

S I N G A P O R E T A T L E R

# HOMES

*Living . Luxurious*



10

**MASTERS  
OF CROSS-  
DISCIPLINARY  
DESIGN**

**STYLISH HOME  
OFFICE IDEAS**

*ROOM with a  
VIEW*

MODERN HOME DESIGNS  
WITH TEXTURES,  
MATERIALS AND  
CAPTIVATING VISTAS

An artwork by American painter Sam Francis adds a punch of colour to the toned-down look of the interiors



# REDEFINING LUXEMBOURG

French interior architect and decorator Aurélie Bire brings subtle modern elegance to a villa in Luxembourg originally designed by her father 20 years ago



BY Y-JEAN MUN-DELSALLE PHOTOGRAPHY J.C.T

**FROM TOP**

Aurélia Bire is the daughter of the founder of interior design house J.C.T; The interiors are inspired by Charles Baudelaire's poems *L'Invitation au Voyage* and *Correspondances*

**OPPOSITE**

The home is located in an exclusive residential area in Hesperange in Luxembourg

**H**ow do you take a design that was originally completed two decades ago by your father and transform it into a contemporary home that echoes the spirit of the times?

That was the question that Aurélia Bire had to tackle in reworking the Villa Luxembourg, ensuring that each of the rooms embraced a feeling of lightness, well-being, serenity and comfort, and that art took centre stage.

The owners requested the house's main rooms be converted into welcoming, light-filled living spaces that serve as the perfect showcase for their art collection. The challenge was thus to respect the existing while creating something totally new.

Bire describes how she updated her father's design, "The house was initially designed with a French classic approach. The objective was to make a subtle revolution, finding the fine line to respect what was previously done and to change radically the feel of the



**GET THE LOOK**  
Chandeliers, such as this Ombre Portée design, help to set the scene in an entrance hall. Head to Macsk to view unique lighting designs by Lasvit.



**THIS PAGE** A table with a sculptural central base in polished bronze by Gérard Mannoni; The understated tones are perfect for showcasing the artworks

**OPPOSITE** A chandelier above the dining table in Murano pâte de verre

place to make it much more contemporary. Hence, I changed cornices to simpler ones to emphasise the feeling of space, designed window treatments in a modern way with side decorative curtains and blinds, which lets the light in and embellishes the views out, and worked extensively on finding rare finishes like grey wood and white textured wood, which I bought directly from an exclusive wood producer.”

Trying new things, she chose woods that she had not used before and proposed unique finishes, challenging talented artisans to execute difficult yet apparently simple designs. She notes, “Often, I have trouble finding a piece. In this case, I design it and we have it produced by talented craftsmen.”

Bire introduced luxurious materials, organic shapes and artist furniture, creating visual relationships among them. Trying new things, she chose woods that she had not used before and proposed unique finishes, challenging talented artisans to execute difficult yet apparently simple designs. Built by Paris-based architect Jacques Regnault, famous for houses in Saint-Cloud and Enghien-les-Bains and the golf course in Saint-Nom-la-Bretèche in Yvelines, the stone building’s architecture shows off classic harmonious proportions, in which Bire kept a standard layout and inserted modernity through design details and bold furniture. The entrance hall is marked by traditional volumes, chromed finishes and carefully-selected designer furniture.



In the living room flooded with natural light, noble materials and subtle colours are set against well-crafted wood panelling and fabric-covered walls, giving off a relaxed, serene feel. The sofa, cushions and curtains designed by Bire rub shoulders with the one-of-a-kind bronze-legged glass coffee table by the artist Gérard Mannoni. The rounded motifs on the multicoloured silk curtains reference those of the cushions, the curve of the solid sycamore console by cabinetmakers Aisthesis and the “double-sided” occasional table in grey birch that Bire designed. The Golden Carp and Buisson candleholder – two gilded bronzes by Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne that entered the owners’ collection 20 years ago – perfectly match with the brightly-coloured painting by American action artist Sam Francis.



**THIS PAGE  
CLOCKWISE  
FROM TOP  
LEFT**

Tones of ivory and gold dominate the master bedroom; The study, adjacent to the bedroom, features fabric-covered walls and a floating ceiling; A desk in moiré wood; Chambre valet in cherry wood by Ceccotti

**OPPOSITE**

Quiet corners of repose for the 72 year-old homeowner

**LIVING ROOM GRANDEUR**

In the living room flooded with natural light, noble materials and subtle colours are set against well-crafted wood panelling and fabric-covered walls, giving off a relaxed, serene feel. The Golden Carp and Buisson candleholder – two gilded bronzes by Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne perfectly match with the brightly-coloured painting by American action artist Sam Francis. In the convivial dining room, there is a Parade console table in oak with legs in bronze designed by Jacques Jarrige, along with an oversized wall mirror by Christopher Guy that adds to the room's sensation of depth and light. The design of the cupboards echoes in the curtain fabrics, the chair outlines and the console's shape.

The homeowner has nothing but praise for Bire, disclosing, "To be honest, the house is beyond all my expectations. I told Aurelia the first time I walked in to the space, 'I am 72 years old and it is the first time I feel this good at home. I have never seen anything as beautiful as this in my all life.' Before I had the space renovated, I would stay in the kitchen and eat out most of the time. It is the first time I feel really good at home and want to stay at home." 🍷



*"Often, I have trouble finding a piece. In this case, I design it and we have it produced by talented craftsmen."*



**TYPE OF HOME**  
Landed

**SIZE OF PROPERTY**  
64,500 sq ft

**BUILT-UP AREA**  
6,781sq ft

**RESIDENTS**  
2

**ARCHITECT**  
Jacques Regnault

**INTERIOR DESIGN**  
Aurélia Bire

**TIME TAKEN**  
12 Months