

interiors_style_architecture_design

PERSPECTIVE

透視

march 08

天與地：Zecc事務所的神聖任務

墨爾本住宅樹蔭滿盈

Klein Dytham 塑造萬紫千虹的沖繩

A House blooms in Melbourne
R3 Ukishima from Klein Dytham

Heaven on Earth:
Chapel Residence by Zecc

HK\$35
US\$16.50
EURO13.65

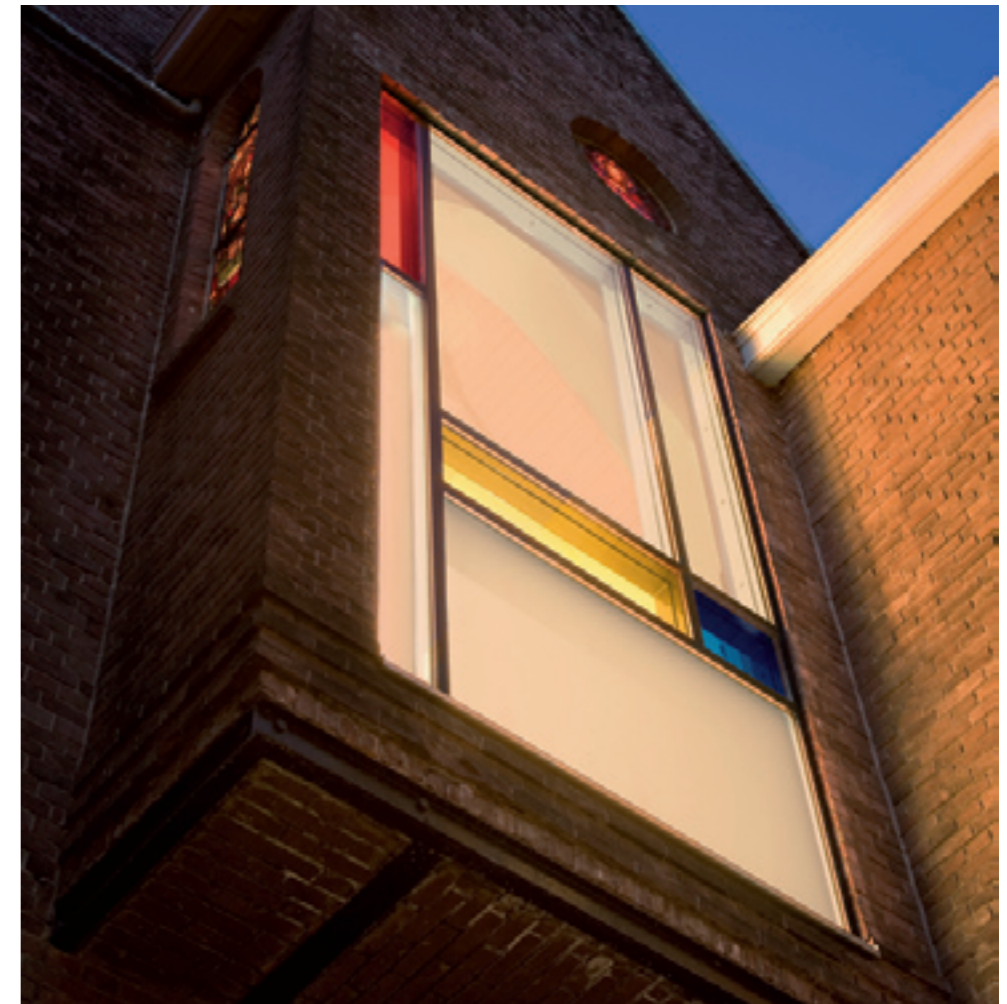


9 771606 255002

Lofty Idea

Dutch firm Zecc Architecten refurbishes an old chapel and turns grandeur into an everyday experience

TEXT: CECILE MAURY PHOTOGRAPHY: CORNBREAD WORKS



above A modern interpretation of a leaded front glass ensures contact with the exterior opposite page Rooflights have been added to the original structure to brighten the interior and enhance the colours of the stained glass windows

When a private client asked Zecc to convert a chapel into a residence, the Utrecht-based firm were not surprised. They had been commissioned a few years before by the same couple of architectural enthusiasts to create an apartment in a former school building, so the designers were familiar with their fondness for singular buildings and gladly embarked on this audacious makeover.

Located in Nieuwegracht in the centre of Utrecht, a religious centre since the 8th century, the 250 sq-m space offered obvious qualities including exceptional volume — 1,600 m³ — and quaint, inimitable details such as stained glass windows. Yet turning this awe-inspiring, atypical setting into a truly liveable space undoubtedly required virtuosity. The main challenge was to introduce both material and — perhaps more importantly — psychological comfort while retaining the mystical, unique atmosphere of the original place.

To achieve this delicate combination, the first step was the lighting scheme. "The old church was dark brown: there was no natural light at all,"

explains Zecc's David Tins. "We created new rooflights, which delivered indirect light and gave a new life to the space." Not only do the lights gently counteract the darkening effect of the leaded glass windows, they also liven up the room by bringing out the colours of those windows. Another key element was the introduction of a Mondrian-like glass window to mitigate the impression of confinement through the absence of large openings. "With the new window opening, which is a modern variant of the old coloured windows, we created the one and only interaction with the outside world," Tins adds.

A witty and effective design feature, the style chosen for the glass also testifies to the architects' effort to produce a temporal variation from the original by initiating a dialogue between past and present. The new opening offers a modern interpretation of the leaded glass windows and thus provides a lighter feel to the overall design. In line with this strategy, clever space management is used as a way to give structure to the interior's unusual roominess and to break its overwhelming effect.



above The extensive use of white accentuates the spaciousness, while creating a heavenly environment **opposite page** The minimal staircase leading to the study seems to float in the air, reinforcing the impression of airiness conveyed by the overall design

Now turned into a study, the balcony at the front of the organ was maintained and used as a dividing feature between the various living spaces. Tins explains: "When you enter the chapel you stand in a hall, which prepares you to enter the living room. Then you open the two doors and you look at the kitchen, which is located under that spatial element. After that, you notice the large space, the height, the beautiful white interior, and the coloured windows. The study is on the dividing element in front of the old organ. The stair including that study is the element that turns the chapel into a living space."

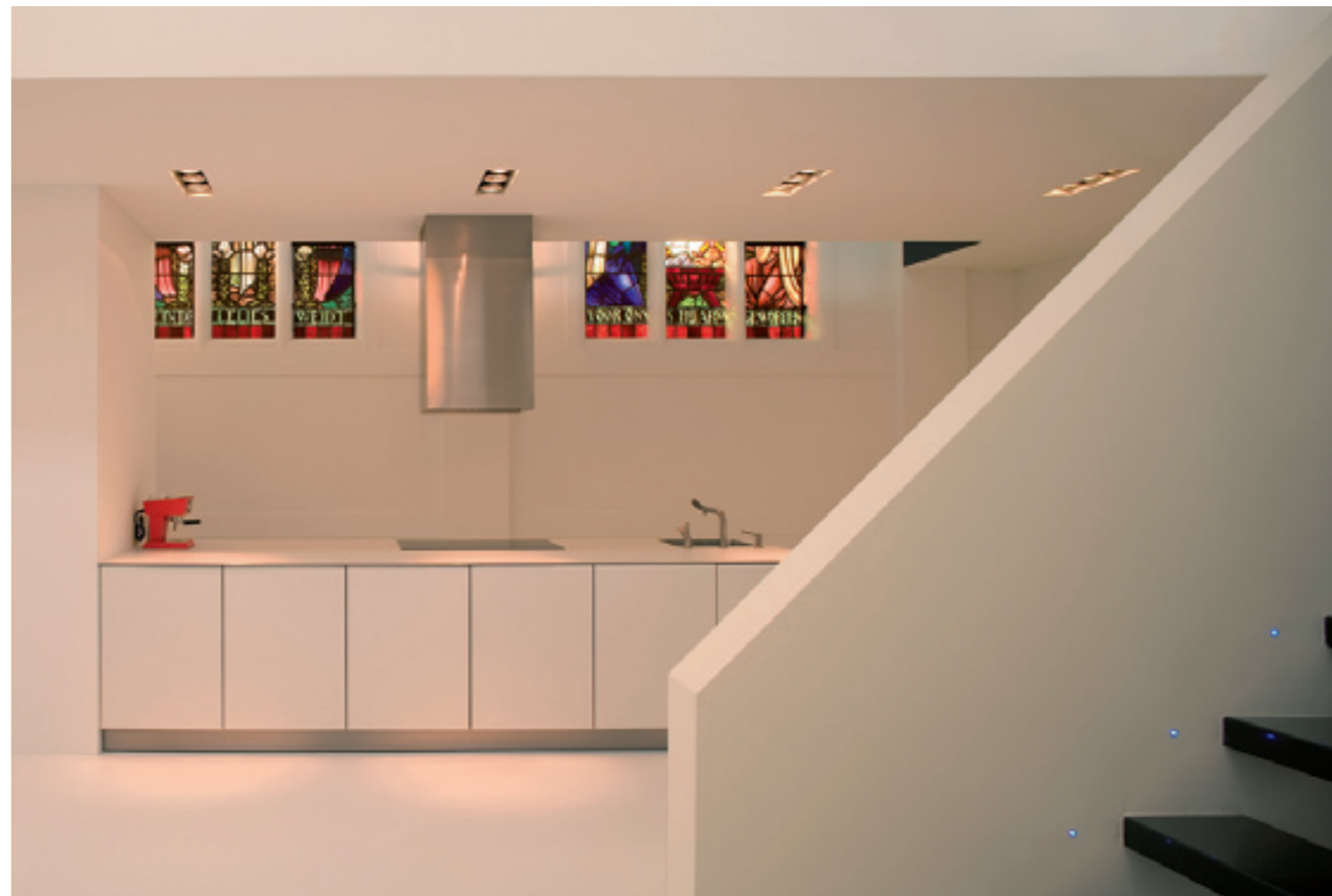
The incorporation of such landmarks allows for more spectacular features that renew the spiritual identity of the chapel. The choice of white as the dominant colour — from the painted walls to the shiny white finish of the floor — increases the notion of spaciousness, while conjuring up feelings of purity and weightlessness. Another notable feature is the simple stairway which literally floats in the air and further adds to the magic of the place.

The white of the main living space also creates a striking contrast with the bedroom/bathroom which, situated in the extension of the church, is distinguished by its dark, mystery-imbued character.

Furniture elements also contribute to instilling a sense of — if not religious, historical — sacredness. According to Tins: "The interior parts follow the client, from project to project. This time, the client's brother made some nice furniture out of the old wooden benches, which are reused. A special element is the original kneeling bench." Along with the old organ, a traditional candelabrum, a contemporary chandelier and the classic Eames aluminium lounge chairs complement the furniture: an eclectic, yet perfectly harmonised selection which translates a post-modern interplay of references, between yesterday and today, between the religious and the secular. A majestic interior and a bold experiment, this 'Church of Living' is a dazzling example of design's ability to bring magic into everyday life.

The main challenge was to introduce both material and — perhaps more importantly — psychological comfort while retaining the mystical, unique atmosphere of the original place





above Situated under the balcony, the kitchen boasts exceptional stained glass windows making wallpapers or decorative ornaments superfluous



opposite page from top left Furniture of assorted styles and eras contribute to creating a dynamic, stimulating interior • Located on the balcony, the study is characterised by its wooden floor parts and by the homely mood it conveys • The bedroom/bathroom distinguishes itself by its dark tones and its solemn ambience

神聖任務

荷蘭建築事務所 Zecc Architecten 將一座舊教堂變成住宅，宏偉莊嚴的聖殿頓時變為起居作息的溫馨天地

撰文：CECILE MAURY 攝：BORNREAD WORKS攝

荷蘭烏特勒支市的 Zecc 建築事務所最近獲一個私人客戶委聘，要將一座教堂改為住宅。對於這個非常任務，他們一點也不感到詫異，因為客人是一群建築狂迷，數年前初次合作時已提出古怪主意，要求 Zecc 將舊校舍改建為公寓，所以 Zecc 很清楚他們的喜好，重新塑造單層樓宇的大膽挑戰，也就欣然接受了。這座教堂位於烏特勒支市中心的 Newegracht，始建於八世紀，佔地兩百五十平方米，擁有許多出眾的優點，好像一千六百立方米的寬敞空間，還有彩色玻璃之類古雅小裝飾。然而要將這個人而且神聖的環境變為住得舒適的安樂窩，必須有脫俗的藝術眼光和睿智，當中最大考驗是創造物質上舒適感，以及更重要的心理舒適感，同時保存教堂原有的神秘獨特氛圍。

為求達到完美平衡，主理項目的總建築師 Marinix van der Meer 首先著手照明方案。Zecc 的 David Tins 解釋：「教堂原來採用深棕色系，完全沒有天然採光。我們加建新的天窗間接引入光線，與彩色玻璃鉛窗的深沉效果構成對比，天窗還令室內更明亮，將教堂玻璃的色彩烘托得更繽紛。另一項重要特色是加建一扇類似 Mondrian 格子圖案的琉璃窗，藉以減輕這個沒有大窗戶居室的密閉感。David 補充道：「加建的新窗戶是原有彩色教堂玻璃窗的現代版，也是唯一連接室外的交匯點。」

這個構思靈巧而實用，選用的玻璃也獨具匠心，建築師明顯希望透過古今對比創造時空交錯。新窗是彩色琉璃鉛窗的時尚變奏，整體設計較輕盈。室內其他設計策略也大同小異，

建築師完善地處理空間，突顯居室的寬敞，空間開闊開揚，但卻沒有高不可攀的感覺。教堂風琴前面的露台改為書房，經整修後用作分隔不同居室。David 解釋：「當你步入教堂，首先置身於客廳前的玄關，打開兩扇門便可見下面的廚房。這時你會察覺到室內面積是如此大，樓底特高，還有悅目的白色調子和彩色玻璃窗。書房位於舊風琴前面的間隔之上，房內的樓梯，是將教堂變成生活居停的關鍵所在。」

建築師刻意保留多項標誌性元素，以便加入更多設計特色，改換教堂環境的精神氣氛。室內選擇白色為主調，牆壁髹上白粉漆，地台也是亮面白色，房間看來更寬敞，流露輕如無物的純潔感覺。室內的樓梯也是精采構思，造型仿如懸浮於半空，增添神秘魅力。主要起居範圍也選用白色，與位於教堂擴建部份的睡房/浴室構成強烈對比，後者採用深沉的神秘色調。

即使傢具也呈現宏偉氣度，神聖的感覺可能來自宗教氣息，也可能源於歷史底蘊。據 David 說：「我們的室內設計是依照客戶的意見，每宗項目都各有特色。這次客戶的兄長將教堂舊木凳循環再用，造了一批很雅緻的傢具，其中包括教堂原有的木跳台。」除了舊風琴，特色傢具還有古色古香的燭台、現代水晶燈和經典 Hans Wegner 安樂椅，不落俗套之餘亦和諧協調，是混合式後現代風尚，既古雅亦摩登，結合宗教的神聖與世俗的浮華。以教堂為家可說是難得一見的嘗試，多得設計師的出色構想，為生活帶來意想不到的驚喜。