

OLEG KLODT'S DUTCH ADVENTURE

The house in the Dutch town of Amstelveen has quite a history. It was once home to the artist Gerard Schäperkötter. The interior was furnished entirely for the purpose of creating art: living was of secondary importance.

All that changed drastically when the current occupants bought the house and the Russian architect, Oleg Klodt, was commissioned to carry out their alteration requirements.

He tore open the interior, streamlined and enlarged the living spaces and added a conservatory-kitchen.

In homage to the previous owner, there are still paintings on the walls by Schäperkötter.



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Above: architect Oleg Klodt transformed the living area in the Amstelveen house into one large open space. In the background, the new kitchen-conservatory which was added during the revamp.
Below left: architect Oleg Klodt. Below: the living room seen from the kitchen.



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Below: the first floor contains the master bedroom with ensuite dressing room and bathroom. The painting above the bed is by Gerard Schäperkötter. Below left: the family's music room – every member of the family plays an instrument. Top right: the entrance hall and the new open staircase in blue-stone; it leads to the first floor with the bedrooms. Here, another painting by Schäperkötter. Below that: the kitchen has been installed in a new conservatory abutting the large outdoor terrace.

Oleg Klodt was born in Moscow and comes from a prominent family: Clodt von Jürgensburg – a family of artists and descendants of the famous sculptor Pjotr Karlovich Klodt. Oleg graduated from the Moscow Architectural Institute in 1998 and set up an architectural practice with Alexander Erman. In those days the prerequisites were creativity and innovative use of materials. In addition, he was developing his eye for detail; he began designing furniture for his projects, which were increasing apace. At the start of the 21st century he designed an interior which could appropriately be classified as the height of luxury. It was the Grokholsky Lane project in Moscow and was realised at a time when the European interior style was catching on in Russia. The terms 'chic' and 'elegant' were acquiring a new dimension. Oleg Klodt, who was meanwhile operating independently, started furnishing more and more houses abroad – one of which is the house in Amstelveen, the Netherlands, which he radically refurbished for business acquaintances. The house once belonged to the artist, Gerard Schäperkötter, who lived there from 1959, working on his extensive oeuvre of monumental oil paintings, gouaches, portraits, watercolours and collages. His work was inspired by the Cobra movement and the École de Paris. And, as is so often the case with artists, his home served primarily as a studio with some space allocated for living in. The present owners encountered an organised chaos when they ac-

quired the house at the end of 2009. In honour of the artist, who died in 2006, they purchased a number of his works. They hang throughout the house. However, considerable adjustments first had to be made, to both the architecture and the layout. Today the owners explain: "When we first got here the house was full of paintings. It was actually one huge studio and unsuitable for family living. We asked Oleg to come up with a design – it amounted to a complete demolition of the interior of the house. Once done, it could be rebuilt step by step, and enlarged in places. Where there is now a bay window in the master bedroom, there used to be a balcony which passed into the house. Similarly, extra space has been created in various places, the main enlargement being the conservatory which was added to the original dwelling. It now serves as a roomy, open-plan kitchen and dining room." The big new front door opens into a roof-high hall. The stone flooring runs straight through to the back of the house. In the hall there is a floating staircase to the first floor where the master bedroom and bathroom, two children's rooms plus bathroom and a music room are situated. On the ground floor there is a study-cum-spare bedroom off the hallway. From the front door a corridor leads to the open living room and the equally open kitchen-conservatory. Oleg Klodt was originally contacted by the husband, whose parents had enlisted the designer's help in designing interiors in their houses and apartment in Moscow.

