



CREATIVE LUXURY IN FLOWING UNITY

WE PROBABLY DO NOT HAVE TO INTRODUCE YOU ANYMORE TO THE BELGIAN INTERIOR ARCHITECT BIEKE CASTELEYN. IN THIS PROJECT, SEVERAL ZONES HAD TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO A FLOWING UNITY. WITH SOFT SHADES AND MATCHING MATERIALS, A RESULT WAS ACHIEVED THAT UNDOUBTEDLY MAKES MOUTHS DROP.

With a strong design vision, you often achieve the best results, and the work of Bieke Casteleyn is one of the best examples of that. With her studio **BCINT**, the interior architect from Knokke, Belgium, creates interiors in which you can easily recognise her hand. She finds it rather difficult to summarise those projects in a few words, although there are some core values, such as quality, originality, a feeling of tranquillity, and some extraordinary winks. Next to that, her work is well-known for the design furniture she creates and that has already proven its popularity several times. Already as a child, she had a love of beautiful design and a great eye for detail. Particularly work from the mid-century period always exercised a great influence on her and



she therefore has an extensive knowledge of this, although you could also say more generally that she has a strong interest in the history of objects. Before Casteleyn decided to become self-employed, she already had a function in which she worked with furniture and design. It strengthened her existing fascination for the workings of certain pieces and the numerous options of materials and fabrics. That she eventually ended up in the interior and design industry should therefore not be too much of a surprise. Her Out of Line collection, at the moment prob-

ably the most well-known example of her work, is particularly loved by many and has already been shown several times in the featured projects in Imagicasa. The organic designs demonstrate an impressive creativity and prove that it can be very successful to think out of the box from time to time. The designer is of course very happy with that large popularity, although at the same time she hopes that people will also get to know her interior projects and not just stick to

her design collection. We are only too happy to help a little with that by showing one of her recent realisations, which is a testimony of the designer and interior architect's power in all aspects of her job.

CREATIVE FREEDOM

Casteleyn attaches great importance to gaining the customer's trust, which results in an artistic freedom, allowing her to leave her mark on a project. Because of that, it is crucial during a first meeting to discover whether there is a connection with the client. As they will establish a long-term collaboration, the interior architect needs to understand very well what is expected of her and in which way the studio can be an asset before she commits herself to the project. On the basis of that conversation, she senses which choices will be the best for this specific customer and makes a proposal that contains a clear conceptual line. With an elaborate mood board, which shows for example the materials, floors, painting works, and even the switches, the idea is then presented. Alongside creative freedom, another condition in each project is that BCINT is responsible for every step of the process. The

studio wants to unburden its clients as much as possible and receives the responsibility for the different stages, ensuring that nothing is left to chance. This will guarantee an interior that steps away from what we have seen so often and feels innovative. In other words, clients can be confident that their home will be unique.

CONSISTENT SPATIALITY

That Casteleyn turns every project into a success is proven again with this realisation. This is a space where extreme luxury meets strong vision. The clients wanted a new interior for this place and enlisted the help of the interior designer. Both offices and residential projects are already part of her portfolio, and to that she can now add this interior, which radiates a very luxurious atmosphere and cosiness. She provided

a new design for the kitchen, eating corner and library, making the three spaces feel more like a whole. To achieve that effect, she made use of several strategies. The passages between the zones were enlarged and the wall unit continues from one space to another. As a result, the boundaries between the spaces disappear and there is a smooth transition. A second important way to create more spaciousness is the use of the same materials in all parts of the room, as for example in the floor, for which San Pietro Di Silencio natural stone was used. The interior designer created a new dining area which overlooks the garden and is characterised by a cosy sofa. This was placed against a wall of thermowood semi-circular trellis, the material from which the bench and wall unit are also made. A fireplace was built into the latter for extra cosiness, as was a built-in television. The wooden table with organic shapes was custom-made by RR



Interieur. That everything perfectly matches here becomes even more apparent in the kitchen area, where spaciousness is created by choosing drawer fronts and doors clad in the San Pietro Di Silencio natural stone of the floor. Furthermore, a painting technique matching the natural stone was used for the cabinets in the kitchen and library. In turn, the curtains were selected in a light colour to match the painting technique. For a luxurious touch, a subtle bronze-coloured metal was used in the handles on the cabinets, the handle strips and the island's recessed plinths. Finally, the library is the third feature in this space. It has some seats at a small bar, which consists of a custom-made tablet

in natural stone, in addition to a beautiful armchair in which you can rest for a while. A second fireplace was installed here at height, immediately adding a lot of cosiness. The low cabinets in the kitchen flow seamlessly into this latter space. The library itself was formed by an interplay of vertical metal pillars and horizontal shelves of thermowood, framed by the same metal.

MATCHING CONTRASTS

We would dare to call it unique to find a living space that radiates so much warmth and cosiness, but that is exactly what Casteleyn created here. The result is a classic example of her creative style, obviously adapted to the

A subtle bronze-coloured metal adds a luxurious touch

needs of the project. The many warm materials, alternated with the natural stone in a neutral shade, bring Casteleyn's high degree of luxury into this space. It is all in the details, because an interior project that fully works, does not only succeed by selecting the right colours and materials, but by thoroughly reflecting about how each corner should be decorated. In keeping with the designer's style, organic lines and a material palette of the highest quality can be found all over the interior. For the latter choice, the interior architect always starts from the concept, after which she selects the materials that best suit those ideas. She does not really have materials she prefers above others, but does strive



in each project to create a conceptual link between all materials. In this way, a fluent whole originates with a number of recurring elements, as is here for example the case with the natural stone. Another interesting thing to note is that this space contains several seating areas: not only the sitting corner, but also the stools on the kitchen island and the bar in the library allow for a moment of peace. The furniture and lighting pieces were found at RR Interieur. The interior architect and the design experts combined a significant knowledge of their field, high-quality craftsmanship and a constant striving for the highest level. Both have a passion for extraordinary design, which could only produce this impressive result.

The three contiguous spaces feel like one unit

After another brilliant realisation, Casteleyn is still full of plans and ways of expressing her creativity. Because what is more beautiful than sharing her love of design with others and even making her clients very happy with it? In the future, in addition to residential projects she hopes to shape realisations with a different interpretation. Furnishing a nightclub or a restaurant are already on her list. If we do ask about residential work, she would one day like to venture into the interior of a boat or an architectural home, preferably from the interwar or mid-century period. As always, she would like to receive the freedom to bring her own vision to life. Together with her, we hope that she can realise these dreams and that we can highlight many more of her projects in the future. ❖

(Text: Eva Janssens)