

luxe for life

Straight lines, space to work and a sofa in the kitchen – this is the best way to design for right now, as Piet Boon tells our editor Pip Rich

dutch designer Piet Boon founded Studio Piet Boon 40 years ago, and honed a luxe, minimalist look that now characterises middle European aesthetics. He has also developed countless products – from furniture to tiles to kitchen cabinet handles to paint – which are a perfect place to start when decorating a pared-back home. His most recent project is the interior of the 100 apartment Rosewood Residences development, Hillsboro Beach, Miami. **PIP RICH** This year feels like a cultural shift. The definition of ‘luxury’ is changing dramatically in relation to our homes. I’ve always thought of your vibe as defining luxury – how do you

now work from their kitchen tables, and so I focus on straight lines, and not too many materials. And a sofa in the kitchen! It’s so important now. Somewhere you can sit, work, eat, watch TV, relax. Now that really is luxury.

PR I’ve always particularly adored your kitchens – they manage to be super smart and super welcoming. I am heartened to hear you like sofas in them – if you have space for one, I believe they’re the fastest way to make that room the true heart of the home. What else do you focus on in kitchens at the moment?

PB In New York, they tend to be a show space, but in the Netherlands, people love to cook. Most of the time we skip formal dining, and if you have an island

I currently shop for a new dining table, to not just think rectangle as a matter of course.

PB That particular project is quite a small apartment, but an island needs to just be big enough to sit on it, making a space to gather together. Put a light above – or even just a single lamp on – the island and it’s so much more warming, more homely.

PR The gun metals and bronzes you use in these spaces are also starting to seem more homely to me than the classic marble, which – *whisper it* – has begun to seem just a touch stark and overdone.

PB Bronze is one of the most wonderful materials – we use it in projects and also source objects made with it by Dutch artists like Studio Molen and Maarten Baas. It works with the off-whites and greys that people find so easy to live with. A house should be homely, you know, with not too much stuff in it. But the right stuff!

PR I’ve been looking at the Rosewood Residences, Hillsboro Beach, the development you recently finished in Miami. It’s not a location I would associate with your calming aesthetic necessarily, but I love what you’ve done in those spaces, taking the city’s palette of art deco pastels and blending it into a softer, more sensual approach.

PB Thank you. We are proud of the Hillsboro project. It’s 100 apartments near Miami Beach and we brought in all the colours of the sea. Wooden floors are bleached, lots of marbles, dark cabinets, natural stones and painted plaster. Now that’s a palette that is true luxury.

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think people want to live right now?

PIET BOON That has changed a lot. Luxury for me, right now, is if you’re happy in your house and if you have privacy. A space to work, a space to be at peace... they’re the true luxuries.

PR Yes, zoning is very important now – even in large open-plan layouts, which many of your projects tend to be. How do you manage to create that sense of having separate areas?

PB Privacy is what makes a good layout. Small spaces where you can leave your laptop and not have to see it when you’re not working. You know, a lot of my clients

or kitchen table and good appliances then these are all the ingredients you need. The best moments of the day are the morning and evening, when everyone is hanging out in the kitchen.

PR That’s the vibe I get from your recent project in Amsterdam – it’s minimalist, for sure, especially its palette. But thanks to the clever design choices it seems like a space to hang out in – I can see a whole life playing out around those shapes and colours.

PB That’s because of the playful kitchen table that we placed in it.

PR Exactly. And a reminder to me, as

The 'palette of true luxury' at Piet Boon's new Miami development



RAF daybed by Studio Piet Boon



The dining space in the Piet Boon-designed Amsterdam apartment