

Leese exemplaar

to Mama and Papa
to Jo

Grand Interiors

by Geoffroy Van Hulle

P E L C K M A N S



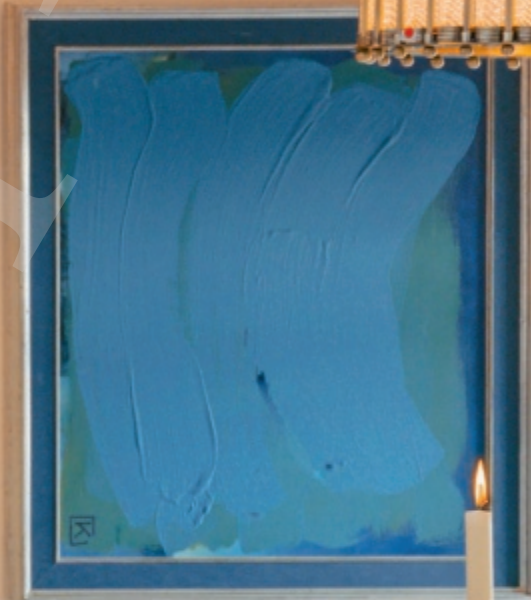


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rand, Enthralling, theatrical, dramatic: that is how interior designer Geoffroy Van Hulle describes his 'Grand Interiors'. 'You can lead a grand life in these spaces, as if you're the main character in your own film,' he says.

Renzo Mongiardino, Tony Duquette, Cecil Beaton, and David Hicks: they are the grand decorators he aims to measure himself against. In this monograph, you'll discover exactly why he belongs in such illustrious company.

In the great Van Hulle dictionary, 'grand' stands for grandeur and grandiose. And for Grand Tour and Grand Cru, too. Because the interiors Geoffroy Van Hulle creates are grand as well as cru: simultaneously magnificent and unrestrained. It's something only the very greatest in his field ever achieve.





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t always starts with a spark. Something the homeowners say or something from the house itself. It hits me and quickly becomes a wildfire. Choosing one table spills over to the chairs. The fabric on those chairs speaks to the curtains on the wall. Those touch the ceiling that whispers a color or a pattern. To furnish a home is to frame life itself. You make one plan, then something else happens. I don't make a plan and little miracles occur. A house knows quite well what it wants and so do its occupants—they just can't always put it into words. And that's why I'm here. I'm the interpreter of unspoken desires and wishes for things you can stand, sit, or lie on. The inside of a home mirrors the inside of a soul. The place where the true essence resides. The day's resting place and the springboard into tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Geoffroy Van Hulle





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If he could, Geoffroy Van Hulle would update his atelier home on a weekly basis. Much like a chef is always tweaking signature dishes with seasonal ingredients in mind, the Belgian interior designer is always making adjustments to his own decor. Throughout the grand spaces where he lives and works, Van Hulle has embraced an experimental approach. However perfect his sitting areas and other rooms may appear, they're never entirely finished. They're bursting with exciting ideas, though; at times a success, at times still a work in progress.

Van Hulle believes a home is a setting that demands to be in constant flux. 'At the very least, every house needs a winter and a summer coat,' he says. 'It's why I switch out the sofa and the drapes every season, for instance. You wouldn't wear a linen shirt in winter, would you?'

There's no better illustration of the dynamics of Van Hulle's atelier home than its staircases. Although they are some of the few permanent elements in the home, they still speak volumes about his vision on home living. The monumental white plaster spiral staircase near the front is much more than a sterile connective channel between levels.

Through its clash of soft and hard, matte and glossy textures, the staircase has become a 'location' in its own right: its details, the experience it delivers, are just as fully developed as a kitchen or a seating area. It's a testament to the level of precision Van Hulle brings to everything he does.



Leesvoorbeeld





Leessexemplaar











It's also hardly a coincidence that the newest wing in the atelier home has a wrought iron spiral staircase. The work of art was inspired by the staircase in the Parisian studio of sculptor Antoine Bourdelle (1861–1929). The reference isn't gratuitous: Van Hulle's home truly is one big art studio. A place where he—much like a sculptor—explores the possibilities of shape, color, material, texture, and volume. A place where he can welcome his clientele *en grandeur* in a setting that's forever mutating. His atelier is the perfect place to approach the challenge of expanding his interior design lexicon.

'Though I'm an absolute materialist who adores luxury, I'm not at all attached to the objects in my interior. The sooner something leaves again, the better. Because that's when I get to accept yet another challenge of building a new setting,' he explains. 'My house is a laboratory of intuition where I can shamelessly push the limits beyond what I do for my clients. Kitchen cabinets covered in velour? I can afford to release the handbrake and make unusual choices here.'