



# SUPERCHARGED

THE INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE FOR TESLA OWNERS AND ENTHUSIASTS

DECEMBER 2021 N°20



TESLA  
CHAMPAGNE  
TOUR

STARMAN AND  
TESLA CAMPING

TESLA RIDESHARE  
TAXI SERVICE

Issue:  
Brussel X - P925633  
RE: Erik De Ridder  
Photo cover: © Kelly Van Eekel

Serena bay

# Investeer in (hotel)vastgoed op het paradijselijke Kaapverdië



## Rendabel investerings- vastgoed dankzij doordacht concept

Welkom op het uitgestrekte domein van Serena Bay, waar **luxe en exclusiviteit** elkaar treffen in de verschillende typologieën van dit uitzonderlijke vastgoedconcept. Een **verblijf onder de eeuwige zon** voor de vele toeristen op **Kaapverdië** en een meer dan **interessante opportuniteit** voor wie op zoek is naar een **rendabele investering zonder risico's**.

Op het domein vindt u een **hotelresort met luxury suites, luxury apartments met zicht op zee en privétuin, beach villas met swim-up pools, beach houses in het groen en tower apartments met panoramisch zicht**. Daarnaast zijn er ook heel wat voorzieningen voor de gasten zoals bars, restaurants, sport- en wellnesscentra, een heus shoppingcenter en zelfs een Country Club.



*Serena bay*

## Bem Vindo a Cabo Verde!

Het domein van Serena Bay bevindt zich op het Kaapverdische eiland Sal, waar de **zon** altijd schijnt en er een heerlijk **no stress vibe** heerst. Het is dan ook niet verwonderlijk dat het **toerisme** er het voorbije decennium een **exponentiële groei** kende. Hemelsblauw water, hagelwitte stranden, alles nabij... Sal is dé bestemming bij uitstek voor Europeanen.

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DEAR TESLA OWNERS AND CLUB MEMBERS,  
DEAR RESERVATION HOLDERS,  
DEAR SHAREHOLDERS,  
DEAR EV ENTHUSIASTS,  
DEAR SPACE TRAVELLERS,

## ENJOY THE YEAR END CLOSING.

It is still with great pleasure that we see Life getting slowly back to the 'new normal' as vaccination is still ongoing. Club is pleased to know all Members are sound and safe. We were also able to resume events and have some visibility on 2022. Join us, great times ahead !

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**Welcome** to your twentieth edition of SuperCharged, your independent Magazine for Tesla Owners, Reservation holders, Club Members, Shareholders and EV enthusiasts. Time does fly, assembling this Magazine is quite a journey, We would like to thank our Editorial Team (Erik, Bert, Joanna, and all parties involved) for always going the extra mile to make the outcome always top notch professional. Thank you also to all our Members and Readers for accompanying us in such a great Company. Thank you for your readership.

More new Owners are still reaching out; WE are Loving it !

**Welcome** TO ALL new Owners ! The more the merrier, the 'Extended Family' is growing everyday ! We are very pleased to cross roads with more and more Owners, waving at each other: We are delighted to have you onboard and we look forward to our exchanges ! Supercharged is a great way to break the ice and join the Community.

For new readers or simply wanted to read past editions ?

SuperCharged is available online, with past editions : <https://www.teslaclub.be/supercharged>

We look forward to hearing from you, contact us through our Club website.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust.

Further to the events resuming, we have debriefed in full you well known yearly Champagne tour for you. As more and more among us are travelling in style, we have reached out to Eli Burton regarding the Tesla Camping mood and mode. Discover it all in his insights.

More lifestyle topics and content is also featured in this edition.

Thank you so much once more for your readership, we truly appreciate it.

On behalf of Tesla Owners Club of Belgium vzw/asbl,

**Martin Gillet**

**Vice President Global Communications and Marketing Tesla Owners Club Belgium asbl/vzw.**

## ON BEHALF OF TESLA OWNERS CLUB BELGIUM VZW/ASBL



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# CLUB EVENTS

Club is always looking for great venues and ideas to organize cheerful events and memories. Feel free to submit ideas and locations, Community at work, the more ideas, the more creative, the merrier. Team Work !

All our events are listed under eventbrite, join us and plan ahead as places might be limited due to popular demand :  
<https://www.teslaclub.be/en/events>

# NEXT EVENTS & CLUB EVENTS

All Club events can be found under [teslaclub.be/events](https://www.teslaclub.be/en/events) - Join us ! The more the merrier ! Electrifying and cheerful moments as always !

More Events to come ! Watch this space : <https://www.teslaclub.be/en/events>

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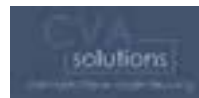




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A special thanks to the Tesla Leadership and the Tesla Owners Club Program for nurturing this amazing community.  
Thanks to all the Tesla staff and all parties involved. Don't drink and drive.



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# THE 2021 TESLA CHAMPAGNE TOUR

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The annual Tesla Champagne tour has become one of the biggest highlights in the club's events calendar, giving members the opportunity to get together and enjoy visits to the region's most prestigious champagne cellars, such as Veuve Cliquot, Mumm and Moët & Chandon. The 2021 edition, at the end of August brought together 29 participants and a convoy of no less than 15 Teslas!

Maxime Robberechts and her fiancé Johnathan Wong (cofounder of Nikola Brussels) were among the participants this year, travelling in their blue Tesla Model X P100D. "We joined the Tesla Champagne Tour for the first time in 2020" says Maxime. "We enjoyed it so much that we immediately decided to be part of the 2021 edition. I just love the concept of this event. We get to meet like-minded people, have nice dinners and visit well-known, as well as lesser-known Champagne cellars. At the end of November, we plan to drive back to one of the Champagne cellars we visited to refill our stock."





### RENDEZ-VOUS REIMS, THE CAPITAL OF THE CHAMPAGNE REGION

The weekend's agenda began on the Friday evening, with a rendez-vous for all participants in Reims, the capital city of France's Champagne region.

"Each year we have a welcome drinks reception at a bistro called Au Petit Comptoir" explains Kelly Van Eekel, Events Manager at Tesla Owners Club Belgium. "This restaurant is in the centre of Reims

and they treat us very well. It's become a tradition that we welcome everyone there with a glass of champagne and brief them on the programme of events for the weekend. Before they arrive we keep the schedule as a surprise. It's also the opportunity for everyone to get to meet each other. For our stay we chose the Novotel Tinquex hotel, just outside of the city, as they have installed superchargers in their car park, so that is super convenient!"



“We had already taken part in three of the previous Tesla Champagne Tours and we certainly did not want to miss out this time” said Elke Heylen, one of this year’s participants. “On Saturday after breakfast, we left the hotel to visit Ruinart champagne house. Ruinart is the oldest of all the champagne houses and was created in 1729 by a Benedictine monk, Thierry Ruinart. The luxurious and elegant interior design of the house, in combination with the modern art, really impressed me.”

### SOUND AND LIGHT ART SHOW IN RUINART’S WINE CELLARS

Our Champagne tourists enjoyed a visit of Ruinart’s cellars, complete with a sound and light art show. Ruinart has been commissioning artists to create unique works of art for its champagne since 1896, beginning with the famous Czech artist, Alfons Mucha. In the run up to its 300th anniversary in 2029, Ruinart is commissioning a series of installation art works, inspired by the themes of sustainability and artificial intelligence. One of the most recent, is



© Kelly Van Eekel



© Kelly Van Eekel



© Byron Soulopoulos



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a stunning sound and video sculpture, deep underground within the cellars.

Ruinart's wine cellars, located under the city of Reims, are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The vast labyrinth of cellars was created from ancient medieval chalk quarries, known as 'crayères'. In some places, they are nearly 40 metres below ground.

"After visiting Ruinart, we enjoyed a beautiful four course lunch, accompanied by champagne, at the Château de Sacy" said Elke. "We had a private dining room with a superb view over the vineyards." "The Château de Sacy is an amazing place and we had a wonderful lunch there" added Kelly. "The fact that we had our own private room made it even more of memorable experience."

### VISITS TO LOCAL VITICULTEURS

On Saturday afternoon, the group moved on to a small local co-operative, where a winegrower shared his expertise in growing and nurturing grapes for champagne. This collective of local wine growers deliver most of their harvest to the region's big champagne houses, but also produce some under their own names. The group was able to try and compare some of these lesser-known champagnes.

It was then time to head back to Reims, where guest enjoyed a gourmet meal and could admire the 'Rêve des Couleurs' light show projected onto the facade of the 800-year-old Reims cathedral.

**REGIONAL CUISINE AND (MORE)  
CHAMPAGNE TASTING**

“On Sunday morning after breakfast, we left the hotel to visit another local champagne maker, Hugues Godmé” said Elke. “This one was located in the heart of the vineyards, and we were able to taste his champagnes in the beautiful surroundings.” “The Hugues Godmé champagne house is passionate about what they do” adds Kelly. “They told us about the history of their family and their business, as well as their wine making process. They are proud to be a fully-independent champagne maker and do everything themselves, from growing the grapes, to harvesting and bottling.”

The weekend culminated in a four course lunch accompanied by champagnes in the Relais de Sillery, a restaurant set in its own gardens and specialising in cuisine from the local area. “This was the first time we had taken a Tesla champagne tour group to this restaurant, but it was really good” says Kelly “The food was great and the staff were very welcoming. It was the ideal location to round up the weekend. See you next year!”

If you would like to join the fun next year, watch out for details in the new year about the 2022 edition of the Tesla Champagne Tour!



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# THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF **STARMAN AND** **TESLA CAMPING**

Eli Burton is well known to many Supercharged readers as the creator of "The Adventures of Starman" series of graphic novels. As well as being the Founder and President of the Tesla Owners Owners Club My Tesla Adventure, he is also a huge fan of Tesla camping. Supercharged Magazine took the opportunity to catch up with Eli about his recent Tesla camping trips and the latest instalments of Starman.

Eli's own Tesla adventure began in 2017, when he took delivery of his first Model S. "Ever since I've been bringing together Tesla owners from around the world, to share in their experiences and have adventures" says Eli. "In the weeks following delivery of my Tesla Model S 75D with FSD "Geek Ship", I discovered that at every supercharging stop was an incredible community of like-minded individuals who care about our future."



### THE NEW ADVENTURES OF STARMAN

The Adventures of Starman is a series of beautifully illustrated graphic novels, inspired by the 2018 Falcon Heavy launch of Starman into space, at the wheel of his red Tesla Roadster.

The series has become hugely popular and four books have now been published - "The Adventures of Starman", "Big Oil Strikes Back", "Operation Darkstone Part 1" and "Operation Darkstone Part 2".

The next goal for Eli and his team is to evolve from comics to animated episodes – and then on to live action movies. "We are now transitioning into a digital environment with the Starman NFT project which you can learn about at [StarmanNFT.com](http://StarmanNFT.com)" explains Eli.

### TESLA CAMPING WORLD WIDE FACEBOOK GROUP:

Eli is the founder of the Tesla Camping World Wide Facebook Group. "I love camping in my Tesla. It's my favorite thing to do, so I started a facebook group to help bring together serious Tesla campers to share their experiences and advice."

"I have been a fan of Tesla Camping for four years now. Even though I'm 6'2 I don't camp alone. My Tesla Adventure includes my partner Dani and we travel the world together camping in a Tesla."

In August, Eli and Dani went to Europe for a ten day Tesla camping trip through Slovenia, the Alps, the Croatian Coast and Italy's Lake Como. "We had the time of our lives and we got to experience the best of Europe from our Tesla."





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### TOP TIPS FOR TESLA CAMPING

“My top tip for Tesla Camping is definitely bring slippers” advises Eli. “It sounds silly but I’m serious! When you step out the back of the Tesla in the middle of the night, or really early in the morning, you will be happy for shoes that are easy to attach! Also don’t forget to set your climate control to manual for Camper mode. This will save you power consumption over the night and give you a consistent nighttime cabin experience.”

“Camper mode is incredible. It gives you all night climate control, and access to USB ports for charging and surround sound music. My second favourite feature is launch control. Entering cheetah mode, watching the nose of the car crouch down and then rocket to a 2.3 second 0-60 is a maximum thrill!”

## The Further Adventures of Starman and Tesla Camping

You can discover more about Tesla Owners Club My Tesla Adventure here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otMbrjXSSyE>

The future of the Starman comic universe will be via NFT's so check out [StarmanNFT.com](https://StarmanNFT.com) and join the Starman NFT discord!



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# BELGIUM'S AGORIA **SOLAR TEAM** WINS I LUMEN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP AGAIN!

The Agoria Solar Team has won the iLumen European Championship for solar endurance racing, for the second year in a row. The car, baptised BluePoint, was designed, built and driven by a Belgium team of students from Leuven University. During the 24-hour race, held at Circuit Zolder on 19 September, BluePoint travelled the equivalent of 1,384 kilometres.

Text Joanna Pays



### A 24-HOUR ENDURANCE CHALLENGE

The iLumen European Championship (iESC) is the only 24-hour endurance race in the world for solar cars. “For this race you start with a full battery and from then on the car is powered by solar energy” explains Remi de Coster, spokesperson for the Agoria Solar Team. “We design our cars for endurance, rather than speed. There are no stops for charging, only to change drivers every 2 hours.”



### BELGIUM'S AGORIA SOLAR TEAM

The Agoria Solar Team is the only team in Belgium that builds cars for solar endurance racing. The team was founded in 2005 and is made up of engineering students from Leuven University. Students participate for a full year on the project, and during that year they set aside their studies. The current members of the team joined the project in July 2020 and will soon be handing over to new students.



## Solar Team

“This is a voluntary, but full-time, design and build project” says Remi. “Everything is hand crafted and there are thousands of computer simulation and car concepts that are taken into consideration. The key success factor is aerodynamics, as it is essential to

reduce drag. This was the ninth version of the car that the team has built, but every year there are huge improvements. It keeps getting better, lighter and faster, while battery and solar technologies are continually improving.”





### **PROBLEMS BEFORE THE START**

Victory for the Belgians was not assured. On the evening before the European Challenge, BluePoint was involved in an accident during test laps, due to an unexpected manoeuvre by another car on the track. BluePoint was forced to swerve suddenly and suffered dam-

age to its suspension. After a long night of repair work, the Leuven students managed to get their solar car ready for the start of the race in time.



All problems were solved and BluePoint crossed the finish line to victory. The Agoria team achieved the longest journey during the 24 hours, clocking up 346 laps – the equivalent of 1384 kilometres.

The Dutch team came in with a very close second place, with 344 laps.



© Joseph Barns



### INTERNATIONAL AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SOLAR RACING

In addition to the annual European Solar Championship, there is normally a World Solar Championship every two years, in Australia. The World Championship was scheduled to take place this year, but was cancelled due to the health restrictions. As the Belgian team won the last edition of the World Championship in 2019, it is still officially the title holder.

“Motivation was a big challenge for our team this year, because we had designed and built the car with the World Championship in Australia especially in mind, where it’s very sunny and the terrain is flat” says Remi. “Then in January, we got a call to say it was cancelled.”



© Joseph Barns



© Agoria Solar Team

"All of the solar teams contacted their governments and eventually an International Championship was hosted in Morocco, in October. This was quite a different endurance event altogether from the European Championship, as it meant driving 2500 kilometres over

5 days. We drove through the Moroccan Sahara and the Atlas Mountains, so it was very challenging. Our team finished in second place, just behind the Dutch team that we beat at the European championships!"

### NEW HORIZONS

“Now our season is over, the next step for us is to start recruiting a new team so that we can get back to our studies” says Remi. “In July 2022, the next team will take up the baton and start designing and building a new car from scratch. We are interviewing a lot of interested candidates to join the team and we wish them all the best of luck.”

You can follow the latest news from the Agoria Solar Team here <https://www.solarteam.be/>



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New Tesla rideshare taxi service launched in New York

# NEW TESLA RIDESHARE **TAXI SERVICE** LAUNCHED IN NEW YORK

You may not be able to take your Tesla with you when you travel to New York, but you can still travel around the city sustainably and in style. Revel, the Brooklyn-based city transport company, has launched a fleet of Tesla Model Y's to offer city dwellers and visitors a new experience in taxi rideshare services.

Revel was founded in 2018 to offer sustainable urban transportation in its home city of New York. Since then, the company has expanded to offer services in Washington DC, Miami and the California Bay area.

Text Joanna Pays, photos Revel



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By downloading Revel's app, users can rent electric mopeds, sign up for monthly eBike subscriptions, or find fast-charging stations compatible with any brand of EV. Revel also has its own station of 25 fast chargers, compatible with all EVs, located in the Bed-Stuy

district of Brooklyn. It plans to build more charging stations across the city of New York in the future.

At the beginning of August, Revel launched a new Tesla rideshare taxi service in Manhattan, with a fleet of 34 Model Y's.







### **SUPERIOR COMFORT**

The Revel Tesla rideshares can only be reserved by downloading the Revel app. Once inside, passengers benefit from much greater comfort than in a typical New York yellow taxi. For one thing, there is no passenger seat next to the driver, so passengers have more room to stretch out. Power outlets and heated seats are all part of the service, while a touchscreen allows passengers to control the interior temperature of the car and select their own music.

### **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Revel prides itself on its Corporate Social Responsibility, which means that it looks after its drivers too. Unlike other rideshare operators, Revel owns its own cars and pays for all costs of running them. Its drivers are employees who benefit from fair wages, health care insurance and paid holidays.

## New Tesla rideshare taxi service launched in New York

Drivers start their shift with a fully charged vehicle capable of driving up to 524 kilometres before recharging. They can then top up at Revel's Bed-Stuy charging station, or at any of the over 2000 Tesla-compatible charging stations located around the city.

Demand for the new service is already outstripping supply and the company would like to expand the fleet. This will be subject to approval by New York's Taxi & Limousine Commission, as the cap on

the number of taxi and rideshare vehicles allowed in the city now also applies to electric vehicles.

To find out more about the new Tesla rideshare service in New York, visit [gorevel.com](http://gorevel.com) or follow [@\\_gorevel](https://twitter.com/_gorevel) on Twitter.





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# TIMELESS DESIGN FOR LIFE

## **VITRA** BELONGS EVERYWHERE

Vitra has been developing innovative products and concepts since the 1950s. The Swiss family business has created a series of classics in its 70 years of existence, but has also tirelessly pursued its goal of creating timeless designs. "Designs that are also future-proof," explains Els Huijgens, Vitra's Marketing Manager for Benelux and France.





Vitra

### SUCCESS FROM THE START

Vitra was born in the 1950s when Willi and Erika Fehlbaum were introduced to the creations of Charles and Ray Eames in the USA. "They were so impressed by the design that they decided to make the furniture in Switzerland. They contacted Herman Miller, who was responsible for production in the USA. After years of negotiations, Vitra became the licensee of Herman Miller for continental Europe in 1956. This was successful because a joint venture was soon formed under the name Herman Miller AG in order to further develop the business. Both companies succeeded in creating a flourishing market for designer furniture and in spreading the designs of Eames, Nelson and Girard throughout Europe. In the mid-1980s there was a reshuffle, and the rights to produce and sell Eames, Nelson and Girard designs for Europe and the Middle East were awarded to Vitra. Miller retained the licence for the rest of the world. There is, however, still a friendly relationship between the two companies, which, together with the descendants of Charles and Ray Eames, George Nelson and Alexander Girard, keep the memory of these great designers alive.

### THREE GENERATIONS

Meanwhile, at Vitra, the third generation of the Fehlbaum family is at the head of the company. "Both the second and current third generations are continuing the successful course that Willi and Erika set out. In the 1970s, two sons took over the company and built on the commercially solid foundation of the founders. They were able to achieve further expansion by entering into close partnerships with architects and innovative designers worldwide in order to continue to offer innovative timeless furniture. They also linked this with a cultural aspect. With the Vitra Campus in Weil am Rhein, Germany, Rolf Fehlbaum built a unique collection of contemporary architecture with production buildings including Frank Gehry's first building in Europe, the headquarters of which remained in Basel, Switzerland. In the Vitra Design Museum and the Vitra Schaudetop, the two museums on the campus, visitors can get to know the in-house collections, archives and miniatures as well as the classics of the 20th century. The museum grew out of Rolf's passion for collecting icons from the world of design. He wondered why these products were so successful and collected thousands of chairs, including the famous '100 master pieces'.

Vitra shares this cultural factor with customers, employees and, by extension, all lovers of beautiful design. The VitraHaus is also located on the campus. It comprises a showroom, an experimentation room and the flagship store, where customers can discover products and concepts. The Vitra Campus is not only a unique place of work, but also - and above all - a place worth visiting."

### 100% SUSTAINABLE

Although at that time there was hardly any consideration for the environment in the world, the second generation already took the ecological aspect in production to heart. "Today, as the third generation, Nora Fehlbaum is continuing this mission. It is her firm intention to build a 100% sustainable company by 2030. She is committed to corporate responsibility and wants to make production and the use of raw materials completely circular in order to make Vitra an ecologically neutral company. Like her predecessors, Nora pursues a transparent business policy. Where, how and by whom everything is made, where the raw materials come from ... everything is clear. The company deliberately opts for European suppliers - after all, 90% are based in Europe. Sofas and soft seating are manufactured in Hungary, while chairs, office chairs and other furniture are produced at two sites in Germany. Ecology, by the way, is not a 'project' for Vitra, but an obvious fact that is in its DNA and always present."

### PRODUCTS FOR LIFE

People who have purchased Vitra products - and they do so all over the world - have known for a long time that the company sets the bar very high and chooses high-quality products without fail. "Sustainability is a given at Vitra; these are products 'for life', one could almost say they are heirlooms. Of course, this is not only a matter of quality, but also of timeless design. Regardless of trends and colour schemes, we can justifiably say that the designers develop products that will still be up to date in five or ten years' time. Moreover, the designers are not trend followers but trend setters.

A good example of this is Jasper Morrison, who is known for his 'out of the box' thinking and is one of the most successful industrial designers of the past decades. He is someone who strips his designs of all unnecessary frivolity and gives his creations a clear function. They are easy to use and can be refurnished without any problems. The designs are beautiful and neutral so they can be placed in almost any space. And it is precisely this that makes Vitra so unique in the furniture world. Whether it's for the home market, the project market or public spaces, it doesn't matter: Vitra belongs everywhere. The other designers also make sure that everything is perfectly serviceable. For example, parts can be replaced at any time if needed. Everything is part of a well-founded service plan with a view to ensuring a long lifespan and reducing the ecological footprint.

### MAKE YOUR HOME WORK

In every conversation we have had over the past year and a half, we cannot deny that COVID-19 is casting its shadow everywhere ... "In the furniture world, we have noticed a double change. People sat at home and invested in new furniture, there was and still is more budget for beautiful and sustainable products. In addition, many employees were confronted with the obligation to work at home as well. Suddenly, solutions had to be found in the form of ergonomic office chairs and other "work furniture" that was also suitable for the domestic sphere. With this in mind, Vitra launched its "Make Your Home Work" campaign, with solutions ranging from small to large. A change is also taking place in the office world itself. People are going back to the office today, but it will never be like it was before 2020."

### DISTRIBUTED WORK

What does the office of the future look like? How are we going to achieve that? "In the first months, the goal was clearly to make everything COVID-safe, now we are aiming for future-safe. The term 'distributed work' is appearing more and more. In companies,







people can work in many different ways. Companies are now discovering that the social aspect is the reason to go back to the office. Many employees are perfectly capable of working from home, but the social dimension and the associated contact with the company within the framework of the corporate culture, the so-called “corporate identity”, are lost. Ideas emerge from social contacts; mutual communication plays a more important role than we thought. Hence the idea of “distributed work”, where people work in the office one day a week after all. The right combination is the success factor for many companies.

Vitra wouldn't be Vitra if it didn't offer the right concepts for this. “Less office space is needed and workplaces need to be organized differently. Vitra has come up with new concepts and new products or updates to existing collections. One example is Alcove Plus Work by Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec. The concept offers a temporary refuge for quiet concentrated work and comes with an integrated work surface, optionally available with power and network connections. It is also, and above all, a multifunctional product that overlaps home and office.”

### **SOLUTION-ORIENTED THINKING**

Vitra can rely on a well-established dealer network. On the website [www.vitra.com](http://www.vitra.com), you can find the right dealer in no time at all via ‘Find Vitra’. “In recent years, Vitra has put a lot of effort into the ‘omni-channel’ story. We have asked ourselves how we can best help the end customer, both businesses and individuals. This means that, in the first place, we have the websites of Vitra itself and of our dealers. In addition, Vitra has its own department that thinks along with the client in a solution-oriented manner and develops concrete

projects. For the past four years, we have been working in Belgium on the ‘Vitra Circle’, which is now being rolled out across Europe. This is a shop where you can buy second-hand Vitra furniture that has been completely reconditioned - with a guarantee - and is in perfect condition to start a second life. You can also find end-of-series and showroom products. I would also like to recommend our dealer-retailers, who all offer a high quality service package with personal advice as a guiding principle. For the project market, there are specialized project dealers. Everything was conceived with one fixed goal in mind: the perfect customer experience. In Diegem, we also have a (recently renovated) showroom. Customers can have a look around here, but we don't sell, that's what our dealers are for.”

### **NEW AND RESPONSIBLE TECHNOLOGIES**

So who is Vitra's target group? “The answer is simple: everyone! We are primarily aiming at people who, in addition to high quality products, also prefer originality. People who have a preference for furniture that is made in an honest way and marketed in a socially and economically responsible way. Ecology is of course part of this. All of our products are perfectly recyclable. An example of responsible manufacturing is the fact that for years we worked with PU foam that met the highest standards, but today is no longer good enough for Vitra. We now work with recycled polyester fiber. Of course, we have kept the good elements, such as quality and perfect ergonomics, but we have optimized them with new, responsible technologies. This is what Vitra has been doing for 70 years: constantly innovating in order to offer our customers timeless products without sacrificing quality.

More information: [www.vitra.com](http://www.vitra.com)

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Op zoek naar inspiratie? Neem dan zeker een kijkje op de website van Charrell Home Interiors. *“Daar kan je heel wat ideeën opdoen. Niet alleen vind je er het merendeel van de collectie terug, je kunt er ook tientallen bijzondere interieurs van tevreden klanten bekijken.”*



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# HOW TO CREATE THE **PERFECT HOME GYM**

Just imagine: You're busy working at home, you feel like exercising and have some time to spare, but you don't want to go to the gym. You walk through your house, into a room and suddenly find yourself in the perfect home gym. Completely integrated in your interior. A wellness space of the highest degree integrated in the style of your home. That is a home gym by Technogym designed and furnished by RR Interieur. It offers you everything a gym has and more.

It offers you everything a gym has and more.





Together with Technogym 'The Wellness Company', RR Interieur ensures that you will only want to work out at home. As Rik Ruebens of RR says: "Interior design is a personal experience. At RR Interieur, hospitality is the key. The RR designers guarantee independent, tailor-made interior advice with a white glove service. In the end it's all about the ultimate experience at home, and that includes the home gym.

Because if you are going for a total interior experience, a home gym is a must. Technogym's fitness equipment, especially Personal Line, designed by Antonio Citterio, fits in perfectly with the high-end brand mix of RR Interieur. It consists of a wonderful mix of Italian and Scandinavian collections, innovative Belgian talent and trend-setting Brazilian and Japanese collections, divided among the three experience stores. Rik Ruebens regularly includes the home gym in the design of an interior. The designers make sure that this is a space where you like to be because it is beautifully decorated, perfectly fitting with the rest of the interior. Here you can (and will) train 24/7 in all comfort on the best equipment.

### **THIS BELONGS IN A HOME GYM**

A home gym is where you should feel completely at home, which is why Technogym matches the equipment with you. Personal Line includes premium Italian design fitness equipment for cardio and strength training specifically for the home. Of which the most eye-catching is Kinesis. This design fitness machine, available with different backgrounds from mirror to leather and wood, is a complete home gym. With it, you can do hundreds of 360-degree exercises for strength, flexibility, coordination and balance. In this way, you create a wellness area in your interior without it being noticeable.

### **WORK AND TRAIN AT THE SAME TIME**

Everything is possible. If Rik has designed an interior that includes a work room, cardio equipment can also be placed here. After all, you can just keep on working via the large screens and the integrated sound boxes on the cardio equipment combined with Technogym Live. "We notice that there is an increasing demand for wellness equipment in your interior, fully integrated. The fitness equipment from Technogym is perfect for this. The interior architects at RR Interieur crawl into the skin of the client, so to speak. They translate the customer's wishes into a complete dream interior, including a lighting plan and advice on colour and materials.







And colour, light and material are just as important when fitting out a home gym. For example, you have to pay attention to the floor, which equipment is placed where in connection with light and how does the material and colour fit in with the rest of your interior. "A walk-in-closet, for example, is not the first thing that comes to mind when you are looking for the best place for your Run Personal treadmill. And you don't think of a fitness machine to fill that one empty space at home." At RR Interieur they do, they think along with you.

### WHY A HOME GYM

People are busy and want to work out in between, without leaving home. Rik says: "Today's evolution that Covid has accelerated calls for more quality at home. From man caves to art or classic car collectors and lifestyle people, people are increasingly looking for a

place for themselves where they can have full me-time. And a place where indoor/outdoor living become one. Like a pool house. This is where Technogym comes into its own. In winter, this becomes an extra dining and living room to enjoy with friends or together. In summer, the doors open and you can have a luxury barbecue there. It's all about being able to enjoy all the good things about home. That is the success of a home gym. In the past, the fitness machines were a sight for sore eyes. The old home trainer was often used as a coat rack by the lady of the house. Now, the home gym is a must have, part of the game. Technogym has succeeded in making design fitness equipment that is so beautiful that it doesn't interfere with the interior. What's more, it becomes an extension of your interior. Clients nowadays see a home gym almost as an essential. Just like a sofa and a kitchen should not be missing in a house.

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My ideal home gym has a good exercise bike like the Technogym Bike, on which you can follow live indoor cycling classes. But in my opinion, a rower and treadmill should not be missing either. In addition, the room should have enough open space to do exercises. For the enthusiasts, some weights or a power station like the Power Personal, that's all in one. We create tailor-made rooms according to the client's requirements. A rower will be a priority in an office for one client and for another it will be a complete relaxation area."

### **MAKE IT PERSONAL**

Personal Line offers everything your sports heart desires in both interior design and fitness equipment. The elegant, sturdy, award-winning cardio machines designed by Antonio Citterio are equipped with the innovative, digital Technogym Live platform. Here, in addition to personalised training and entertainment tailored to your needs, you get a real personal coach. With your coach, you compile your own training series based on your needs

## Technogym

and goals. This guarantees a completely personal sports experience. Losing weight, improving your condition, getting fit, becoming stronger and creating space in your head - it will all be easier, more fun and, now really, achievable with the Technogym coach.

And do you want to be entertained while training? Enjoy lifelike outdoor tracks, through beautiful natural landscapes or cities around

the world. Watch TV or Netflix, check your social media or the news. Mail, Zoom, everything is possible. This makes training at home very personal. Rik: "The Personal Line products by Antonio Citterio fit exactly into our designs. With the mirrored elements that make a room look bigger and reflect the light beautifully. And the brushed steel, make this equipment a feast for the eyes in any room."



# WATCHES AND JEWELLERY FROM BELGIUM

## PREMIUM QUALITY FOR THE DEMANDING MAN

In recent years, the Gemini brand has become increasingly established in the world of stylish accessories for men. The company creates watches and exclusive jewellery in collaboration with Belgian jewellers, pursuing high values and standards. With the 'NXT' jewellery and watches, a new contemporary collection is in shop today. "Our customers have a distinct preference for high, but also affordable quality", says Arne Schelkens of Gemini.

Pictures © Gemini







### HIGH STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS

“Gemini has become famous for its pearl bracelets, of which we have sold hundreds of thousands at home and abroad”, Arne explains. “As the name suggests, we are now taking the next step and focusing on broadening and deepening our range for men with the NXT collection. We want to be much more than a producer of pearl bracelets and have worked hard over the past two years to put together a new collection. We have not renounced our DNA and continue to opt for unique creations with noble materials such as titanium, carbon and natural stone for the new collection. Besides

bracelets, we can now also offer watches and necklaces. Stylish jewellery for men is a trend that blew over from the US, but we are not copying it lightly. Based on what we see overseas, our Belgian design team creates new designs and adapts them to our high standards and expectations. Local jewellers are used to pursuing those high standards and values, which is why we work closely with them. In that sense, you can consider our country as a kind of laboratory. If the Belgian consumer embraces our product, then we know that our test has been successful and that we also pass the quality checks elsewhere.”



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### SOCIAL PROJECTS

It is remarkable that the watches and jewellery are not only designed in Belgium, but that they are also manufactured locally. In itself, this is not spectacular news, but Gemini chooses to work intensively with NPOs and social business projects. "Since 2018, we have been officially recognised as a Handmade in Belgium product by the Belgian association UNIZO. Our jewellery is assembled, checked and packed in three social business projects in our own country. In this way, we provide work to some 80 people who suffer from physical or mental disabilities. Together, we strive to reach a

higher level in order to speed up their reintegration into society. They are offered a varied job with the emphasis on high-quality precision work. We know from experience that this is inspiring for people and boosts their self-esteem. I would like to emphasise that both the social enterprise projects and Gemini do not compromise on quality. Each finished piece is meticulously checked to ensure it meets all quality and warranty standards before going to the distributor."





### NOBLE MATERIALS, CONTEMPORARY LOOK

Gemini has become an important brand for the Belgian jewellery sector. "Our goal is to have a distributor in every city in Belgium. We are proud to be a Belgian brand in a sector usually dominated by international players. It is not our intention to position ourselves as competitors for the really high segment. Swiss watches are excellent, but unfortunately also very expensive. Gemini aims for quality at an affordable price. Being cheap does not interest us either, we deliver value for money. For our bracelets, for example, we only use top class A natural stones. They come from all over the world - from South Africa to Norway. Precious metals such as Japanese titanium and carbon are our standard for creating a high-end product. We also distinguish ourselves in terms of design. Although it is a rather tricky technique, we often opt for an octagonal design, for example. The subtly angular design appeals, as does the matt look we get by working with brushed steel or titanium, a phenomenon that is increasingly common today in watches and cars from the luxury segment. Our jewellers are demanding - and rightly so! - so we do everything we can to meet their demands and expectations."

### REFINED CLASS

Another Belgian link is the faces that attach their names to the brand. "Our bracelets, necklaces and watches are designed to be worn by men. The choice is very wide, everyone can buy an accessory of their choice with us. Indeed, we work together with well-known 'men' such as Bartel Van Riet and Kürt Rogiers. Successfully, because our Belgian ambassadors draw a lot of attention and are an excellent advertisement for our accessories. Although we are clearly a men's brand, our designs always radiate a refined class. The new NXT collection also appeals to younger people, who are wearing more and more jewellery. They are an important part of our target audience, but - and let that be clear - we do not forget our older clientele and bring a nice mix that appeals to every contemporary man. The watches and the jewellery fit together and can complete a man's outfit. Are you looking for top quality from Belgian soil? Then you can come to us."

More information: [www.gemini-official.com](http://www.gemini-official.com)

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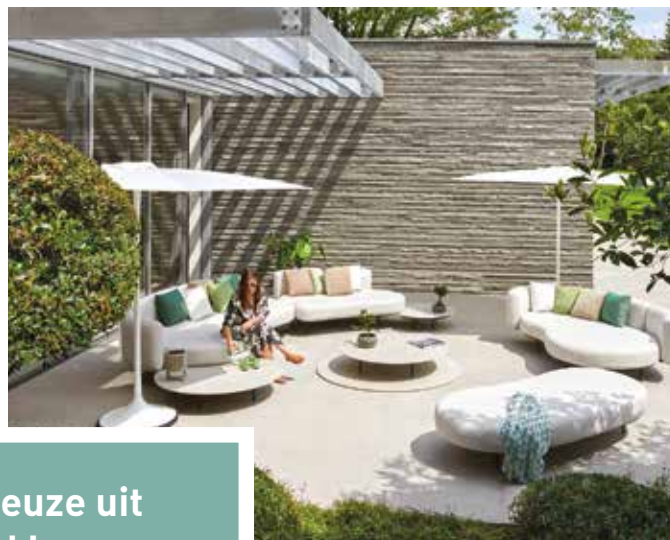
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Photographs © Charrell Home Interiors





### TO SUIT YOUR INTERIOR

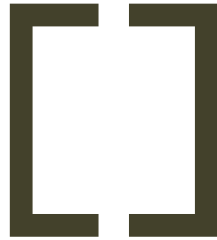
For over 20 years, Charrell Home Interiors has been renowned for its exclusive interior collection, personal service, and fully tailored designs. If you stroll into one of their splendid showrooms in Geel, you are engulfed by thousands of square metres of home inspiration. Manager Yannick Breckpot explains: 'The showrooms are designed in scores of rooms and living rooms, so you can easily imagine what your favourite items would look like in your home. Charrell Home Interiors offers every possible separate furniture item and decoration. The collection is characterised by elegant items in a modern and contemporary style. All furniture is available in several standard measures, but they can also be custom-made to suit your own interior perfectly. In addition, they are available in a very extensive range of luxurious fabrics and wood sorts which are easy to combine. And so, you're assured of an exclusive interior which suits your personal style perfectly.'

Are you looking for inspiration? If so, be sure to visit the Charrell Home Interiors web site. 'That'll give you lots of ideas. Not only will you see most of the collection, but also you can view dozens of special interiors owned by satisfied clients.'

### CHARRELL'S ANGELS

Do you prefer some professional help to design your dream interior? If so, there's some good news. At Charrell Home Interiors, the Charrell's Angels are ready to help. 'A team of seven experienced interior architects help you free of charge to choose from our extensive range of sofas, cupboards, chairs, and tables. All of them are enthusiastic interior specialists who will assist you in every way to create a tasteful, timeless, and harmonious whole. They can advise you about the choice and place of the furniture, window dressing, colour of the walls, floor covering, and so much more. They help you to make a choice, always with due regard for your personality and your taste. They also like to visit your home to listen to your wishes and needs. This helps them, together with the client, to assess what's really necessary and they take account of the existing furniture. It isn't always easy to make a nice whole from your new purchases and the existing furniture. But don't worry, we're there to help you. On the basis of all the information provided, the interior designers will work out a proposal which, obviously, is discussed at length with the client.'





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## PROJECTS

With its diverse project options, Charrell goes beyond traditional advice. 'Do you only want colour or interior advice? Is your interior due for a thorough facelift? Do you want to combine existing furniture or decoration items with new elements harmoniously? Do you need some customised joinery indoors? Do you need window dressing, painting, or parquet works? Perhaps you're planning a complete renovation where you hand everything over to Charrell. We can discuss just about anything, from design and co-ordination to the follow-up of the end result. Whether it's a major or minor project, the Charrell team will look after everything.'

## OFFICES AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

Your work place, too, deserves to look good, whether that's in your home or at the office. After all, working in an attractive environment makes you happier and more productive. Nowadays, a standard office desk and office chair is old fashioned. Apart from residential homes, Charrell Home Interiors also designs offices and gives them an elegant look. This means you can hold meetings with your em-

ployees in pleasant surrounds. Moreover, Charrell Home Interiors also designs restaurants, bars, and hotels. 'We design catering establishments with furniture from our Charrell collection and lights from Atmooz. Those are always extremely enjoyable projects.'

## ATMOOZ

A few years ago, Atmooz, the 'daughter' of Charrell Home Interiors, saw the light of day. This contemporary trademark of lights and decoration is available in the shop and is also sold online. Yannick explains: 'These are products with an elegant look, but they also come at an affordable price. At the moment, the range consists of over 200 hanging lamps, standard lamps, side tables, and decoration in a modern style, but shortly we'll be adding another 400 products to the collection. And so, be sure to keep visiting the web site [Atmooz.com](http://Atmooz.com).'



In this impressive interior project the Angels proved that authentic elements from the splendidly renovated villa can be combined perfectly well with modern and timeless Charrell furniture.



In this interior project the Charrell's Angels enjoyed themselves designing a new home. Despite the light elements, such as the sofa, table, and chairs, the home radiates a great deal of warmth.



Here the interior architects opted for an arrangement with Zina lounge tables and two pouffes. The big advantage is that the living room is never dull and you have ample scope to vary the design.



Perfect custom-made work, the right materials, and carefully chosen furniture make the interior of this project extra personal. The Angels have also created a cosy lounge area where you can welcome guests in style and enjoy a nice snack and drink.



## A FRESH (CHARRELL) WIND

A fresh (Charrell) wind is blowing through this charming house, but you still see the familiar warm touches. Walnut and terra cotta colours form the central thread throughout the project, and that yields instant class and peace and quiet. The large windows which invite the daylight to come in everywhere form one of the main assets of this house. The Granvelle oval dining room table in ceramic marble top reflects the light nicely. The Verbier chairs around the table are custom-made, without an opening in the back rest and with legs in walnut, just like the legs of the table and the Bridge sideboard. In the lounge area the Aleto seats stand out, also with legs in walnut. The sofa in the trend colour of terra cotta has been designed specially for this project. The Zina lounge table with the pouffe give the whole some vitality, whilst the choice of material makes it warm. In the TV corner, the Metropole sofa and Cloud side table make it cosy. The Ribble TV cupboard, also custom-made, floats as it were between the two walls and gives a special effect with its ribbed structure. The design lighting from Atmooz is fitted in the entire home. The result? From every angle there's something to admire.

More information: [www.charrell.be](http://www.charrell.be) – [www.atmooz.com](http://www.atmooz.com)  
The Charrell Home Interiors shop is located in Geel (Vossendaal 10) and is also open on Sunday afternoons.



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# **SCABAL** – THE CONTINUAL PURSUIT OF PERFECTION IN FINE FABRICS AND TAILORING

For formal or relaxed living, elegance will always be in style. Scabal fine tailoring and fabrics are recognised by prestigious tailors and well-dressed gentlemen around the world. We met with Scabal's Chairman, Gregor Thissen, to find out more.





### THE STORY OF SCABAL

Scabal was founded by cloth merchant Otto Hertz, in 1938. Ahead of his time, he had a pan-European vision to create and market the finest English cloth, hence the full name of Scabal, Société Commerciale Anglo Belgo Allemande Luxembourgeoise.

Over the decades, the company's clientele of master tailors grew in Belgium and then throughout Europe. In 1971, Peter Thissen, Otto's most trusted associate, became the company's Managing Director. Scabal became the reference in luxury fabrics and together, Peter Thissen and Otto Hertz grew the business globally, gaining a strong following of loyal customers in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Scabal then began manufacturing garments, using its own fine fabrics. The company's tailoring business specialises in made-to-measure suits, shirts, jackets and trousers. Over the years, the range has extended, with accessories and ready-to-wear collections.

Today, Scabal is steered by Peter Thissen's son, Gregor Thissen, as Chairman, alongside Stefano Rivera as CEO, overseeing sales and manufacturing teams based in key cities around the world.

Managing the highest quality, from sheep to store

Scabal manages the quality of its products and services from "sheep to store". "Throughout this chain, we focus on quality, the traceability of products and sustainability" explains Gregor. "We carefully select our wool and build close relationships with our suppliers. We travel to Australia to talk with the farmers, see how the

sheep are treated and select only the finest merino wools. We then transform this wool into cloth, in our own weaving mill in England." Scabal's exquisite fabrics are created by master weavers and designers at its own heritage mill in Huddersfield – England's heartland of traditional weaving. Scabal's weavers are continually raising the bar in terms of the quality and range of its woven fabrics. Some fabrics are even integrated with precious elements such as diamonds, gold and lapis lazuli.

"We use these fabrics in our own collections and also sell them to couture houses and luxury brands such as Prada, Gucci and Burberry" says Gregor. "Our own made-to-measure services draw from a collection of over 5,000 fabrics."

### SCABAL TAILORING CLUBS

Scabal's flagship tailoring club occupies the prestigious address of 12 Saville Row, London but its network of stores, tailoring clubs, consultants and partners extends around the fashion capitals of the world. Tailoring clubs offer an inspiring and intimate atmosphere, with expert advice and a wide range of made-to-measure services and elegant ready-to-wear garments and accessories. For the busiest clients, tailoring consultants can visit clients in their homes, offices or hotels for personal consultations.



“The customer can choose from hundreds of options to personalise their garments, including the fabric, linings, type of buttons – and the personalisation can indeed go very far” says Gregor. “When their choices are made, the client is measured and the fabric is cut in our own factory by our master tailors, to the customer’s exact fit and specifications.”

**TRADITION AND MODERNITY**

“We don’t run after every fashion but we do make sure we keep in touch with the times” says Gregor. “Clearly the suit of 2021 is not the suit of 2000. Materials continue to evolve in terms of weights

and finishes, and the look and feel of fabrics are finer. In terms of performance, fabrics need to be crease resistance and durable.”

“The trend we have been seeing for a long time, and which has accelerated due to the health restrictions, has been the casualization of dress codes. Bankers’ attire is one example, where three-piece suits are no longer the norm. Jackets and chinos are now being worn in situations that would not have been acceptable five years ago, so that is something we have started to cater for.”

“We have adapted our fabric collections and the construction of our jackets has evolved into a more natural and comfortable style, to make movements freer. We have also added more casual





dressing items to our collections such as cashmere hoodies and sweatshirts, so we now have lot of new variations to offer to our customers.”

#### **REPUTATION BY WORD OF MOUTH**

“Our reputation has grown around the world through word of mouth from, customers who appreciate the sophistication and quality of our products” says Gregor. “These clients include politicians, royalty, company owners and celebrities. We have close relationships with costume houses in Hollywood and we have provided fabrics for over 200 movies including Titanic, the Godfather, Casino, The Tailor of Panama and some James Bond movies. Many of the actors have then become personal clients – such as Robert de Niro and Benedict Cumberbatch. What they have in common is that they want to buy the best, without being seen with a big brand logo. We are a brand for the discerning. People who wear Scabal recognise it and appreciate it.”

#### **OLYMPIC VALUES**

Illustrating its flair for creating garments that combine comfort and elegance, Scabal will be dressing the Belgium team for the Olympic and Paralympic Games this year. Scabal is using lightweight, breathable, crease resistant and very comfortable fabric from its Dynamic collection to create an outfit that is perfect for the summer environment in Tokyo.

“This will be a semi-classical sports outfit” says Gregor. “With the health crisis there are challenges, in terms of getting everyone measured but the project is a lot of fun. We like the idea of sharing in the Olympic spirit. It’s about sportsmanship, fairness, competition and elegance. For Scabal that fits very well with our company values.”

For more information about Scabal and to find your nearest Scabal tailor or consultant, visit [www.scabal.com](http://www.scabal.com)



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SADIE WILLIAMS

# SADIE WILLIAMS – BRITISH FASHION DESIGNER WITH SUSTAINABLE CREDENTIALS

Sadie Williams is a young, talented, award-winning British fashion and textile designer. Her work is underpinned by her love for pattern, colour and her focus on sustainable fashion. We met with Sadie to find out more.

Text Joanna Pays

96



SUPERCHARGED 2021/20





Sadie became interested in fashion and art from an early age. "I went to a boarding school in Sussex and their art department was a sanctuary for me" says Sadie. "From an early age I was experimenting in making clothes and outfits for special occasions. My first fashion project was when I was 8! I wanted a pair of high heeled shoes so badly (I obviously was not allowed!) that I made my own out of cardboard and elastic!"

### FASHION STUDIES AT ST MARTINS

After leaving school, Sadie specialised in Print Design on her art foundation course. "I then wanted to apply these new skills to making clothes, so I continued my studies with a BA degree in Fashion Design." In between her studies, Sadie also worked as a textile consultant, as a stylist for fashion photo shoots and then at Marc Jacobs.

Following that, Sadie went on to study for her Masters Degree in Textiles for Fashion at England's most prestigious university for

the Arts, St Martins. "I had finally found "my thing" and I began to approach all my work by starting with a focus on texture, surface, colour and mood."

### RECOGNITION

Sadie's graduate fashion collection from St Martins was shown at London Fashion Week in 2013. Her collection included huge sparkly dresses with graphic textile designs and it was from this moment that she started to gain recognition from the fashion world and media.

"Immediately after graduating I was named as one of Selfridges 'Bright Young Things' and began selling my work, alongside a window display I created for their flagship Oxford Street store. A year later I had officially launched my own brand and was showing at London Fashion week, with the mentorship of the 'Newgen' sponsorship program, initiated by the British Fashion Council to support emerging designers."



# GENIET VAN HET GOEDE LEVEN

La vie en rose? Of liever la vie en vert? Kom overnachten aan de rand van de groene oase Nationaal Park Hoge Kempen. Vanuit het Terhills Hotel vul je je dagen zoals je zelf wilt. Met shoppen bij de meest exclusieve boetieks in Maasmechelen Village, met wandelen of heerlijk onthaasten bij het unieke wellnesscomplex Elaisa Wellness. Info en reservatie via [www.terhillshotel.com](http://www.terhillshotel.com).



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### INSPIRATIONS

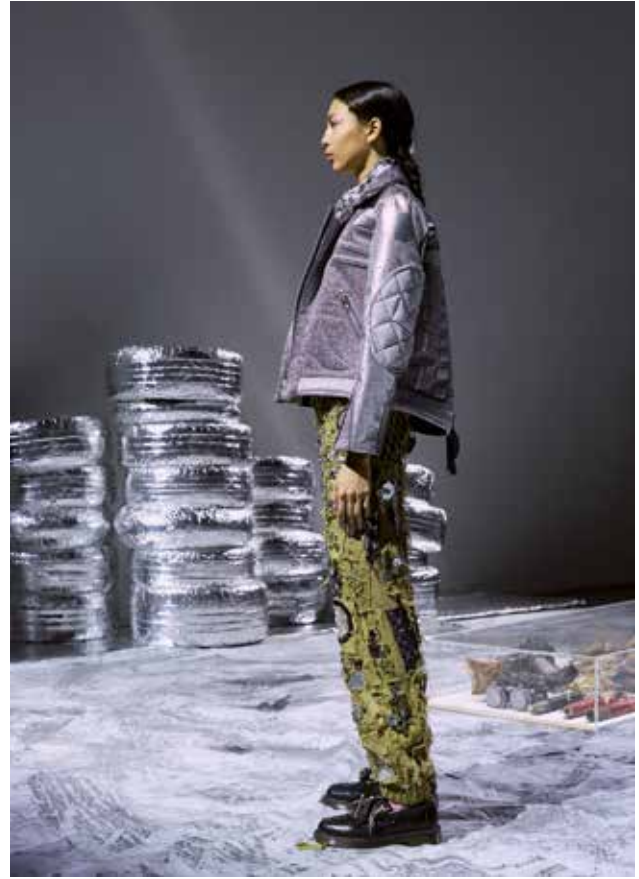
Sadie finds inspiration for her work in all sorts of places. "I like to source vintage fabrics in my local Portobello market and visit car boot sales, go to galleries, look for books in charity shops, buy old postcards and trinkets, look for fabrics and trims in Shepherds Bush market, and I'm often making personal connections inspired by family photos, or looking to things I collected in my youth, like photos or sequins, beads and threads I've kept since then."

"Print, textile design and crafts have always been interesting for me and this can be seen in a lot of my clothing. My work is tactile, rich and expresses my love for print, colour and textiles. I love to combine juxtapositions that reflect who I am and my interests;

such as combining a feminine and tomboyish sensibility, its both modern yet crafted, it is often richly decorative yet also bold and simplistically graphic."

"My style has always been very true to myself, I do not like to follow or emulate trends, and I'm comfortable in my sense of personal style. I have always genuinely loved clothes and putting together outfits. I no longer select fabrics just because of their look, feel etc, but also keep in mind their sustainability credentials, choosing more eco-friendly options and looking to my archive of dead-stock fabrics and trims as sources from which to up-cycle and create new, special works from."





### SUSTAINABLE FASHION

Looking to the future, Sadie sees the world of fashion moving irreversibly towards more sustainable practices. "We are looking at a more personalized, less mass-market approach to fashion, with an emphasis on craft, attention to detail, and fashion that evokes a deeper connection to the consumer. People are feeling more interested in choosing smaller, independent brands and ones with strong core values and integrity."

"I've stopped creating seasonal collections for wholesale markets, because after doing this for several years I felt it no longer aligned with my creative practice, especially as I've become increasingly mindful of the unsustainable nature of the fashion calendar. I've been working on expanding on my range of up-cycled fashion garments and hair accessories, so these will be launched via my instagram ( @sadiewilliams\_studio ) and website soon. I'm planning a new series of pattern based artworks, and will be expanding my work to include homeware, which has a focus on sustainability (up-cycling) and craft.get making more products home textiles .

Sadie takes commissions direct from customers for fashion, textile and art pieces at [sales@sadiewilliams.co.uk](mailto:sales@sadiewilliams.co.uk) and sells directly through her web-store ([www.sadiewilliams.co.uk](http://www.sadiewilliams.co.uk)).



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Ook met het geluid blijft je flexibel: al dan niet met onzichtbaar geïntegreerde luidsprekers de "Loewe invisible sound" of de dockable klang bar i soundbar. Met de Loewe klang bar5 mr en de subwoofer sub5 breid je de bild i eenvoudig uit tot je persoonlijke home cinema systeem. De speciaal voor de bild i ontwikkelde floor stand flex is bijzonder geschikt voor een elegante presentatie van uw Loewe TV vrijstaand in de ruimte. Ook als wandopstelling, vrij zwevend aan de muur of als tafelopstelling perfect geplaatst op een dressoir, slaat de bild i een perfect figuur.

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Kris Baele

# KRIS BAELE PRESERVES AN AGE-OLD CRAFT.

## UNIQUE, CONTEMPORARY, AND HAND-MADE

Jewels made in one's own workshop from the first stroke to the final polish! Jeweller Kris Baele from Wetteren makes all his jewellery by hand and thereby continues a family tradition from generation to generation. 'Our manner of working focuses on beauty and authenticity and allows us to maintain full control over the top quality for which we strive with each creation.'

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### TEAMWORK

25 years ago, Kris Baele took up the jewellery profession and thereby followed in the footsteps of both parents. Nevertheless, this specialist chose to plot a different course. Today, he still meticulously follows that course, and the local store in Wetteren has established his reputation in the world of top class jewellery. Despite his undoubted expertise, Kris remains modest and points out that there's no 'I' in the word 'team'. 'Our jewels are often creations developed by all the family. My wife and daughters are my soundboard for developing new collections and they're my right hand in making business decisions. They keep me on my toes for the present with a critical look to the future. They give me input on present trends, current fashion trends, and what today's modern woman finds charming and attractive. That information leads to inspiration and, in turn, creation.'

### THE 'KRIS BAELE' SIGNATURE

Kris didn't train 'formally' as a goldsmith, but learnt the trade on the job, as did so many before him. 'I learnt the tricks of the trade via a series of work placements. For instance, I worked for one year in a workshop in Knokke-Heist where I learnt everything from someone whom I see as the best goldsmith ever. I've also done a six-month work placement in a reputable workshop in Barcelona, the city with perhaps the best jewellers in the world. After that, I took a course in administration and management in Lausanne, Switzerland, and then I returned to my roots here in Wetteren to continue the family business. My vision was different from the very beginning. My parents ran a "traditional" jewellery shop. Obviously, they were professionals, but they lived mainly from buying and selling jewels and watches. You can't stand out from your colleagues with watches, even with top class trademarks. No one drives two villages away to buy something they can easily get nearer to home. I didn't change everything at once, but gradually introduced more of my own work to come finally to the point where we are today. In our shop we have only our own unique creations. Do I have my own style? People who know my style certainly recognise the 'Kris Baele' signature in it. How would I describe that style myself? In short, I keep things discreet and stylish, modern yet equally timeless.'





## DecoLight-rent shines a new light on easy access design

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Als unieke leverancier in de Benelux, maakt DecoLight-rent het u bovendien gemakkelijk om exclusieve design lampen te huren voor zowel korte als langere termijnen. Events, horeca, bedrijven, interieur-architecten, kijkwoningen, technische firma's... kunnen rekenen op een ongezien aanbod van buitengewone producten aan betaalbare prijzen!

DecoLight-rent schijnt inderdaad een nieuw licht op toegankelijk design.

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### NEW COLLECTION

Over the years, scores of clients have come (and still come) to the corner store in Florimond Leirensstraat in Wetteren. 'Our clients are diverse, but, logically, somewhat older. Young people are certainly interested, not least thanks to the discreet timelessness of the jewels, but they usually have different financial priorities. Once they're more settled financially, they like to spend a little extra on a unique jewel. And so, clients are often a little older, say 40 plus, and come for our own collection which we extend each year in the autumn to include new creations. It's not that we start completely from scratch each year. We do launch a series of new items, but that's no reason to ditch the older designs. In this way we build a solid collection which always includes new elements. We often work "in a group"; this means that the new creations share certain features, so they suit each other nicely.'

### FROM DESIGN TO REVAMP

A second type of client has some idea of what the jewel should look like, be it a ring, necklace, armband, or earring. 'But they can't relate it to a specific existing model. And so, I make a completely new and absolutely unique design to meet their wishes perfectly.'

There's also a happy medium. 'People see something in the collection, but they want to adapt it to their taste. Obviously, that's perfectly possible because all our work is customised. Along the same lines there are clients who have come into possession of those jewels through an inheritance or a gift. They invariably have an emotional attachment to that jewellery, so they don't want to sell it, but they ask me to revamp it. Over the years, that's become something of a speciality of the house. I love doing it because people greatly appreciate it. The combination of the value of the jewellery and the emotional value has a glittering effect.'

### THE INTANGIBILITY OF ETERNITY

We wonder how exactly a specialist draws inspiration year by year. Kris replies: 'It's difficult to put that into words. I use a broad spectrum of inspiration. Something I've seen somewhere, nature, ideas, or feedback from my wife and daughters, but it can equally be a new idea which stems from an old or older model. My wife and I invest a great deal of time in conceiving and preparing new designs. Personally, I think that my jewels must have a soul. A ring or a necklace or an armband has to radiate something, something I once described as "the intangibility of eternity". Giving the intangible a tangible shape isn't just our mission; it's also our passion.'

More information: [www.krisbaele.be](http://www.krisbaele.be)





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## DESTINATION SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Surrounded by the equatorial waters of the Gulf of Guinea and the equator, Sao Tome and Principe, one of Africa's two smallest countries, consists of an archipelago of paradise islands whose volcanic origins date back less than 30 million years. The land part of the islands is the remnant of ancient stratovolcanoes that lie at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, 300 km off the coast of Gabon.


Pictures © Bruno Van den Bossche



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4  
  
1  
  
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189 m<sup>2</sup>

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5  
  
4  
  
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4  
  
1  
  
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Sao Tomé, the larger of the two main islands, is less than 50 km long and up to 27 km wide and is sparsely populated with just over 200,000 inhabitants. Rising directly from the ocean, with a peak of over 2,000 m surrounded by numerous black basalt peaks, covered in lush tropical forest, surrounded by fine sandy beaches and turquoise ocean waters, the island boasts impressive landscapes of stunning beauty. Smaller and much wilder than its big brother, Príncipe, 150 km north, is only 20 km long and 12 km wide and has a population of about 8,000.

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A tropical paradise par excellence against a background of stunning landscapes, where nature lovers can enjoy the equatorial vegetation, idyllic beaches and rich marine life. Translated into colour, the destination is home to contrasts of black basalt, lush greenery, white sandy beaches, turquoise lagoons and the deep blue ocean.

Located on the equator, the islands have a warm, humid tropical climate with a constant temperature of 26-32°C and can be visited all year round. Needless to say, the dense vegetation would not be possible without regular rainfall, which is concentrated in the jungles in the south-west of the islands. It rains five times less on the northern and eastern coasts.

Abandoned until the end of the 15th century, the islands were colonised by the Portuguese, who made them a hub for the Atlantic slave trade, partly to meet the need for labour for the plantations on the fertile volcanic soil. First sugar cane, then coffee and finally cocoa, which was introduced in 1822 and for which the islands were one of the world's leading producers for a long time.

Cocoa in Sao Tome is also associated with the name of Claudio Corallo, who is considered the producer of the best chocolate in the world. To find out what makes it so unique, a visit to the island is an absolute must...



Once on the islands, it is worth visiting the many historical plantations with colonial charm, called “Roças”. Some are ruins, others are still active, growing excellent coffee and making sublime chocolate!

The Creole cultural identity of the Santomese comes from the mixing of populations from Angola in Africa, Portugal and the Cape Verde Islands. Without any real material wealth, happiness and good humour are always present among the inhabitants of the country who remain true to their motto “Lev, Lev”!

With a tropical climate, surrounded by ocean waters, the gastronomy of the islands reflects its European and African origins, and naturally remains focused on seafood, tropical fruits and vegetables. A visit to Sao Tomé would be incomplete without lunch at Roça São João, at the table of internationally renowned chef João Carlos Silva.

The isolated beaches - “Praia” in Portuguese - for which the islands are famous are called Banana, Battery, Preta, Francine, Macoco, Micondo, Piscina, Café, Boi de Uba, Grande, Caju, etc. It is pure enjoyment on these not only paradisiacal, but often completely deserted beaches.

There is excellent and varied diving here, from shallow coral gardens to the deep blue of steep drops that reach over 2,000 metres deep! Encounters with sea turtles, dolphins and whales are a daily event. The tropical reefs around the islands contain a wealth of marine life and are ideal for snorkelling.

The national parks cover the central and south-western wilderness areas and occupy the higher ground of the two main islands. These higher rainfall areas offer an extensive network of hiking trails through beautiful landscapes to magnificent waterfalls and pure native flora and fauna.



## Sao Tomé e Príncipe

An ecotourism destination par excellence, the many activities and experiences are focused on nature thanks to the sincere welcome from the inhabitants. Some visits are done by 4x4 vehicle, quad or boat, but it will be mainly on foot, swimming, diving, kayaking that you will enjoy the most.

In terms of accommodation, Príncipe is more exclusive than the main island and has the best addresses, such as Roça Belo Monte, Roça Sundy, Sundy Praia and Bom Bom. On Sao Tomé, the choice is wider, from self-catering villas to restored Roças with old-world charm, not forgetting Pousadas, small lodges and some more lux-

urious hotels such as Omali and Pestana. There are no gigantic resort hotels here, just the pure pleasure of a personal welcome.

The limited and difficult accessibility of this former Portuguese colony, in addition to the need to fly via Lisbon, is also the guarantee of a paradisiacal destination that will remain free of mass tourism for a long time to come.

Nature lovers, lovers of paradise islands, hikers, divers, looking for destinations outside the tourist resorts, far from any form of mass tourism ... this destination of pure tranquillity is made for you!





Don't hesitate to contact us for travel ideas and destination details. Inspiration Africa advises and assists you with the organisation of your next holiday in Sao Tomé and Príncipe ... in "Middle-earth".

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# Duurzaam bouwen in de toekomst.



De energetische eisen die aan gebouwen worden gesteld, worden heel streng. Tegen 2050 moet elk gebouw energielabel A hebben en dat vormt een grote uitdaging voor woningeigenaars en vastgoedontwikkelaars. Duurzaam bouwen, hoe pakken we dat aan? We vragen het Kristof Vanfleteren, CEO van **ION**, Jeroen Rabaey, co-founder van **NOVEN**, specialist in duurzame energie uit Gent, en Tinne Van der Straeten, federaal minister voor Energie.

## KRISTOF, HOE KAN DE BOUWSECTOR DUURZAMER GAAN BOUWEN?

---

**Kristof:** “Bij duurzaam bouwen denken mensen veelal aan technische maatregelen, maar wij hebben voor onze organisatie drie duurzaamheidspijlers gedefinieerd: impact building of bouwen op basis van de noden van de omgeving, de total cost of living en be yourself, communicate as one. Deze pijlers maken deel uit van het DNA van ons bedrijf en worden gedragen door al onze medewerkers. Dit DNA zie je terug in de duurzaamheid die we nastreven bij nieuwe projecten. Daarnaast volgen wij de Duurzaamheidsmeter Wijken, een tool van de Vlaamse overheid waarbij we kunnen meten hoeveel beter we scoren dan het wettelijke kader en dat in vergelijking met andere bedrijven. We moeten enerzijds zeker oog hebben voor de technische maatregelen met betrekking tot verwarming en anderzijds moeten we continu de denkoefening maken om duurzaamheid te implementeren bij elk nieuw bouwproject.”



## JEROEN, ZIE JIJ IN DE PRAKTIJK AL EEN OMSLAG VAN CONVENTIONELE NAAR MEER DUURZAME ENERGIE?

---

**Jeroen:** “Bij nieuwbouwprojecten zien we een evolutie van gas en stookolie naar ofwel restwarmte ofwel geothermie, waarbij we energie aan de bodem onttrekken. Die energie zetten we met een warmtepomp om in koude lucht. Het is een duurzame en klimaatvriendelijke oplossing om oververhitting tegen te gaan in goed geïsoleerde gebouwen of bij hogere temperaturen. Deze techniek raakt steeds meer gekend en we zien hier duidelijk een evolutie van een nice to have naar een must have.”

## DUURZAAMHEID EN KLIMAATVRIENDELIJKHEID, DEZE TERMEN BRENGEN UITERAARD GROTE UITDAGINGEN MET ZICH MEE.

## TINNE, WAT VERWACHT JIJ VAN DE BOUWSECTOR EN DE PROJECTONTWIKKELAARS?

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**Tinne:** “Veel passie en expertise. Er zijn erg veel oude gebouwen in België en om die te laten beantwoorden aan de Europese klimaatdoelstellingen, hebben we elf woningrenovaties per uur nodig. Een actuele tendens bij nieuwe projecten is dat een buurt de handen in elkaar slaat en samen zorgt voor slimme energieoplossingen. Het is voor de regering dus een gigantische uitdaging om ervoor te zorgen dat het kader en de regels duidelijk zijn. De gebouwen maken immers integraal deel uit van de Europese doelstelling om tegen 2050 klimaatneutraliteit te bereiken. Het is een doelstelling die we samen met de privésector moeten bereiken.”



## **DIE TWEE WERELDEN MOETEN INDERDAAD HAND IN HAND GAAN. KRISTOF, WAT HEBBEN DE BOUWSECTOR EN DE EXPERTEN OP HET VLAK VAN DUURZAAM BOUWEN NODIG VAN DE OVERHEID?**

---

**Kristof:** “Wij werken aan tal van initiatieven waarbij we in zee gaan met geprivatiseerde energie-installaties en gebouwen. Daarvoor ontbreekt momenteel een wettelijk kader en dat schrikt mensen soms af, want, in tegenstelling tot Electrabel e.d., kunnen privébedrijven ophouden te bestaan en wat dan met de energie die nodig is voor de woning? Een terechte bezorgdheid, want verwarming is een basisbehoefte.”



## **DUURZAAM LEVEN EN BOUWEN HEBBEN DUIDELIJK OOK EEN IMPACT OP ONZE VERWARMINGSTECHNIEKEN. JEROEN, KAN DIE EVOLUTIE OPGEVANGEN WORDEN DOOR DE BESTAANDE STRUCTUREN EN SYSTEMEN?**

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**Jeroen:** “Dat is een goede vraag, het elektriciteitsnet komt inderdaad steeds meer onder druk te staan. De juiste techniekkeuze is daarom van groot belang. Opteren we voor een warmtepomp, dan moeten we er ons van bewust zijn dat die het elektrische net gebruikt. Dat net wordt ook steeds meer belast door, onder andere, laadpalen. Wij zijn ervan overtuigd dat alles centraal aangesloten en beheerd moet worden. Daar is, volgens ons, een belangrijke rol weggelegd voor Energy Service Companies, die de verantwoordelijkheid dragen voor de efficiëntie en goede werking van die installaties.”



## **JULIE ZITTEN DUIDELIJK HEEL VAAK OP DEZELFDE LIJN. WAT ZIJN VANDAAG DE GROOTSTE UITDAGINGEN OM DUURZAAM BOUWEN HAALBAAR TE MAKEN?**

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**Kristof:** “Onze kopers zijn bereid bijkomende investeringen te doen om duurzaam te bouwen, maar we merken dat het belangrijk is om het prijskaartje binnen bepaalde grenzen te houden.”

**Tinne:** “Daar ben ik het absoluut mee eens. We hebben een groot tekort aan sociale woningen waardoor mensen met een beperkte financiële capaciteit vaak uitkomen bij huizen van bijzonder slechte kwaliteit. Samen met de OCMW’s kijken de Vlaamse ministers om aan deze mensen voorrang te geven. Leven in armoede is niet evident en dan gaat je aandacht bijvoorbeeld niet meteen naar het veranderen van leverancier. Hier kunnen we door zaken te gaan combineren, grote stappen zetten.”

**Jeroen:** “Dat is inderdaad zo. Wij focussen op twee segmenten, namelijk nieuwbouw en renovatie. Bij nieuwbouw is men voorstander van duurzame energie, maar lopen we tegen de goedkope gasprijs aan én tegen het feit dat we elektriciteit nog altijd moeten inkopen. Datzelfde fenomeen zien we ook bij de renovatiemarkt. Om deze projecten ruimte te geven, is een fiscale hervorming noodzakelijk. Momenteel is het niet mogelijk om de investering van een warmtepomp terug te verdienen, omdat je meer investeert en de verbruikskost niet of weinig daalt.”

## **DE WIL IS ER DUIDELIJK. WANNEER WORDT ÉÉN EN ANDER EFFECTIEF? WE HEBBEN EEN AANTAL QUICK WINS BESPROKEN, IDEEËN VAN DE ONDERNEMERS VOOR DE MINISTER. WANNEER KOMT DAAR DIE PUSH VAN DE OVERHEID?**

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**Tinne:** “De elektriciteitswet wordt nog dit jaar gewijzigd jaar met onder andere de digitalisering en het sociaal tarief. We bekijken ook hoe we de doelstellingen voor Fit for 55 kunnen realiseren, het initiatief van de Europese Commissie waarbij het streefdoel is om tegen 2030 de CO2-uitstoot met 55% te reduceren in alle sectoren. Gebouwen zijn vandaag verantwoordelijk voor 40% van de totale energieconsumptie. De energieswitch is bezig, we werken er dus elke dag aan verder.”

**Kristof:** “Wij nemen daarbij zeker onze rol op en staan bij een aantal concrete projecten al veel verder dan mensen denken. Zo halen we bijvoorbeeld warmte uit afvalwater en recupereren we die warmte in gebouwen. We vinden het ook onze rol als ondernemer om te blijven onderzoeken hoe wij het verschil kunnen maken. In ons bedrijf hebben wij twee mensen die enkel bezig zijn met nieuwe dingen bedenken.”

# FROM PRIVATE THEATRE AND DIGITAL ART TO HIGH END GAMING HIDE EVERYTHING **BUT THE PICTURE**

As a globally renowned specialist in display technology, Barco supplies more than just top quality products for cinemas, live events, and other professional applications. Under the title Barco Residential, the company focuses on the residential market with elements such as private theatre, digital art, and high end gaming. The digital solutions from Barco mean that the possibilities are well nigh endless, even in the living room.



## CREATING THE EXPERIENCE

Barco started in 1934 by making radios, switched later to televisions, and went on to become the world's leading technological player in ultra-high-end professional visualisation applications. Over 51% of all cinema screens are equipped with Barco projectors. However, Barco also considers residential clients and brings the best image technology to our homes. Bart Devos, business development manager at Barco Residential, explains: 'Firstly, we have our private theatres. We call this private theatre or private cinema to distinguish it from home cinema as a hobby. There's nothing wrong with home cinema as a hobby, but Barco Residential focuses clearly on a much higher level. Then we offer the use of media rooms and digital art

throughout the house. Barco Residential certainly doesn't limit itself specifically to the living room and an outdoor private cinema is perfectly feasible. Another example of our residential solutions apart from private cinema is a work of art over an entire wall with digital projection. And that certainly doesn't have to be a screen of two by two metres; the options are virtually endless. Moreover, the projectors are neatly concealed, so you only see the digital canvas, namely the artwork itself. In other words, all that is left is the "experience". And that's precisely what Barco means by Creating The Experience. With the help of our Architectural Integration tools, we can conceal everything so only the essential element, namely the image, is on show.'

## THE RIGHT SCREEN FOR THE RIGHT ROOM

How can people discover the possibilities of Barco Residential? They can do that via our dealers or by visiting the head office in Kortrijk, where we have various demo studios. That also goes for all products from the three divisions Enterprise, Health Care, and Entertainment, to which Barco Residential belongs. When visitors come, they can see the full Barco narrative in the various experience centres. There they can discover what we do in the area of health care with our digital displays, but also what we do in meeting rooms, what the control rooms look like, and, of course, what Barco does in the home. That can be private theatres with a two or four-metre screen, but you also see cinemas with 170 seats. A fully equipped home cinema with a screen of roughly ten or twelve metres is perfectly feasible in collaboration with our partners, the so called integrators. Clients who contact us are looking for a total solution with audio, video, and design. People used to opt for 'a projector' or 'a screen' to set things up themselves, but it's different now. Nowadays, thanks to advances in technology, the possibilities are legion. In fact, Barco offers 'prosumer' electronics, and that's considerably more specialised than classic consumer electronics. That's why we work together with the right partners. They help us create a total package with the right screen for the right room. That can be a projector, but it can just as well be a LED wall or a tiled LCD video wall. We discuss this at length to provide a solution which meets the client's needs and wishes, always with a view to the best experience.'

## PROFESSIONAL TECHNOLOGY IN A RESIDENTIAL SETTING

Aren't high-quality solutions rather costly? Tim Sinnaeve, managing director of High End Residential, replies: 'Our range is very wide, but we can't deny that it does cost rather more than a DIY home cinema. The latter isn't our primary target group. Our solutions are more for the luxury residential market, but, in absolute terms, in the Benelux, for instance, that still means thousands of potential clients. In the commercial market the stress is soon on buying a projector and a LED screen, but with us it's all about the quest for a particular "experience". We consider which form of technology provides perfect satisfaction, not just for the application itself, but also for the specific atmosphere and experience which clients are looking for. Top Performance is obviously an important requirement; after all, it's about big screens and large surfaces. You do need the right power for that and that soon takes you to the world of professional technology. What Barco does is to apply that professional knowledge in a residential setting with products designed specifically for high end homes. Then, at Barco you also have what's called Architectural Integration. It goes without saying that you don't want to hang a big projector in your living room in the middle of the ceiling. In that case we work together with partners who develop systems for concealing projectors in ceilings or walls or even in items of furniture. 'Hide everything but the picture' is our motto. For that we use various forms of technology so that you can come much closer to the screen than people often think. Thanks to the experience of our other divisions, we can offer solutions so that, to give one example, you get a perfect view of the screen from what initially looks like a 'strange angle' thanks to various computer-guided lenses. Most people have little or no idea of what's possible. Barco

Residential applies the very latest developments from the most demanding professional sectors, but adds some innovations which specifically meet the needs of a residential market. Obviously, we're talking here about sophisticated technology and high end products which, even in the area of light output, are way ahead of the standard solutions on the consumer market.'

## DIGITAL CANVAS

And so, all this goes much further than a screen for watching films or televisions? 'It can also involve an entire wall onto which we project and exceed the concept of home theatre. Then you have a digital canvas which you can use to do anything. You can project a live beach view or experiment with virtual wallpaper or even do some gaming. If the screen covers the entire wall, you no longer have the feeling that it is a screen, but you sit amidst the live experience and you really can speak of "life-size gaming". Without a disruptive headset, you can do some gaming in the same room with several people on a screen of very high image quality. Another example is the technology which we use to project onto big buildings. That, too, is now perfectly possible on a villa, for instance. Or projecting a digital work of art, as we've already mentioned. And so, it doesn't only have to be about moving images.'

High end image quality is inextricably bound to equally high-quality audio. 'We don't develop that ourselves, but it's supplied by partners with whom we have close links and who strive for the same high quality standards as Barco. Obviously, customers don't need to worry about that. Our integrators are only too happy to take care of that. They bring together the total experience for the client, tailored to the client.'

## INSPIRING

Clients will find inspiration in abundance on the web site [www.barcoresidential.com](http://www.barcoresidential.com). Bart Devos concludes our interview: 'There you will find all the basic information and a more specific explanation of the products, but also and especially several examples and projects which Barco has completed worldwide. If you click on "Living The Experience", you will find all the information about private theatre and media rooms, about the possibilities of digital art, high end gaming, and our outdoor solutions. You also find there an explanation of the "Window on the world" concept. Here we use a digital canvas to create a specific experience which varies from "a real window" to a life-size view of the ocean, the mountains, or the forest. The latter really can give the impression that "you've pushed the wall over." The concept of a "screen" disappears and that fundamentally changes the way you experience everything. It's important to know that the web site is less product-oriented, but focuses rather on the "experience" which you can achieve with our products. "Creating The Experience" says more about how we do that and all that's possible in room design and architectural canvassing. Therefore, we also want to give architects and designers new tools to design a living space. If you want to know more, please contact us or make an appointment in the Barco Experience Centre.'

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## OOK MAATWERK IS MOGELIJK

Kris Baele beheerst als een van de weinige juweelontwerpers zowel de goudsmeedkunst als de verlorenwastechniek. Daarom kan hij perfect inspelen op de vraag van elke klant.

## VAN OUD NAAR NIEUW

Wilt u eer doen aan het verleden, maar toch mee zijn met de toekomst? Kom dan zeker eens langs om de mogelijkheden te bespreken voor nieuwe creaties van bestaand materiaal!



# EDINBURGH, CAPITAL OF SCOTLAND

Edinburgh, the Scottish capital, is a city worthy of its UNESCO World Heritage status. During a visit to this historic city, you will never be short of things to explore, with castles, monuments, parks, museums and galleries. Edinburgh's gourmet restaurants and luxury hotels make for an unforgettable trip.

Text Joanna Pays





Edinburgh is built on seven hills, each offering a different view of the city. The city centre is divided in two by Princes Street Gardens. North of the gardens is the elegant Georgian 'New Town' district, with its gardens and neoclassical buildings. To the south is the medieval 'Old Town', dominated by Edinburgh Castle.

### **EDINBURGH CASTLE – THE CITY'S ICONIC LANDMARK**

Considered one of Scotland's most impressive castles, Edinburgh Castle towers over the city from the top of the ancient volcano on which it was built in the 12th century. Surrounded by a huge fortress, it served as a royal home and a military base, before becoming a historical museum.

The castle is home to the Scottish Crown Jewels and the 'Stone of Destiny' - the legendary stone used in the coronation of Scottish rulers. During your visit you will discover interactive exhibits, objects captured during the Battle of Waterloo and the magnificent Great Hall, with its collection of ancient weapons.

### **HOLYROOD PALACE**

Opposite Edinburgh Castle is Holyrood Palace. Holyrood Palace was built 500 years ago and was once the residence of Marie Stuart. Today it is still used as one of the Queen's residences. Each summer the Queen spends a few days at Holyrood Palace, so if you are planning a trip to Edinburgh, inquire about the dates beforehand, as on these days the palace is closed to visitors.

During your visit to Holyrood, you can admire the sumptuous ceremonial rooms and the royal apartments, with period furniture and tapestries. Don't miss the Great Gallery, hung with 96 portrait paintings of members of the royal family through the centuries. Within the palace grounds, you can also visit the gardens and the ruins of an abbey. Take one of the free audio guides to make the most of your visit.

### THE ROYAL YACHT BRITANNIA

The Royal Yacht Britannia was the Queen's 'floating palace' for over 40 years, taking members of the royal family around the world for official visits. Now retired, the yacht is moored at Edinburgh's historic Leith Harbour and is a fascinating tourist attraction.

A recorded audio tour will guide you through the yacht's five decks for a rare glimpse into the life of the British royal family. Highlights include the fabulous royal apartments and bedrooms, as well as the operational areas such as the laundry rooms and the gleaming engine room. Most of the objects presented are original and on loan from the Royal Collection. End your visit in the Royal Deck tearoom, with meals prepared in the yacht's own galley.

### GASTRONOMY

Edinburgh is famous for its gastronomy. Its restaurants offer a wide choice to satisfy all palates and appetites - from fine cuisine to fast food.

At Rhubarb Restaurant, the best of Scottish cuisine is on the menu. In sumptuous surroundings, diners can choose from an eclectic range of dishes such as hand-picked scallops, Glemalmond estate venison and Dornochi lamb.

The Scottish Malt Whisky Society is a private club located in a beautiful townhouse that overlooks the Firth of Forth river. The club's





## Edinburgh



restaurant is open to non-club members and offers traditional local cuisine, such as seafood and game.

Brasserie No 11 is located in the trendy East End of Edinburgh. The chef uses fresh produce to create light lunches and gourmet dinners, complemented by a well-curated wine list.

### HOTELS

Edinburgh has a good selection of high-quality hotels and accommodation. Two of the city's most prestigious hotels are the Balmoral Hotel and the Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh Caledonian.

The Waldorf Astoria Caledonian offers one of the best views in town, with 241 guest rooms and two gourmet restaurants. At Caledonian's Caley Bar you can choose from over 100 Scotch whiskeys. Other facilities at the Caledonian include a Guerlain spa, an indoor swimming pool, sauna, hammam, hot tub and fitness centre.

The Balmoral Hotel is an elegant 5-star hotel in the heart of the city. Part of the Rocco Forte luxury hotel group, the Balmoral is a former railway hotel, easily located by its large clock tower. All of its guest rooms have been individually designed by renowned interior designer, Olga Polizzi. To discover one of the city's most famous Michelin-starred restaurants, make a reservation at the hotel's Number One restaurant.





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## Edinburgh



Those looking for the luxury boutique hotel experience should book into The Dunstane Houses. The Dunstane Houses is a charming hotel run by a local Edinburgh family, with 35 luxurious rooms and suites. Set in two Victorian townhouses, the hotel has its own restaurant, bar, and private gardens.

To get to Edinburgh, Edinburgh Airport is located just 5 miles from the city and serves dozens of European destinations including Amsterdam, Brussels, Eindhoven, Luxembourg and Rotterdam. For the latest traveller rules, visit <https://www.gov.scot/publications> before your trip.

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# WILL YOUR **SPENDING POWER** CONTINUE TO DIMINISH IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

In recent years, savers have lost out because inflation has been higher than the savings interest rates. Bond investors have also had a hard time. This situation might not change in the next few years. There's little option but to invest in order to increase yield potential.



Savings interest rates have been low since 2008 and we don't expect them to rise much higher in the next few years. The reduction of rates down to almost zero was initially a response to the financial crisis. Yet rates are still low even a decade and more after that crisis. After all, structural factors also play a part. The diminishing population growth in places such as Europe, Japan, and China means slower economic growth. Central banks are keeping interest rates low to give the economy a boost. In the meantime, savers are seeing their spending power diminish because the real interest rate (interest rate percentage minus the inflation percentage) is negative.

## **WHAT DO WE MEAN BY 'FINANCIAL REPRESSION'?**

The notion of 'financial repression' expresses this more sharply. American economist Carmen Reinhart describes the negative real interest rate as a 'repression tax', a technique which governments use to keep repayments of astronomic national debts affordable, whilst savers suffer as a result. According to Ms Reinhart, this is nothing but a concealed tax on savings.

## **WHAT DO TEN YEARS OF FINANCIAL REPRESSION MEAN FOR YOUR SAVINGS?**

The chart below shows the development in the spending power of 10,000 euros in a savings account over the last ten years. The

accrued interest of 5.41% is not enough to withstand the accrued inflation of 16.57%. Anyone who leaves 10,000 euros in a savings account for ten years has lost almost 10% in spending power.

### THE IMPACT OF FINANCIAL REPRESSION FOR BOND INVESTORS

Financial repression makes wealth preservation a major challenge, not only for savers but also for bond investors. Quality bonds no longer yield any significant nominal yields. In many cases they are even negative. It is harder than ever to achieve a yield which is higher than inflation, especially in the euro zone.

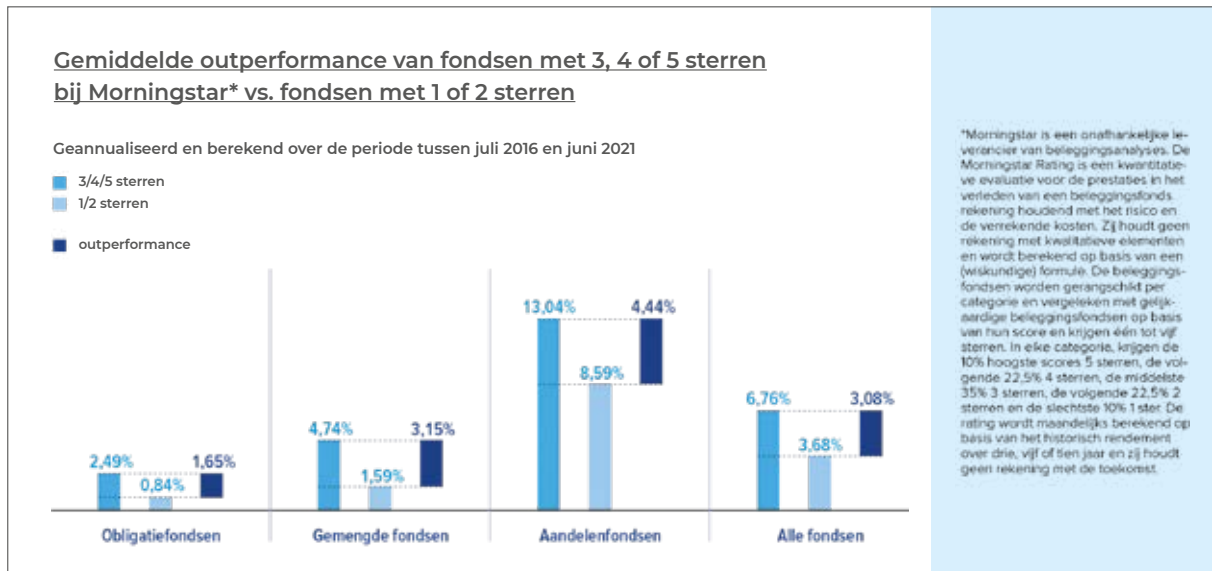
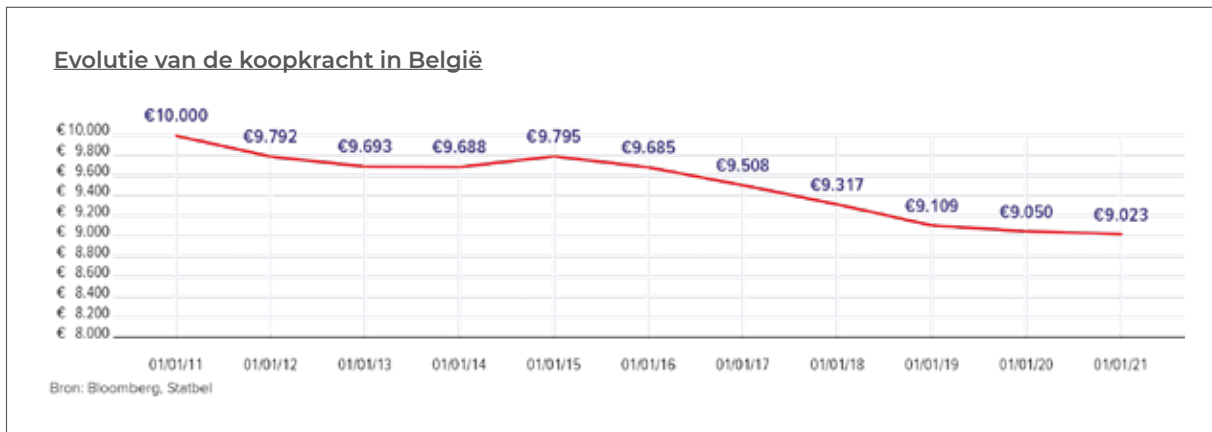
Bond investors have no option but to take more risks to increase their yield potential. This makes the yield less predictable and susceptible to volatility. If your investment profile permits, you can resolve this by putting a larger part of your investments in shares.

### THE IMPACT OF FINANCIAL REPRESSION FOR SHARE INVESTORS

With shares we draw a distinction between growth shares and value shares. Value shares are shares which appear to be sold at a lower price than is justified on the basis of their fundamentals (e.g. turnover and profit). Growth shares are shares of which it is accepted that they will grow faster than the market average. If future turnovers achieved by such companies are charged at a low interest rate, their actual value rises and they become more attractive. If the long-term interest rises, these shares lose some of their value. The expectation of higher real interest can result in a rotation of growth shares to value shares.

### DIVERSIFICATION AND ROBUSTNESS: MORE THAN EVER A MUST

Financial repression makes broad diversification and robust risk management of investment portfolios more important than ever. One way of achieving robustness is to build up the portfolio around a solid core which is based on strategic asset allocation. It is also possible to limit the risk of a higher equity exposure via hedging techniques.







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