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# RAILWAY HOUSE

*Located on the outskirts of Amsterdam, the expansion and architectural conversion of this former railway house into a modern home is the brainchild of Dutch architect and a passionate home owner.*

PHOTOGRAPHS CORNBREADWORKS TEXT BIELLE ROSS



**G**etting to know Jeroen van Zwetselaar, one gets a better understanding of his captivating home – a refashioned historic railway cottage in Santpoort Noord in the Netherlands. For an entire year while working on the space with Zecc Architects, he lived in a garden shed on the property. A surfer, avid plant and furniture collector, as well as environmentally conscious, his creative vision afforded him a clear concept for the house which focused on its fundamental features. This resulted in an unrivaled structure that oozes with modern confidence, respect for the past and architectural prowess. The central brick volume of the old cottage remains mostly unchanged, but it has been lengthened on either side by horizontal extensions of Corten steel and glass; the cottage's historic walls are literally perforated with hard steel, which creates an interesting intersection of the old and the new. The inspiration for the conversion was to contrast the hard, straight metal lines of the railway with the soft curves of the nearby dunes (the house is close to the North Sea).

The original section becomes the core of the house and, together with the white waterfall staircases, connects all the adjoining spaces and floors. There is a loft upstairs, the kitchen, dining and lounging areas on the main floor, with the sleeping area in the basement. The resourceful renovation of this old cottage into a modern home also functions as a showroom for the owner's collection of design classics and found objects, as well as interior products that he markets. A beautiful old Persian carpet has been placed on the hard untreated concrete floor, while a surfboard stands next to the dining room table – these combinations add to the warmth of the home, making it no wonder that this is where Jeroen spends all his time. ■



**this page** The collection of design classics and lighting include an Eames Chair, a Tom Dixon Fat Spot Copper Floor light, and pendant Sacto 4200 from Dado Design. The portrait is by Dutch photographer Edwin Oat.





**above** The waterfall staircase links the kitchen and dining area to the upstairs loft. The characteristic stone walls link the new structure to the original cottage **below**. The lounging area is accented with Nguni hide carpets, transparent black curtains and an Octo 4240 pendant lamp from Secto Design. The felt pebbles outside are by Ronel Jordaan



**this page** In the hallway, a bold nude painting by Selwyn Scribner is combined with an antique rocking chair. From the middle of the House, you have long sightlines into the glass-walled living area and out into the garden





**above** Light floods the loft through clerestory windows onto a selection of plants. The exposed beams are from the original structure  
**below** A trio of different white dining chairs is teamed with a bench. Above the dining table hangs a pendant light from Secto Design



Woodwork from the original structure links the dining room to the kitchen

## GET THE LOOK

1. Cone lighting from R1 030, Kloofique
2. Portraits by John Murray R8 500 each, Lunge Gallery
3. Cheetah print chair R1 995, Coco Kairo
4. Barcelona daybed R20 320, Spazio
5. Over-dyed vintage rug
6. Holly wood floor lamp R5 995, Weylandts
7. Ngumi hide R3 400, Kloofique
8. Tribeca three-seater sofa (Moo) R39 500, Weylandts
9. Multi task floor lamp R1 195, Weylandts

