Boon. Sophie's signature style emphasises the importance of texture and prints in creating vibrant spaces bursting with character. A style that is evident in her own home, which she built herself in collaboration with her sister-in-law's architectural firm, Lighthouse Living. In addition to her interior design services, Sophie offers custom furniture, lighting and accessories under her own label.





My love of architecture seeps into my work – it's about proportions, volumes and finding the perfect balance.



*on this page* — By applying tone-on-tone colour schemes, Sascha creates seamless and liveable interiors.





MARISKA JAGT

## Mariska Jagt Crafts Serene Spaces with Harmony and Warmth

Young and ambitious, Mariska Jagt stepped into the world of interior design with an unerring eye for aesthetics, an empathetic nature and an insatiable desire for creative expression. Her talents quickly translated into striking interiors with a distinctive signature, enduring collaborations in product design, and inspiring connections with design icons that continue to this day. Now entering a new chapter in her career, Mariska is embracing the freedom to rediscover herself and explore creative directions she has always wanted to pursue. While her understated style and natural colour palettes remain recognisable, she is experimenting with a broader range of tones and giving art a more prominent role in her work – all while staying true to her primary goal: creating timeless, meaningful interiors.

“A sunrise bathing a beach in thousands of hues can deeply move me,” Mariska reflects. Living in Noordwijk, just a stone’s throw from the sea, she frequently takes long walks in the dunes with her family, come rain or shine. The coastline exerts a profound pull on her, and these walks organically become a source of inspiration: whether for her interiors as natural images in her mood boards, or for product design as patterns inspired by her surroundings. A perfect example of this is a light fixture she designed for Maretti Lighting. “It’s an elegant piece that can pivot 180 degrees. I got the idea from watching reeds bend in the wind at the edge of a lake.”





left — Mariska increasingly incorporates her love for art into her interior designs.



That fearless approach led her to reach out to her design heroes, including Piet Boon and Jan des Bouvrie, who both took her calls and offered encouragement. “They gave me the confidence to just go for it. I didn’t have formal design training, but I believed in my aesthetic vision.” She initially made her mark designing show homes aimed at boosting sales, which proved a niche market during the economic crisis. However, Mariska sought more emotion in her work – and she found it in creating personal interiors and forging lasting relationships with clients and industry professionals.

As she now transitions to this new phase of her career, Mariska feels the freedom to revisit creative paths that have always lingered in the back of her mind. “At one point, I became known for my somewhat ‘moody’ interiors. Now that life feels less intense again, I find myself drawn to incorporating more colour. I’m thinking of warm, muted tones. Nothing too bold, as I believe an interior should provide a sense of calm.” She also sees an opportunity to give greater attention to art. “I’ve recently collaborated with art consultant Paulien Huizinga of ‘Dit Is Geen Galerie’. Together, we selected her ‘Sultans of Swing’ piece for a farmhouse belonging to a young family. We’re also working with emerging talent in addition to established names, which is incredibly inspiring.”

In the colder months, Mariska and her family retreat to South Africa, near Cape Town, where she has cultivated a dedicated social media following. “There, I organise informal one-on-one sessions for personalised advice. I’m already looking forward to connecting with people again.”



on this page — The aim is to create spaces that are not only visually stunning, but also deeply soulful.





"I love the creative back-and-forth with some clients – like with one delightful lady whose motto was 'Go big or go home'. We had so much fun, and that joy shines through in every room. It's one of my most colourful interiors to date! Take the bathroom, for example: it's entirely Moroccan-themed, complete with a tiled bath and ornate lion's-head bath fillers. It's wonderfully over-the-top, but perfectly in harmony with both the house and the homeowner's personality."

Looking back on her childhood, Mabel recalls various influences that shaped her sense of aesthetics. She vividly remembers the brown, patterned furniture in her grandfather's office – pure brutalism, as she recognises now. And during family holidays in southern Europe, she was captivated by luxurious summer houses designed in belle époque style.

"Today, I work a lot with upholstered cabinets – an idea directly inspired by that ambiance." As a student of political science at the University of Amsterdam, Mabel travelled to Guatemala for research purposes, where she fell in love with the country and its authentic local craftsmanship. This led to her starting her own business called Mabella Artisans, meaning 'my beautiful handmade products' in Spanish and including a nod to her own name. "I kept being drawn back to the country that was a source of so much inspiration for me. And then one day my husband asked, 'Why don't we move there?'" I'd always thought that was something we would do in our old age, but I also knew you don't get asked those kinds of questions twice. And so we did."

I see interiors as a canvas for living – where craftsmanship, creativity and comfort come together.

on this page — Happiness lies in the appreciation of beautiful materials.











Every detail should tell a story, creating a home that feels as personal as it is beautiful.

Mabel and her family are now settled in the country that sparked her passion for design. Large-scale producers are scarce in Guatemala, but craftsmanship is everywhere – from glassblowers to furniture makers. “Here, it’s common to have custom-made products. My dream is to open a studio shop selling unique pieces from local artisans. There’s so much to discover here!”

It’s uncertain how long Mabel will stay in Guatemala, but she maintains a strong connection to her second home: Amsterdam. “As I see it, the whole world is my playground. I collect products from all corners of the globe – from Brazil and Mexico to England. I can spend hours searching on Etsy or wandering around vintage markets. If you have a keen eye, you can find the most beautiful treasures from small producers.”

When designing an interior, Mabel is guided by her own needs: what would she choose if anything were possible? Recently, she received a dream project: to design a beautiful country house with a swimming pool and pool house. Although the architecture wasn’t particularly exciting, she immediately sensed that this project would be something special.

“I’m used to being creative with limited resources, but this time it was the complete opposite: there were absolutely no limits on the possibilities. This gave me the freedom to pursue my ideas to the full. I could go to town in every room, with headboards matching the curtains and bedspreads, and custom-made cabinets throughout.”

“We laid the floors with Moroccan Bejmat terracotta tiles in a herringbone pattern.” One of the standout features of the design is a wooden wall cabinet with a staggered relief pattern. I once saw a similar cabinet by interior designer Kelly Wearstler. That design stuck with me, and I later put my own spin on it. Many of my designs stem from personal ambitions, and this project gave me the chance to bring all my ideas together. It was a unique opportunity to really show what I’m capable of.”

As a finishing touch, Mabel advised her client to purchase a piece by the renowned French ceramist Georges Pelletier. Together, they chose a sculptural wall light made of enamelled ceramics, patterned with gold and bronze details. “A real statement piece! The artist has since passed away, and the value of the lamp has quadrupled. The client has already more than recouped my fee with this investment alone! But more importantly, they now own a beautiful work of art they can enjoy for the rest of their life.”

*left* — Mabel loves blending old and new elements, curating artisanal pieces from around the globe.





### MABEL MUIJRES IN SHORT

Growing up in Antwerp, Belgium, as the daughter of Dutch parents, Mabel Muijres (1977) developed a deep appreciation for cultural diversity and artistic expression from an early age. Her academic journey took her to Amsterdam, where she completed a degree in political science. It was during her research in Latin America that she discovered her passion for aesthetics and the enduring allure of handcrafted design. Upon returning to Amsterdam, Mabel founded her design studio Mabella Artisans. Her work is characterised by an old-school charm, blending natural materials, exotic influences and hedonistic accents to create distinctive interiors. Mabel's portfolio includes a diverse range of projects, from city townhouses to a Mediterranean villa and a ski chalet in the mountains.

