



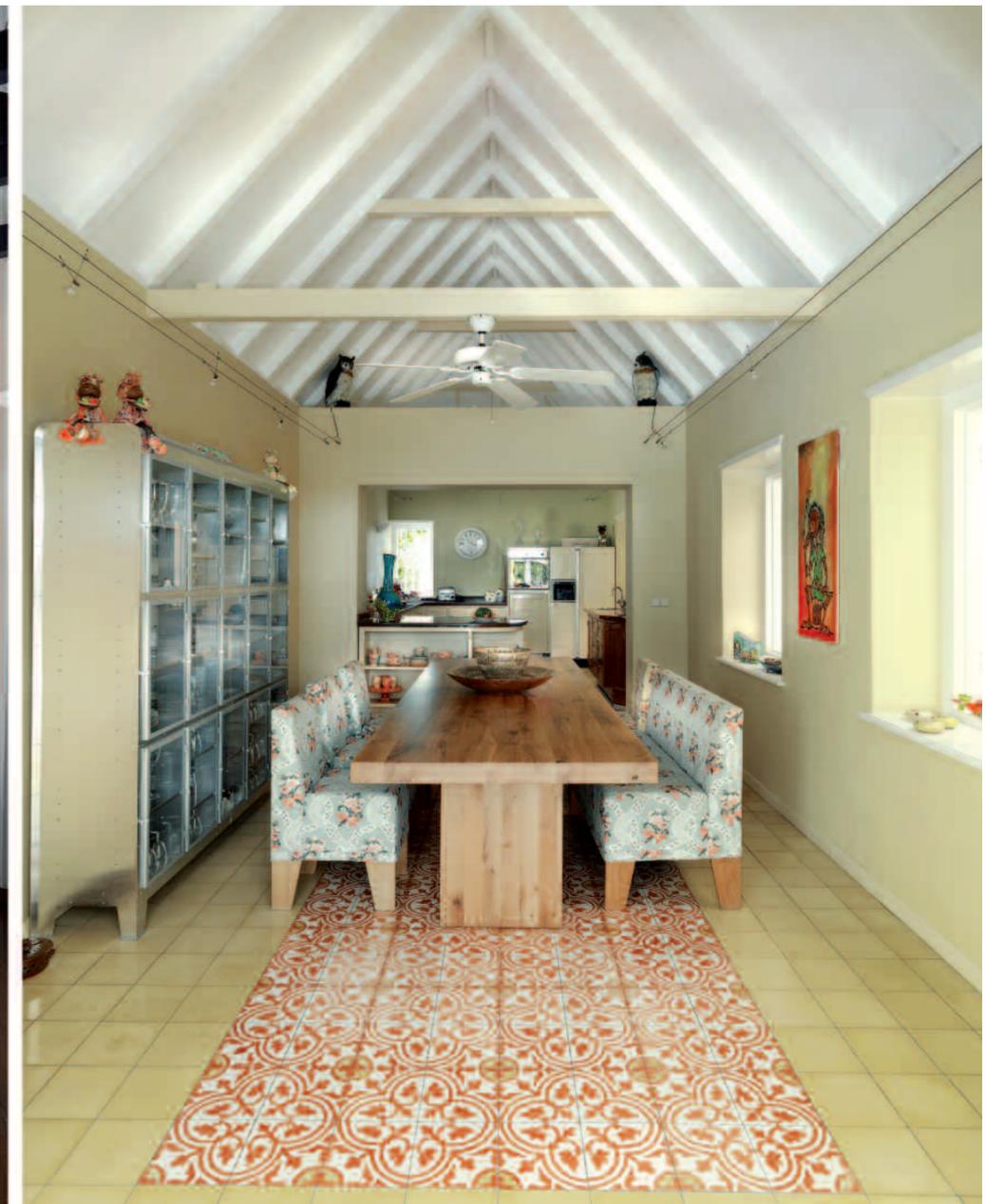
These pages: a villa in the Boca Gentil project along the coast of the Caribbean island of Curaçao. It was furnished by Dianne and Ruud Zegwaart (below right), who are creating a stir in this part of the world with Lot 1038, their design store for the interior. They have sourced their product range from collections by Tribu, Driade, Metal Arte, Moooi, La Palma and Foscarini.

text and photos: Hans Fonk

TROPICAL INTERIOR PASSION

They have pursued their passion for interior art and introduced prominent design brands to a tropical island. “European design with a Caribbean touch is a way for us to bring the colourful gaiety of the surroundings into the interior”, we were told by Dianne and Ruud Zegwaart, who are swiftly conquering that part of the archipelago with their Lot 1038 on Curaçao. They have already completed numerous major projects and, once a year, they make a big splash at the Curaçao Heineken Regatta.





They met on the nightlife scene of the Caribbean island of Curaçao. After she graduated from hotel management college, she worked for a time in various restaurants. He was posted to Curaçao by Volker Stevin construction company.

The island continued to intrigue them and they decided to turn their passion for the interior into something tangible, embarking on their bold enterprise. They took the first steps from their small plantation home among the cactuses of the 'mondi' - the scrubby wasteland far removed from the built-up area.

"We felt we had to test the water to see if there was any interest in design", Ruud explained. "We thought if people wanted something special, they would find their way to us. We're entirely self-taught in the interior design field. You should see it as a hobby. We've gradually worked our way into the design world. We've become familiar with good brands, ones we thought had potential over here. Today our product range comprises 53 European brands, in particular by Dutch, Belgian and Italian companies." Those early days in the little plantation house seem far away since they

moved the business to new premises in the middle of the densely-populated island. They called it Lot 1038 after the plot of land they acquired. And their daughter is also called Lot - hardly a coincidence, surely?

Their working space amounts to 220 square metres divided over one-and-a-half floors - large enough to give clients an idea of the wide variety of furniture, fabrics, tiles, accessories and lighting, for indoor and outdoor use. Many of the design products find a home on terraces and patios - something that is inherent in outdoor life in tropical climates.

Today Dianne and Ruud can boast a great many completed projects. They have, for example, furnished most of the villas in the Boca Gentil coastline project, as well as having various undertakings elsewhere on the island. They recently completed the first phase of furnishing an old, characteristic building in which the original architecture has been combined with modern design.

They are approaching a sunny future with optimism - and not only on account of the weather. Their clientele now reaches far beyond the confines of Curaçao : today they are furnishing homes on other islands and in Venezuela.

These pages: the interior of a traditional Curaçao house with a large sitting room on the first floor. Furniture from Linteloo, rug, lamps and accessories by Moooi. Top right: the kitchen containing furniture and fabrics by Piet Hein Eek. Below: a large garden table by Piet Hein Eek and, beside that, a connecting room on the ground floor containing various pieces of furniture, including a chair by B&B Italia.

