



## STUDY

*A tall, narrow bookcase mirrors the proportions of the doorway that leads to the living room. The room has a contemplative mood created by hanging a serene still life above an iconic Barcelona daybed (right).*

**Paper collage**, Guy Leclerc, 0032 47 527 7327, guyleclerc.be. **Sculpture**, Gerd Kanz, 0049 9533 982551, gerdkanz.de. **Barcelona daybed**, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe for Knoll, £8,952, AllModern, 0800 917 1825, allmodern.co.uk. **Still life**, Volkert Olij, volkertolij.nl.



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"We designed this house around the way we live," says Piet Boon. "Before we started we looked at the sun, the wind and the views, and decided that the kitchen should open on to the garden, and that the bedrooms should catch the morning light. It all means the house is exactly right."

This blissfully simple approach to design has been the key to success for Piet Boon, head of the eponymous creative studio in the Netherlands, and his wife Karin Meyn, who is a partner at the studio and head of its styling division. Their work takes

them all around the world, from Korea to the Caribbean, but the home near Amsterdam that they share with their 17-year-old son Koen and their daughter Puck, 15, offers perhaps the best showcase for their skills.

The house is in the countryside just five miles from the heart of the city – the perfect distance for a civilised commute – and was designed and built by the couple 12 years ago. It was a project that Piet relished, as he had begun his professional life as a building contractor before being drawn into the world of



# MAIN BATHROOM

*A study in luxurious minimalism, the bathroom (also below right) has unadorned walls save for mirrors, plain stone surfaces, bespoke cabinetry and simple fixtures and fittings.*

**Po bath** in Serena stone, £40,078; **Minimal floor spout**, £822; **Adige wash basin** in Serena stone, from £5,954; **Minimal extending magnifying mirror**, from £1,228; all Boffi, 020 7590 8910, boffiuk.com. **Similar reclaimed wood side table**, £175, Idyll Home, 01630 695779, idyllhome.co.uk.



# MAIN BEDROOM

*All the doors in this space share the same elongated proportions that form part of Piet Boon's signature look. He also favours unobtrusive door furniture.*

**Doors**, Piet Boon at Bod'or, bodor.nl.



interior architecture and design. "The building has a zinc roof and steel-framed windows, and looks quite modest from the front," says Piet. "But when you see the pool, the pavilion and the beautiful garden, which is the work of influential Dutch landscape designer Piet Oudolf, you realise that there is a little bit of luxury going on here as well."

There is also more than a little artifice in the building's layout. "As you enter the house, it appears to be set out like a cross," says Piet. "To the left, you see the fireplace in the study; to the right, you see the fireplace in the living room; look straight

ahead and your eye is led outside and down the length of the pool. I believe it is vital that the lines of a building are good."

This pleasing symmetry gives the house an immediate sense of tranquillity, a feeling that is intensified by the choice of calming colours, the simplicity of its natural materials (predominantly leather, stone and wood) and the unfussy way in which the rooms are dressed. "Our guiding principle is to start with everything white," says Piet, "though some of the floors are stained black and we tend to use reversible curtains that can be light in summer and dark in winter. Then we add favourite works of art



## POOL HOUSE

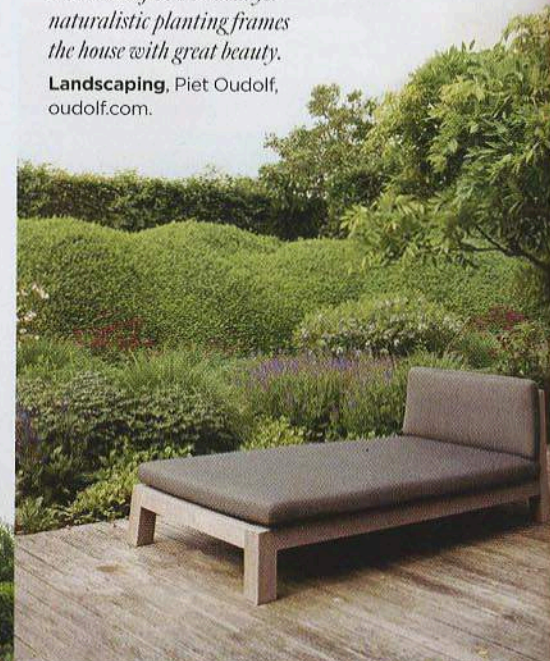
*A pavilion at the far end of the pool contains a sauna and guest accommodation.*



## TERRACE

*Piet Oudolf's structural yet naturalistic planting frames the house with great beauty.*

**Landscaping,** Piet Oudolf, oudolf.com.



## VERANDA

*This space has its own fireplace so it can be used all year round.*

**Anne dining table,** from £2,315;  
**Nlek chairs,** from £1,342 each;  
all Piet Boon Store, 0031 20 722 0044, pietboon.com.



from our collection, which usually provide all the colour we need." Against this monochrome scheme is a carefully curated selection of furniture, most of which has been designed by Piet, who launched his own product line in 2005. Some pieces, such as the leather dining chairs, are already cult items; others include prototypes undergoing pre-production testing.

"We always live with a product for a few months to see how it feels and how it performs," says Piet. "Furniture should be very practical, comfortable and, above all, durable. One of the reasons we like to use many natural materials for our collections is that

they age so gracefully." In fact, functionality, sustainability, timelessness and longevity are goals to which Piet and Karin aspire in all aspects of their work.

Although Karin alters the configuration of artwork and accessories to play with the overall atmosphere, there have been no drastic changes to the property in the past 12 years. "We have only repainted the walls once, and that was in the same colour," says Piet, in testament to the lasting nature of their vision. "We don't want to modify and update its design constantly. We want the house to stay like this for a long, long time." ■