

home stories



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This winter, we take a look behind the doors of three homes. First, we will visit the house of art collectors Karin and Xavier Donck in the old quarter of Ghent. We are then invited to the rural haven of stylist Adeline and farmer Florent Maillet. And finally, artist Paul Schrader welcomes us to his urban oasis in Hamburg, where he both lives and works. These three spaces and their interiors are as different as their residents which is reflected in the selection of Vitra products.

Left-hand page: Fauteuil Direction Pivotalant · Twill, 01 light grey · 41 Prouvé Bleu Marcoule powder-coated (smooth) · Jean Prouvé, 1951 | Compas Direction · 70 natural solid oak, oiled · 41 Prouvé Bleu Marcoule powder-coated (smooth) · Jean Prouvé, 1953 | Page 6/7: Suita 3-seater, classic · Nubia, 05 cream/dark brown · Antonio Citterio, 2010/2019 | Fauteuil de Salon · Nubia, 04 bamboo/terra · 94 Prouvé Métal Brut powder-coated · Jean Prouvé, 1939 | Page 8/10: Softshell Chair, four-legged base · Dumet, 28 sage/steel blue · Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec, 2008 | EM Table 900 x 2000 mm · 70 natural solid oak, oiled · 94 Prouvé Métal Brut powder-coated · Jean Prouvé, 1950



With a shared love of hospitality and heritage, Karin and Xavier Donck collect vintage furniture and art.

‘Every object has its own story. The more objects you have from all over the world, the more stories you bring into your home.’

‘We collect a lot of things. When we visit a city, we look for special pieces and always purchase something. Sometimes we both fall in love with a work of art or a piece of furniture, a nice object or a plant. Once acquired, these pieces move and circulate, migrating through the house. We are lucky we have three sub-collectors – our children. They are happy to take whatever they like or claim for themselves. I have no doubt that the objects will survive me, which is a nice feeling.

As a couple, we share the same attitude toward aesthetics. The evolution of our common taste is the product of an ongoing discussion between the two of us. We fell in love with Prouvé and Perriand for different reasons. Prouvé for his technicality, his engineering, Perriand for her materiality, her use of dark wood. When you learn about their careers and how they went through life, it gives you a better understanding of their creations.

We rearrange a lot. Doubt and intuition go hand in hand. Doubt cultivates creativity. The house is a very nice example of this process because we can decide to switch around the dining room and living room over the course of a single day, and then put it all back the next morning if we’re unhappy with the results.

Opening our home to friends and family has been a guiding motto in our lives. All our children have a key to the house. We have no sense of ownership. We like them to use it as if it were still their home. The most important item in the house is the dining table, where we come together and enjoy social gatherings and entertaining, with good food and wine. For this you need comfortable furnishings and loving family and friends. Maybe that’s the essence of everything. Good conversations.’

Karin and Xavier Donck, an interior designer and architect, live in Ghent, Belgium.



Buy a set of six dining chairs and receive the sixth chair as a gift.*



* Offer valid from 1 November 2022 until 31 January 2023. The least expensive chair will be free of charge.

The following Vitra dining chairs are included in this offer (any combination possible): Standard, Standard SP, Chaise Tout Bois, Panton Chair, Panton Chair Classic, Softshell Chair, Moca, HAL (excluding swivel base), Tip Ton, Tip Ton RE, APC, EVO-C, .03, .05 and Belleville Chair.



Adeline and Florent Maillet left the city to build their ideal home in touch with nature.

‘Our life is dictated by cycles, not by speed. We are trying to find our own rhythm. By reviving the farm, we aim to weave a thread between the great-grandparents and the grandchildren.’

‘When we took over our family farm about 15 years ago, we had lived in the city for about ten years and thought: ‘If we move out of the city, we have to build the house we always dreamt of.’ We wanted a house that fits into the landscape, that does not distort its surroundings – nature, the fields. We wanted it to be on a human scale. To us an ideal house is a simple house. No frills. Who needs six bedrooms, four floors? We have a wood stove that warms the body and the heart. A home is a place where we feel free, inside and out. We have space, we have light, we have peace. We made sure there are large windows and lots of plants. We feel that nature is what really decorates this house. The light changes with the seasons. Every morning when we get up, we always take five minutes to look outside. We stand in front of the window and gaze out at the trees. This view is the most beautiful screen.

Once spring arrives, we’re always outside – with

our hands in the earth, pruning trees, mowing the lawn. In the winter, we’re indoors by the fire. During the spring, we collect wood, which we cut for the next winter. Slow life, slow food are trendy expressions. For us it is not a trend. It’s our life. We plant hedges and trees, we have animals, which are now 10 or 15 years old. The traces of our elders are visible every day, in the landscape, in the walls that have been built, in the shape of the plots, in the fruit trees they planted. When choosing furniture, we like things that have a past and evoke emotion. We like wooden furniture. Wood comforts. We’re not interested in decoration for decoration’s sake. We want things that are of quality, which we can pass on to our children.’

Adeline Maillet is an interior stylist, her husband Florent is a farmer. They live in their wooden eco-house on their family’s farm near Lyon, France.

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Buy a HAL Lounge Chair and receive an Ottoman as a gift.*



HAL Lounge Chair Jasper Morrison, 2021

The HAL Lounge Chair is compact and yet extremely comfortable. It comes with soft loose seat and neck cushions or, if preferred, with an integrated seat cushion. Jasper Morrison's products bear his distinctive signature. In his hands, understatement results in designs that radiate a sense of calm and steer away from fashionable trends.

The timeless aesthetic is supported by the fact that the covers of the HAL Lounge Chair – and also of the HAL Ottoman – can be fully removed for cleaning or replacement, extending the product lifespan and ensuring greater sustainability.



Previous page: HAL Soft Wood · Dumet, 31 indigo melange, 02 beige melange, 07 ginger/grey · 10 natural oak, with protective varnish · Jasper Morrison, 2021 | Plate Dining Table 900 x 1800 mm · 70 natural solid oak, oiled · 30 basic dark powder-coated (textured) · Jasper Morrison, 2018 | Left-hand page: HAL Lounge Chair & Ottoman, with loose seat cushion · Nubia, 06 cream/sierra grey · 10 natural oak, with protective varnish · Jasper Morrison, 2021

* Offer valid from 1 November 2022 until 31 January 2023. The Ottoman will come in the same configuration as the HAL Lounge Chair.



Paul Schrader has created a studio and home for himself and his art.

‘Painting is a very private process – you need to feel secure and at ease. You need a place where you can open up and let go.’

‘When I graduated high school, I didn’t think being an artist was a real profession. I first studied law and became a lawyer. But painting was always there. I believe that when you feel a burning passion for something, you release energy and create things that you wouldn’t otherwise be able to achieve.

Inspiration is like a spring or a river. The next flow of ideas always comes, but you can’t tell when. It might be at night or while riding the subway. For me, it’s mainly colour combinations, inner landscapes or dreamscapes. It’s a feeling that I then express in colours. I live and work in different places, but this is my base, this is where I like to paint the most. It doesn’t work everywhere. A house is like a canvas. Mine has very high walls and high ceilings, all in white, and the paintings are displayed against this background.

I like to keep my furniture in the same spot. Once it fits, it fits. It’s like a painting that you compose and then is never changed. When it comes to furnishing, I don’t follow a strategy: I like something, and it all sort of fits together and just like a painting, furniture can function as a time capsule. The moment of reaction has passed, but there was someone who painted it or, in the case of furniture, who designed it. When you see an art work, you recognise an intrinsic value, a cultural context in mind. The author, the time and the work merge into a single idea. That also applies to classic furniture.’

Paul Schrader, first worked as a lawyer before becoming a freelance artist. He lives and works in Hamburg, Germany.

Buy a Vitra lounge chair & ottoman and receive a side table or stool as a gift.*



* Offer valid from 1 November 2022 until 31 January 2023. Applies to the following Vitra lounge chairs: Grand Relax & Ottoman, Grand Repos/Repos & Ottoman/Panchina. Gift can be chosen from the following selection: Tabouret Solvay (natural or dark oak), Cork Family (any model), Wooden Side Table (small).

Grand Repos
Antonio Citterio, 2011

The swivel lounge armchairs Repos and Grand Repos offer exceptional comfort with their generously padding and inviting armrests. Thanks to a concealed synchronised mechanism, the backrest can be moved from an upright position to a reclined angle and locked in any position. Its resistance can also be manually adjusted to the user's weight.

Ten years after its launch, the Repos family has been updated in line with the latest technical developments. The covers in fabric or leather can be fully removed and replaced, which significantly extends the lifespan of the chairs. In addition, the plastic components in the inner body consist of 95% recycled materials.



Left-hand page: Grand Repos & Ottoman · Dumet, 27 pale blue/emerald · Antonio Citterio, 2011 |
Cork Family, Model A · Jasper Morrison, 2004

New colours and materials

Jean Prouvé

The colours Prouvé developed for the steel elements of his furniture and his architecture drew on various references – from his Blé Vert, which describes the colour of young green wheat, to Gris Vermeer, which alludes to the grey tones in the work of the painter Johannes Vermeer. Yet according to Prouvé, who believed in the ‘nature of a material’, only parts in danger of corroding should be painted, which is why he left wooden and aluminium elements in an untreated state whenever possible.



Right-hand page: Standard · 10 natural oak, with protective varnish · 14 Prouvé Bleu Dynastie powder-coated (smooth) · Jean Prouvé, 1934/1950 | Guéridon Ø 900 mm · 70 natural solid oak, oiled · Jean Prouvé, 1949



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