

FRAME



Issue 91

The Great Indoors

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Live Large

BIG IDEAS FOR HOMES, HOTELS AND SHOPS
FROM THE BOURULLECS, DAVID CHIPPERFIELD, JULIE D'AUBIOL
T H O M A S D E M A N D
FRONT, NOEMIE GOUDAL, ALFREDO HÄBERLI, MOBY, OMA
MARCEL WANDERS, SUZUKO YAMADA AND
L O S A N G E L E S

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The Temporary House

02 Architect Julie D'Aubioul is turning a run-down factory into a home - and living there during the conversion.



Belgian architect Julie D'Aubioul bought a former textile factory and converted it to a temporary home for her, making smart use of mobile units to create living space.

Residence

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To give the gigantic industrial hall an air of intimacy, D'Aubioul added a wavy, thin and, pictured here, a small aviary.



Words: Chris Meplon
Photos: Tim Van de Velde

Dating from 1880, an old textile factory in a village just outside Ghent, Belgium, was on its last legs. When architect Julie D'Aubioul and boyfriend Sijn Landuyt discovered the building, however, it was love at first sight. Shabby exterior, rickety roof - nothing could dampen their enthusiasm.

From the outset, their idea was not to give the long brick warehouse with its five-sectioned sawtooth roof a makeover so radical that the result would look like a brand-new building. They cherish beams marked with workers' names and dates from a long-ago era. They delight in the high brick chimney and the scars left by a succession of functions, the most recent being a storage facility for cars.

D'Aubioul and Landuyt see the historical building first and foremost as a vast shelter. All new elements are detached from its

exterior walls. Thanks to the inventive approach, they do not have to insulate, heat or furnish the whole 40-x-20-m interior.

During the first phase of the conversion, the couple is occupying two temporary modules on wheels: a bedroom and a living room, pragmatically designed and built out of standard OSB panels. These units will continue to be used - as mobile storage space, for example - when the definitive house (a 40-m-long volume beneath the second roof section) is completed.

Within the enormous factory interior, the two units bookend a pleasant intermediate dining area. The domestic feel inside the adjacent modules is part inner courtyard, part veranda, an ambience reinforced by the presence of an aviary for parakeets, sansevierias and a wading D'Aubioul calls the modules 'cozy cocoons, free of dust and dirt, warm and enclosed, with the fresh aroma of sawn wood and soft light entering from above - an 'ideal spot where you can leave the world behind'.

—Julie D'Aubioul



The former business barbershop and living room, both of which are made of an edible plywood. The bookshelves were a piece of cake.



Residents' Review

Julie D'Auboué, Stijn Landuyt, two cats and a colourful collection of parakeets

What makes this place special?

Julie D'Auboué: Our perception of interior and exterior is different from that of someone living in an ordinary house on an ordinary street. And the way we use the building – in tune with the seasons – is also different. In the winter, you'll find us in the little cocoons, but when the weather warms up, we use the entire space.

Favourite spot? At the moment, that would be my office, but I'm looking forward to having an inner courtyard. Between the south-facing outer wall and our future residence will be an elongated covered garden. Like the house, it will stretch 40 m from end to end, and sliding glass doors over the entire length of the house will allow access to this outdoor area.

Another 'little cocoon' in the office of architect Julie D'Auboué, who plans to reuse the studio units after finishing the definitive house. Now under construction.

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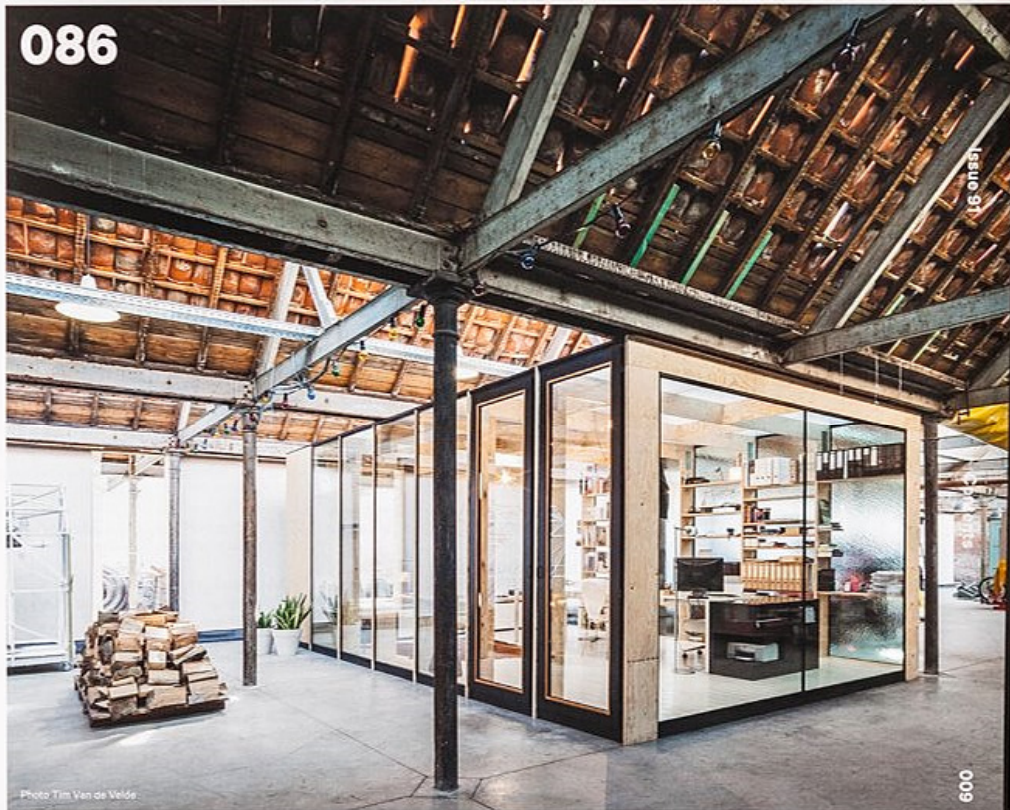


Photo: Tim Van de Velde

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