



IN DETAIL

ideas from the Amsterdam home

Brutal beauty
Transforming cold concrete and steel into a warm, inviting interior was a challenge for Dutch owners Emilia and Sieger. It's the juxtaposition of raw materials, playful furnishings and colour zings that manages to melt away any austerity. Artworks pop up in unexpected forms – from graphic wallpaper and photo murals to a bespoke wall circle that celebrates the raw texture of concrete. Throughout the home, the interior has a real lack of pretentiousness – it's the honest materials and sturdy furniture that make this Dutch home a livable, fuss-free space.



For similar paints, try Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology acrylic in Raw Sunset, \$44.45 for 1L, from Dulux, www.dulux.com.au.

energy burst

Amid brutalist surrounds, electric colour can add warmth to an interior. In this home, Asian lanterns enliven the living room, while the band in fluoro orange wrapped around the dining bench's upholstery (top) was an original idea by the creative homeowners. So, why introduce unexpected pops of vivid scarlet and orange throughout the area? It's because these colours are associated with passion, energy and vibrancy, and they (appropriately) help stimulate appetites. Vietnamese silk lantern in orange, \$45, from Mao & More. The store offers a vast range, so for more information, contact (02) 9699 2700, www.maoandmore.com.

A SPIRAL STAIRCASE IN GALVANISED STEEL WITH A POWDERCOATED FINISH ADDS EXTRA INDUSTRIAL EDGE. FOR SIMILAR, VISIT WWW.SPIRALSTAIRS.COM.AU

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just kidding

After working for the Eijffinger wallpaper company, Dutch designers Claudia Drübe and Astrid Nieuwenburg joined forces a few years ago to launch the Onself children's wallpapers. The design in Micky's bedroom is no longer available, but the designers' latest ranges offer some great new looks. (Above, from left) Onself 'Christophe', 'Auto' and 'Helicopter' wallpaper designs, \$139 per 10.05-metre roll, available from Just Kids Wallpaper, call 0409 763 261.



INSIDER'S GUIDE TO... DUTCH DESIGN WEEK

Generally speaking, the design philosophy in Holland is witty and innovative – just look at the creations from Bertjan Pot, Marcel Wanders, Scholten & Baijings and Moooi. To mark the country's creativity, Dutch Design Week is a nine-day fair featuring some 300 events. This year, it will be held in Eindhoven from October 20-28. For details, visit www.ddw.nl.

rough & tough

Concrete is a robust material that requires little maintenance – and that's what appealed to Emilia and Sieger. The walls are exposed to create an unfinished look, while the floors and ceilings are sealed and polished. "I love the rawness and the differences in colour," Emilia says. To capture the look, consider local products, such as Thermomass insulated concrete wall panels, which can be either precast in the factory or poured on site, or Hollowcore sealed and polished precast concrete planks for floors and ceilings. Thermomass wall panels are available from Composite Global Solutions, visit www.compositesystems.com.au. For Hollowcore precast concrete, contact (03) 9369 4944, www.hollowcore.com.au.



THINGS TO SOURCE...

↑ **HANGERS** It's apparent throughout the house that visual strength is a design imperative. And that applies right down to the smallest detail – even when hidden behind closed closet doors. Clothes are hung inside the wardrobes with eye-catching, graphic coat hangers. 'Flying Hooks' coathangers by Bos + Couvée, \$US30 each, from Generate, www.gnr8.biz.

↓ **STOOL** A design classic, Tolix's 'Tabouret' steel stool was originally designed for exterior use in French bistros. It's available in three sizes (45, 65 and 75cm) with a Brut Verni finish for interiors – it's been hand-polished, buffed and coated with a clear lacquer. For exterior use, a galvanised finish is also available. Tolix 'Tabouret' interior stool with Brut Verni finish, from \$291.50 for 45cm height, from Thonet, 1800 800 777, www.thonet.com.au.

↓ **PHOTO MURAL** The interior may have a sober appearance on the ground floor, but upstairs, a range of wall surfaces softens all the bedrooms. This includes the evocative 'Sparkling Light' photo mural – part of the National Geographic collection – that brings a nature fix to the couple's master bedroom. Komar 'Sparkling Light' photo mural, \$280 for 388 x 270cm, from The Elephant Room. Contact 0413 057 863, www.theelephantroom.com.au.