

## DINING AREA

Keeping the art minimal enhances the pared-back elegance.

Crown Minor pendants in Gold, £1,065 each, Holloways of Ludlow. Photograph (by fire) is *Monarch* by Desirée Dolron

# Restoration PIECE

*Once student accommodation, Anna Linthorst and Job Kuipers' townhouse is now the epitome of elegance*

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## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY**

Townhouse dating to 1885

**LOCATION** Netherlands

**ROOMS** Sitting area, dining area, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, study, cloakroom, cellar, four bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms, dressing room, gym, sauna

**PURCHASED** 2017

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We were living five kilometres from here,' says Anna.

**KITCHEN**

Interior designer Maaïke van Diemen created the kitchen design, working with Dutch company Mio Home on the handleless cabinetry.

For similar bespoke cabinetry, try Aldous Lamont. Similar marble surfaces, from £215sq m, The Marble Group





**S**ituated in the heart of the city of Haarlem, 20 kilometres west of Amsterdam, this elegant townhouse has been painstakingly restored by its owners, Anna Linthorst and Job Kuipers. 'For around 30 years, the building had been used as student accommodation and before that as offices, so it looked very different when we first saw it,' recounts Anna. 'We knew it needed a lot of work, but we could see the fabulous proportions, which gave us a sense of how it could look if we restored it to its former glory.'

The building is classed as a national monument and so the couple had to work closely with the authorities when it came to making changes to the interiors. 'The biggest problem we had was that the kitchen was located on a half level that was partly subterranean,' explains Job. 'We had a lot of discussions in order to obtain permission to raise the level of this floor and also to improve the extension at the back of the house.'

The revised layout has resulted in a wonderfully convivial kitchen that flows into a grand dining space, which in turn leads to the main sitting area at the front of the house and a light-filled conservatory at the rear. This open-plan layout is given a sense of cohesion thanks to an engineered oak herringbone floor that flows throughout all the spaces.

The couple brought very little with them in terms of furniture: 'We had lived in our previous home for 14 years with our two children – who are both now at

#### **SITTING AREA** The pale gold of the textured wallcovering and accents is a luxurious choice.

Walls in Marsh 31503, £137.56 a roll, Arte. Portraits by Serge Labégorre. Lucena coffee table with Jura marble top, €795; and with fabric top, €748, both Duran Interiors

#### **STAIRCASE** A pendant adds drama.

Try Jim Lawrence's Ava seven pendant rose light, £1,093

**CONSERVATORY**  
This space contains a lovely reading area. Magenta bergère and footstool, price on request, Casamilano







**DESIGN TIP**  
*'For the gallery wall in  
the staircase, we pinned  
up pieces of newspaper  
to work out how we  
would arrange the art'*







**MAIN  
BATHROOM**  
An oversized  
pendant is a striking  
decorative element.  
Large Crown pendant  
light in Gold, from  
€1,179, JSPPR

**BEDROOM**  
The large-scale  
headboard was  
created using a  
textured wallpaper.  
Headboard in Matrix  
54064, £158.89 a roll,  
Arte. Paintings by  
Emily Hildebrand

**DRESSING  
ROOM**  
A charcoal drawing  
pops out against a  
geometric wallpaper.  
Charcoal artwork by  
Nicola Hicks



university – as well as two cats and a dog, and so most of the furnishings were ready to be renewed; we also felt that the proportions of this house called for pieces on a larger scale,’ says Anna. The couple worked with interior designer Maaïke van Diemen ([maaikevandiemen.nl](http://maaikevandiemen.nl)) to devise the schemes. ‘We discovered that her tastes are aligned with ours, right down to the colours she likes to work with,’ says Anna.

Maaïke has helped the couple select furniture and lighting designs, most of which are by Dutch creatives. Of key importance was their art collection, which is again primarily by home-grown talents. ‘We have been collecting art together for the last thirty years and our collection shows how our tastes have developed during that time,’ says Job. ‘We now tend to buy only from contemporary artists we have got to know, as we like to learn the story behind the piece.’

As a backdrop to their collection, Maaïke suggested various textural wallcoverings in hues that pick out the colours in the paintings. ‘The ceilings are very high and if we had left the walls white, the rooms could have felt rather empty,’ says Anna. ‘A carefully chosen backdrop can improve the artwork.’

The couple are enjoying seeing their art in a different light, and they also love entertaining in their new home: ‘The layout makes it fantastic when we have friends over, as we never feel shut off in the kitchen,’ says Anna. ‘It’s wonderful to share this amazing house with our friends.’ 25