



CONSERVATORY
Lotte's brother salvaged the conservatory from a care home and it now serves as a fantastic entertaining space. Try the Chiavari gold chairs, from £41.94 each, Strictly Tables & Chairs. Kibibi wooden candle sticks, from £29.95, Ironbridge Candle Company, are similar



OPEN HOUSE

Lotte and Kees Vink's extensive renovation has given them a sociable, open-plan space that's perfect for festive gatherings

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HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

1920s semi-detached house

LOCATION

The Netherlands

ROOMS Kitchen-diner/
sitting area, office, cloakroom,
conservatory, three bedrooms
(one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2016

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We were living in a tiny two-bed
house in The Hague,' says Lotte.

SITTING AREA

A velvet chair and curtains
deliver drama and luxury.

Try the patterned side table in Gold,
£219 for two, Barker and Stonehouse





DINING ROOM

A vintage chandelier, hung from a steel structure that was added beneath the roof light, is a beautiful focal point.

Try Decorative Collective for a similar chandelier and antique dining table



SITTING AREA

The piano is an antique, found at an online auction. Lotte loves the lush feel the plant introduces.

The patchwork stork was bought from a local garden centre, Westland Florida; for a similar stork sculpture try Vinterior, £365



KITCHEN

The bespoke kitchen was hand-painted so that the grain is still apparent.

Kitchen by Dutch company Wood Creations; Roundhouse sells similar cabinetry in the UK. Painswick Ghoul oak herringbone floor, £54.95 sq m, Luxury Flooring, has this look



With its spacious, entirely open-plan ground floor, the Dutch home of Lotte and Kees Vink comes into its own at Christmas. 'We purposefully bought an enormous dining table so that we could entertain family and friends,' notes Kees, adding, 'We knew from the outset that we wanted this to be a very sociable home.'

When the 1920s house – which is situated in the town of Wateringen near The Hague – first came on the market, the couple dismissed it as too expensive. 'We were living in a tiny property in the Hague but I grew up in Wateringen and my father mentioned that this house was for sale over dinner one evening,' Lotte recalls. She continues, 'It came

with quite a lot of land and storage, which interested my father as he owns a demolition company. In the end, we agreed that he would buy the property and sell us the house, so that he could keep the storage for his business.'

Lotte runs her own interior design firm although she first trained as a carpenter, and her skills can be witnessed throughout the house. 'With the help of my father, Kees and I undertook almost all the work ourselves,' she says of the extensive renovation, which entailed taking the house back to its stud walls. A series of small rooms were knocked together to create the open-plan kitchen, dining and sitting area, with Lotte's office separated from this space by a striking metal-framed glazed wall. Upstairs, more steel-

LOET'S BEDROOM

A fabulous wallpaper accentuates the room's ceiling height.

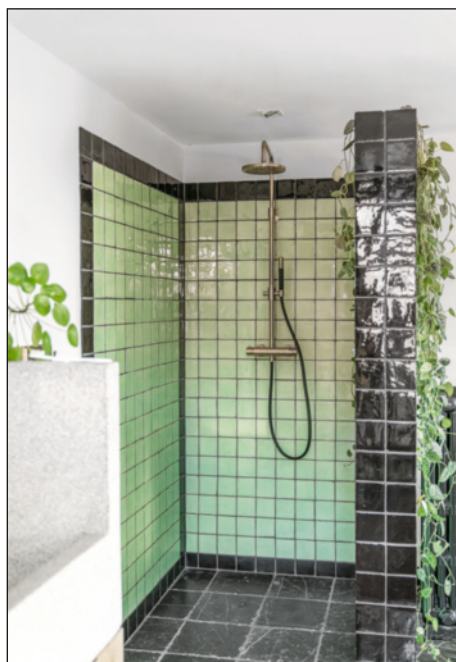
Max Toucan wallpaper, £65 for a roll, Fabrics & Papers. Sniglar cot bed, £40, Ikea



MAIN BATHROOM

The tiles mark out the shower area in this wetroom style space.

Try the Elegance brushed gold bar shower with riser, £495, Lusso



MAIN BEDROOM

A simple wooden bed has been transformed with paint.

Wall behind headboard in Card Room Green estate emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



KEESJE'S BEDROOM

The canopy lends a fairy-tale quality to the iron bed.

Try the Numero 74 canopy in Powder, £94, Smallable

framed glass serves as a partition between the couple's bedroom and their bathroom. 'We love that feeling of openness the glazing creates,' observes Kees.

Having grown up with her father's business – which has since been handed over to her brother – Lotte has an affinity for old materials and reclaimed pieces, and the couple have incorporated these into the house, from vintage doors and fireplaces to an entire conservatory, which is heated with a wood burner in winter. 'It's astonishing what some people decide to throw away,' marvels Kees.

In their quest for vintage pieces, the couple also scour flea markets, online auctions and websites such as Catawiki. 'When we bought the dining table, it was missing two

extension leaves and the family who were selling it told us that they had been used as firewood during the war when it was very cold,' explains Lotte, who had the missing pieces remade so that the table can extend to over three metres.

Lotte's love of colour is evident throughout the home: notably a palette of greens and reds that proves the perfect backdrop to her festive displays. 'Since we moved here, we have had our two children, Keesje, who is nearly four and Loet, who is almost two,' says Lotte, who continues, 'I began a tradition that every Christmas the children can each choose a decoration to buy and this year will be the first time that Loet will select one. It's wonderful to get them involved in decorating the house – their excitement is infectious.' 25

**MAIN BEDROOM
AND EN SUITE**

A steel-framed glazed partition allows the light to circulate between the spaces and brings an industrial edge to the aesthetic.

Bespoke glass partition, Glass At Work. The Astonian Rimini, £1,420, from Aston Matthews, is a similar bathtub. Try the Honed Black slate tiles, £61.89sq m, Topps Tiles

DECORATING TIP *'Rather than a grey or white, I went for a very pale green on some of the walls – it creates a soothing, natural feel'*

