

# An education

*The Japanese art of wabi-sabi, or finding beauty in nature's transient imperfections, inspired the conversion of this Amsterdam school into a home*

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PHOTOGRAPHY DE PASQUALE + MAFFINI

**Living room** Custom-made, five-metre-high shelves house the owners' souvenirs and works by artisans including Florencia Rojas, Laura Pasquino and Patricia Hofstede, all sourced from Hum Gallery. On the wall between the shelves hangs a tapestry by Atelier Paradis, its warm, rich tones echoed by Bea Mombaers' modular sofa for Serax and a Berber rug. Colin King's 'Interconnect' candlestick and the 'Duca' candle holder by Kroyer-Saetter-Lassen, both for Audo Copenhagen, sit on the 'Shokunin' coffee table from Wdstick. A bio-ethanol fireplace is suspended in one corner, with an 'Abaca' teak armchair from HK Living in front. Across the room stands the 'Phantom' pedestal table by Kristian Sofus Hansen and Tommy Hyldahl for 101 Copenhagen. An ink painting by Patrick van Riemsdijk hangs in the middle of two lofty windows ▶



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hen work began on this home in a former schoolhouse, Carla Radoll and Bruno Graça, founders of interiors studio Hum, aimed to shake off its educational atmosphere and add a more personal style. What they offered its owners, a Brazilian-Portuguese couple, was more than just a selection of beautiful objects. The duo, known for their curatorial approach (they also run Hum Gallery, an online resource of artisan finds), proposed an in-depth makeover to take advantage of the dreamy light from the property's large windows. 'They contacted us to find the appropriate furniture and we ended up choosing everything, even the texture of the walls,' laughs Carla.

To reconcile the industrial, grungy and radical stylistic leanings of one client with the more natural, cosy taste of the other, Carla and Bruno developed an 'urban wabi-sabi' aesthetic. This approach is expressed using neutral colours and an elemental palette of materials – 'a backdrop that highlights the objects we like to find and which brings character to the interior', explains Carla. Each of the elements was chosen to reflect the personalities of the owners, who travel extensively. 'We integrated their many memories from the four corners of the world, but we've also left space for those that they will bring back in the future,' she says. Richly layered and full of meaning, this home is dedicated to the art of evolving gently. [humgallery.com](http://humgallery.com) ►

**Above** Books, vintage objects picked up at antique fairs and a concrete tray by X+L are displayed on wooden shelves. The textural artwork above is Arno Hoogland's 'Wave Naturel S' from OODE Gallery. The branch in the stoneware urn was sourced from the Pompon Flower Shop in Amsterdam  
**Opposite** Carla Radoll and Bruno Graça, founders of interiors brand Hum Studio & Gallery





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**Dining room** The owners wanted this space to be radically different from the old one, whose cramped table made it impossible to host their friends. They opted for Studio Henk's three-metre-long 'Slot' in black lacquered walnut, with a pendant light by Mexican ceramists Popdots, specially created for the project, hanging overhead. The travertine plate on the table is from Space Copenhagen's 'Collect' series for &Tradition. On the wall hangs a work by Patrick van Riemsdijk. Nanimarquina's 'Telares' rug and antique chairs add further texture and tone to this monochrome scheme **Kitchen** As this area is open to the living room, Hum took care to maintain a degree of imperfection in the textures of the walls and the irregular curves of the handcrafted objects on display here. The layout was chosen to highlight the vases and cups made by artisans from the Amsterdam region, and floral arrangements from local florist Pompon ►

**TV room** This cocoon-like corner is decorated in mineral tones and is separated from the rest of the home by a bookcase that cleverly integrates all the electrical cables. Casa Gitane's organically shaped 'Pebble' coffee table and the 'Sara' sofa from L'Authentique are the focal points of the space. The former holds an 'Equi' travertine bookend from Artilleriet. The rug was designed by Hum's Bruno Graça and made in Portugal. In the background, an ikebana bouquet and silk painting by studio X+L punctuate the soft, naturalistic colour palette.

**Hallway** Peter Zumthor's 'Candela di Vals' pendant lamp for Viabuzzuno hovers above the 'Phantom' pedestal table by Kristian Sofus Hansen and Tommy Hyldahl for 101 Copenhagen. The chair is from Casa Gitane >



Neutral colours and an elemental palette of materials highlight objects and bring character to the interior



**Bedroom** Wood is omnipresent here, 'to make you feel more relaxed', explains Carla. The headboard is made of a raw wooden board, barely varnished. On the left of the bed, Ay Illuminate's 'Pickle' pendant dominates the 'Big Foot' bedside table by Kristian Sofus Hansen and Tommy Hyldahl for 101 Copenhagen. To the right is a ceramic lamp from Soho Home. A painting by Patricia Hofstede on the wall above brings together all the colours in the room. Facing the bed, Hum Studio made the television disappear behind a wooden panel. In the recess, the door to the adjoining bathroom slides into the bespoke joinery. The natural-wool rug is the 'Colonnade no.02' by Cappelen Dimyr and the curtains are from Larsen [See Stockists page for details](#) **ED**