

CHECKING IN

Tucked into a small, corner canal house in Amsterdam, this project applies a hotel-based approach to a historic home.

Photos Isabel Bronts

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The ground floor bar functions as both reception and kitchen, with custom cabinetry by RA Studio topped with natural stone from Solid Nature. A bespoke dining table is paired with green *Vida* chairs from Gemla, while the the curtains are fashioned from Schumacher *Elkhart* fabric in brown and finished with Samuel & Sons Kensington *Onion* fringe. Lighting includes a Porta Romana *Orb* pendant and custom-made lampshades by RA Studio.

A custom-designed bar cabinet by RA Studio in aged brass is positioned in front of a mirror, set within an oak frame with a brass grid. The cabinet is topped with natural stone by Solid Nature, while the lime stucco walls are finished in a custom colour. Ceiling light designed by RA Studio for Maretti.



“We wanted it to feel like a hotel bar, with all the practical elements worked away.” Reineke Antvelink, RA Studio



The fully custom-made bar doubles as a kitchen island and was designed by RA Studio to fit the compact space. The bar features rounded detailing in walnut and a natural stone top by Solid Nature, and is paired with Soho Home Wardell counter stools. The floor is finished in black terracotta, while custom lamps by RA Studio and Rombo wallpaper by Tatiana Tafur adorn the ceiling.

The entrance hall retains its original staircase and beams and is finished with lime stucco walls. A plaster ceiling lamp sourced via 1stDibs is used alongside candlelight fixtures by Maretti designed by RA Studio. Door hardware by Charles Edwards.



The first-floor living room has a lobby-like character, and is furnished with a custom-made sofa by RA Studio upholstered in *Santana* fabric by Pepe Peñalver alongside

curtains in *Cove* fabric from Ferme Fabrics. A *Theodore* armchair and *Oxley* coffee table in *Arabescato Corchia* marble, both by Soho Home, are set against views over the canal.

The wardrobe and wash area feature *Fleurit Chevro* fabric from *Prelle*, integrated into custom cabinetry designed by RA Studio.



“The house was approached like it was a tiny hotel – a place where everything has its own function.” Reineke Antvelink, RA Studio



The bedroom features a custom-made headboard by RA Studio, upholstered in *Santana* fabric by Pepe Peñalver. The bed is set against *Braquenié Shiva* wallpaper by Pierre Frey, finished with a *Lera* bedspread, and is flanked by *Carlisle* bedside tables in *Carrara* marble, both from Soho Home.

The bathroom features a freestanding Duke bath by Kenny & Mason.



Right: The shower lies next to the main bedroom, where wall finishes include a custom-made pattern by Quintalsique and *Olive sacking* fabric from the Guy Goodfellow Collection.





Interior designer Reineke Antvelink pictured in her own home.

The city centre of Amsterdam is made for strolling. These are old streets, lined with houses that lean and carry their age openly. The narrow lanes along the canals aren't really in line with the actual pace of the city, but people hurry through them anyway. All the better, then, to have a place that pulls you out of that current; a house that offers relief from the pressure of the modern grind. This corner house is genuinely compact, and the design leans into that fact, giving each room the logic of hospitality. As designer Reineke Antvelink of RA Studio puts it, the house was approached "almost as a tiny hotel – a place where everything has its own function."

The ground floor acts like a bar and hides all the kitchen facilities it contains. Entering through a small hall, you step directly into this space, where deep, earthy tones set the mood. Blue-green lime plaster walls, grass wallpaper between the beams, dark oak cabinetry, and aged brass detailing give the room a slightly lived-in quality. "We wanted it to feel like a hotel bar," Antvelink notes, "with all the practical elements worked away." Mirrors are used sparingly to extend sightlines in the narrow layout.

Almost everything is custom-made: the Viola marble table, the wall lights, the cabinetry, and curtains with passementerie that provide both privacy and softness. It's a way of working that runs through Antvelink's entire practice. "Craftsmanship is truly my passion. Working closely with ateliers and imagining how every detail should come together is what I enjoy most." Her studio designs for clients who value discretion and aren't really interested in recognisable signatures or ready-made solutions. Instead, each interior is developed from scratch, shaped around how people live, what they want to see – and what they prefer to keep unseen. Over the years,

the designer has built a career on creating spaces that cannot be replicated, precisely because they are so closely tied to their owners.

Throughout the house, original architectural elements have been retained wherever possible. The stair, exposed beams, and proportions dictated by the monument are treated as fixed conditions. Instead, the design focuses on material choice and detailing. Colour palettes shift subtly from floor to floor, yet remain within an earthy register. On the first floor, the living room has a more open, lobby-like character, with custom wall cabinets and a made-to-measure sofa featuring a walnut base that references the bar below. Textiles are warmer and more varied, set against views of the canal outside.

The upper floors are organised as hotel rooms rather than bedrooms. The main suite, shaped entirely by the building's sloping geometry, is fully custom-made: glass-fronted wardrobes, curtain-dressed washbasins, and a freestanding brass bath positioned beside the bed, overlooking the water. On the lower ground floor, guest accommodation includes a compact bathroom and a built-in alcove bed, extending the hotel logic throughout the house. Smaller sleeping niches appear elsewhere, including a raised loft bed designed for a child – what Antvelink describes as "a little hidden world of its own." Across the project, craftsmanship is present in materials that are slightly imperfect, warm to the touch, and chosen for daily use. And like any well-designed hotel, the house does not ask to be noticed all at once – only to be experienced, room by room, as a respite from the pace outside.

ra-studio.nl

PORTRAIT: DANIELLE SIOBHAN

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A raised loft bed is dressed with a bedspread by Sézane, creating a compact sleeping niche within the house.