



**contemporary  
sixties vibes**



Katrien: 'I am quite a quiet type myself and I have three very lively children, so that can be tough at times! Especially because my husband often has to work long hours and there's only me to keep them in check. But it's great having the house full of their energy. It's a fun kind of chaos, and I love their rich imaginations.'

For Katrien, having children also means taking a more practical approach to the decor, creating little nooks and snug corners so that everyone has their own space, and investing in baskets and storage furniture to collect all the 'stray' toys. A playroom with a television was created for the children where they can spend time alone during the day, or play when the weather's bad.

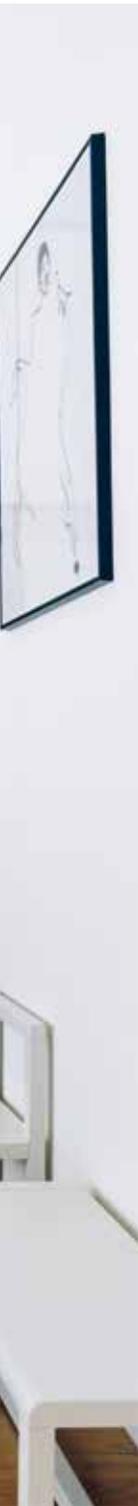
'I'm also extra careful about materials now – I pick things that can stand up to a bit of wear and tear.

That's why we have a seat with a washable cover and a patio table in our dining room. The kids can paint and mess about on it, and the stains come off easily,' she says. 'The custom cabinets in the hallway are also scratch-resistant and washable. That's an absolute must!'

But aesthetics are important as well. Katrien always chooses attractive items, also for the children. As you can see in the children's rooms, which have been furnished with loving attention and an eye for detail. Sustainability is a consideration here, too. Katrien: 'We consciously choose things that can be given a new lease of life once the children have outgrown them. It's something I look for in clothing, toys and furniture. That's is why I often sell items when the kids have outgrown them. And I just love change, too.'



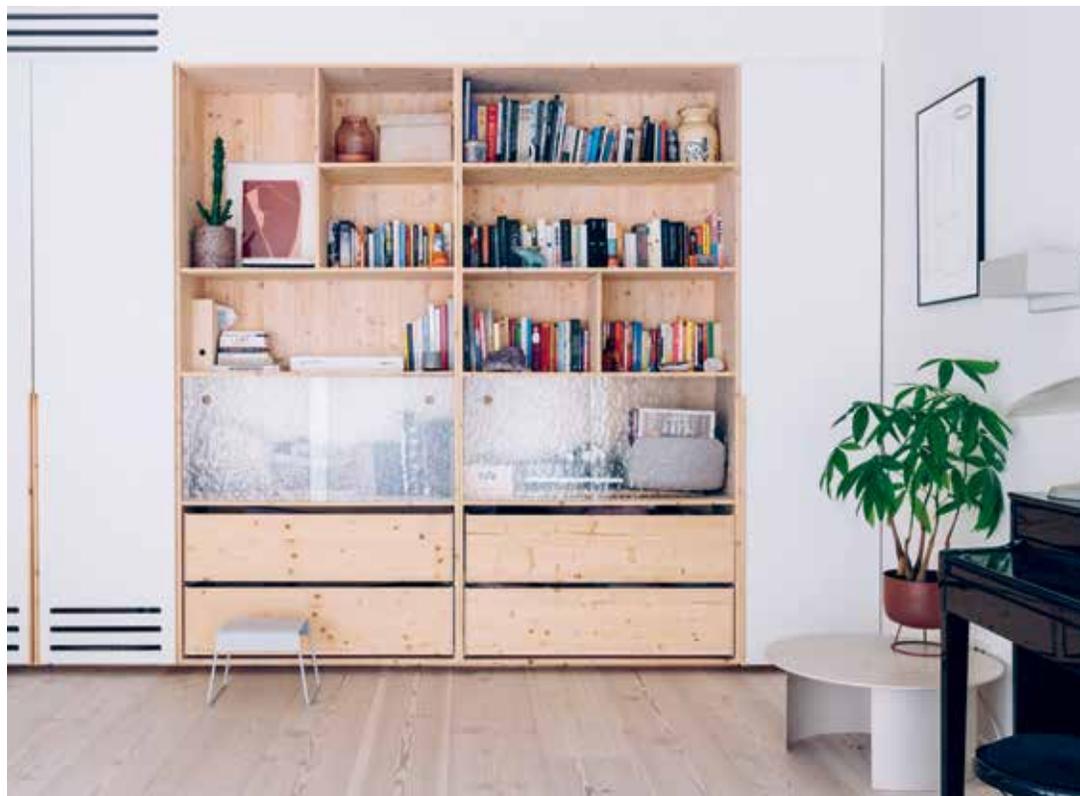














**residents**

Laura (architect/contractor), Pieter,  
daughter Emilia (7) and son Julius (5)  
Overijse, Belgium

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# **extraordinary living**

**As an architect and contractor, Laura renovates only old character properties; she never builds new houses. So it made complete sense that the home she would choose for her family would also be an exceptional building. But this renovated former laundry designed by Belgian architect Maxime Brunfaut is beyond extraordinary.**



When Laura and Pieter came across this property on the Belgian property website Immoweb, it had been neglected for 30 years and was extremely run-down. Everything was broken and there was talk of concrete rot, but the spaces appealed to them so much that they made an offer anyway. The metamorphosis from a decrepit industrial laundry to a stylish family home took a huge amount of work, but after a few years the family was able to move in.

Laura: 'Because I fell pregnant shortly after the purchase, we chose to renovate the entire house in a child-friendly way. We probably wouldn't otherwise have added the parachute cord suspension lines in the living room, but now I think it adds value. It's a personal touch that you won't see anywhere else, and I'm a big fan of linear aspects anyway.'

Our interior is very open, and that's a huge bonus with a family of growing children. The large windows mean that we can see and hear them even when they're alone in their room. Of course, this isn't something they'll be keen on when they reach 16, but time will tell. And we'll find a way around it.

'The children's rooms were decorated in more or less the same way, but there is a clear difference and both have their own colour palette: mint green for Emilia and yellow for Julius, with a special paint effect on the ceiling that extends onto the wardrobe in both rooms. 'It was a spur-of-the-moment thing,' Laura explains. 'I really like continuous lines and patterns, so I thought: why not try? Now that Emilia is getting older, she is starting to ask for shades of pink and is developing her own style, but Julius still thinks it's all fantastic.'

A cosy play corner has been set up under the stairs that connect the landing with the living room, as well as a super-fun swing from Done by Deer. The cupboards in the living room are also packed with toys. Laura: 'I don't have 20 sets of flatware or anything. The mid-century sideboard that holds our record player contains only toys and craft supplies. There's no rule that says toys should be stashed in kiddie-style wardrobes or bins, so why not keep them in a beautifully designed dresser? The children love playing here, but they've also learned that they have to tidy up after themselves every day.'











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