



Nicolas Schuybroek

The office was founded by Nicolas Schuybroek (born in Brussels, 1981) in 2011 and cultivates a small scale philosophy.

Their work philosophy is one that cannot be narrowed down to or described by the type or scale of projects they handle. Each project is unique and deeply influenced by the context, the wishes and aspirations of the client and the strong relationship they build with their clients.

Their work takes time, passion and patience.

The work of architect Nicolas Schuybroek is a quest for in-depth substance and warmth. The process usually takes a metaphysical turn during the early design phase. From time immemorial, man has built to protect himself but their work adds additional layers to that definition. Although architecture is often described as something materialistic by its very nature, Nicolas pursues the idea of architecture as a way of creating a soothing, protective, or even healing atmosphere.

His work is deeply rooted in the concept of the Gesamtkunstwerk, where architecture, interiors, art and furniture blend into one single “built object”. He and his collaborators are not interested in creating a “show-off” type architecture but rather by embracing the essence of materials and objects. What they do might seem simple, but only in appearance. They strive to generate emotions and define a new type of poetics of space.

Nicolas’ work can be described as monastic, warm timeless minimalistic, quiet and serene. He seeks to create spaces and volumes carefully carved by proportion, geometry, circulation, voids and lines. The use of raw, authentic, simple and noble materials, helps Schuybroek and his team create pared-down architectures with a soul.

The office is small but global. A very committed team of people from different horizons which allows them to take on projects far beyond their borders, embracing cultural differences, in various languages.



AD / S House / MK House / Sonkès / MM House

AD Intérieurs 2018, Paris, France (p. 122-123)

The Bath Salon. Grey taverline, patinated bronze, distressed oak, raw plaster finishes... The way the restrained material pallet blends into the structural design evolves towards rigorism while a soft light delicately appeases the space. The bathroom space is composed with precision, symmetry and proportion : the bathtub is recessed within a cove while the sinks are decorated by oversized round mirrors and vintage italian sconces placed in perfect symmetry with the central bench. This classical composition is complemented with Art déco references while remaining in accordance with Nicolas Schuybroek's style : timeless space, serene, warm minimalistic and rough, tactile and elegant materials.

S House, Cap d'Antibes, France (p. 124-127)

This single story holiday house is a superb example of elegance and minimalism. Linear and geometric, it delicately and artfully blends into its stunning French Riviera environment. Located in a landscape of unique beauty, the house looks out on to the Mediterranean Sea and the Lérins Islands. It is a unique constructive volume with stretched-out openings on the seaside views and the outside pool where continuity between carefully exterior and interior elements soften the harshness of the concrete volume. Simple, honest and well-proportioned architecture is seamlessly incorporated in the beautiful landscape.

MK House, Antwerp, Belgium (p. 128 top)

A great deal of time was spent on the architectural part of the renovation of this listed townhouse from the 18th century: re imaging circulations, volumes, connections between spaces and most importantly, introducing natural light. The goal was to create a timeless, warm-minimalist and elegant house in tune with it's past and the clients needs. The notion of apparent simplicity became a key design element in this project: it was about reinventing a certain type of minimalism and sophistication where the light, volumes and proportions would be as important as the refined interior details and materials. The monastic appearance of the house is lifted by the raw textures: the wooden beam ceiling, distressed chevron oak floors, honed marble and a beautifully balanced collection of mid-century furniture pieces.

Sonkès, Brussels, Belgium (p. 128 bottom)

The specificity of this project is the remarkable, harmonious and elegant mix of three materials: honed Carrara marble for the wall-mounted shelves and for the pedestals in the box-like open displays which blends into the ever-present oak wood (grey-white brushed for the wall coverings and reclaimed grey oak for the floor; laid down in a herringbone pattern), and the leather and bronze in dark hues introduced in order to lend the space a somewhat more masculine character. Outside, the facade was completely redesigned with thin steel window profiles, clear glass on the ground floor and oceanic glass on the first floor. The shop's awnings were removed to allow for more natural light. The interior offers a welcoming atmosphere of elegance and sophistication, combined with a sense of warmth and comfort. Luxurious materials, along with bespoke furniture pay tribute to the optician's long history and reputation, which has been selling high-end and custom-made spectacles for over 20 years.

MM House, Mexico City, Mexico (p. 129)

This unusual, brutalist house from the early 1970's, located in Chapultepec, the green and upscale neighborhood of Mexico City—well-known for it's embassies and secluded homes—had been left in a total stay of decay over the past few years. The 4 stories high volume is an anomaly for this part of Mexico City, due to it's height and the fact it doesn't have a garden. This project was about creating a secluded, serene urban retreat using a soft, luxurious, yet restrained material palette. The polished concrete floors run throughout the house, as the cemented walls and ceilings, creating a very strong identity and quiet thread. Locally sourced Parotta wood was used for the integrated millwork and a heavily textured Arabescatto marble for the kitchen and bathrooms. The atmosphere of the house is uniquely tranquil, comfortable and surprisingly elegant.







