

ELLE DECORATION

NOVEMBER 2022

**Inventive
extensions**
to make homes
bigger & better

**Not just for
sleep & sex...**
the bedroom
trends for 2023

Design masters
Paul Smith,
Piero Lissoni &
David Chipperfield

The beauty of
STRUCTURE

£5.99

11



9 770957 894274

Sleep, party, repeat...

Strictly speaking, Sabine Marcelis doesn't have a bedroom. Instead, the vast open-plan home that the Rotterdam-based designer shares with her partner and toddler centres around a huge bed enclosed in a curtain. It's their base for sleep, of course, but also for work, hanging out and even the occasional karaoke night

Known for her use of light and colour in her work, which spans lighting, furniture and architectural interventions, Sabine Marcelis has collaborated with the likes of Fendi, Celine, Established & Sons and Ikea. She also designed a colourful public-seating installation in St Giles Square for London Design Festival 2022. Her most personal project began in 2016, though, when she and her architect partner, Paul Cournot, bought an old paper-factory storage unit, dividing it into two rental apartments and making their home in the other half of the vast space. This was never a traditional home

layout, but the arrival of their first child, a week before lockdown, prompted the couple to update their sleeping arrangements. We sat down with Marcelis to discuss how they made the change...

Tell us about your recent bedroom project?

We'd had a futon since we moved in, then we had a baby and I was like, 'I need a bed where I can lean against the back for breastfeeding and stuff.' Like many other things in the house, we couldn't find anything to buy that we liked, so decided to design it ourselves. The old bed is still underneath this new frame, which we clad with ►

Below Sabine sits in her do-it-all bed, which is clad in a wood veneer by Ettore Sottsass for Alpi

'We couldn't find a bed that we liked, so we decided to design it ourselves'



WORDS: PHOEBE FRANGOUL; PICTURE: SABINE MARCELIS

project

vener plywood by Ettore Sottsass for Alpi, to transform it into this big object in the space. The way we like to live is to be constantly mixing things up, and our large open-plan apartment allows that; there are no defined zones. We keep changing everything around – now, we've turned the bed by 90 degrees, so it's facing the outside area, which gives it a really different vibe.

What do you love most about your new bed?

I really enjoy the way it's built – it has this chunky, 40cm perimeter going all around it, so we don't need additional surfaces or storage in the bedroom. I really like objects that don't require another little table next to it or a charger – here, it's all built into the bed. I hope it will grow with us, as we grow as a family.


What are the benefits of open-plan living and how does your bed fit into that?

The nice thing about our house is it's super flexible – we can create really intimate spaces, but it's also a perfect party place when opened up. You can fit a lot of people in here. It's not a problem to have the bed in the middle of the apartment, because people can just chill on it. Like everything in our house, it has many uses. We've had karaoke parties in here and it doesn't feel as if you're in our bedroom!

How do you define the boundary of the bedroom?

The only thing that makes it a 'bedroom' is there are curtains you can close around the bed. There are two layers: the first is semi-transparent and the second is opaque, made of a silver material normally used to reflect sun out of greenhouses. These allow us to play with how much light gets to the bed.

What's your favourite time to enjoy this space?

I really enjoy it in here in the evenings. When it's dark, the outside lights are on and only the sheer curtain layer is drawn around the bed, it feels almost majestic. It's lovely, especially in the summer when the door to the outside patio is still open – it doesn't seem like Rotterdam, it feels way more Mediterranean. sabinemarcelis.com 

**'When it's dark,
and the curtains
are drawn around
the bed, it feels
almost majestic'**



From top Paul Cournet and Sabine Marcelis with the now-toddler that prompted their bedroom project; the bedroom sits at the centre of their open-plan home