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This winter we visit two couples who have created their dream homes in the heart of Europe. Fashion photographer Martina Bjorn and Architect David Van Severen live with their children in an old Beaux-Arts building in Brussels, where historical charm meets everyday functionality. Artist Lukas Cober and doctor Vera Köller have transformed a former miner's dwelling in Belgium into an original light-flooded home close to nature. Both interiors – and the Vitra products within them – express the individual personality of their inhabitants.



The Brussels studio flat of Martina Bjorn and David Van Severen is a collage of historical splendour and timeless design

‘We love beautiful things. It’s part of a certain self-expression. We feel happy when we look at them or use them.’

David van Severen I remember Martina was in Sweden with the kids, and I was alone in Brussels. We were desperately looking for a new house. **Martina Bjorn** We fell in love with this place, because it has this generosity. It’s very urban and at the same time, you have this leftover space that is a garden, but also a strange courtyard with age-old trees. A piece of wilderness in the city. **DVS** The house itself is more than 100 years old. It’s this mansion-like row house. Very typical for Brussels. It was for sale as an office space. It’s just a set of rooms, basically, that we have filled to suit our needs. **MB** It was for sale as an office space. It’s just a set of rooms, basically, that you can fill how you want. For us, it was easy to see what needed to be

done. It felt like bringing this place back to what it was. **DVS** When we combine old interiors and modern furniture, we’re not looking for contrast. It’s more about finding harmony. **MB** It’s not a style choice. We don’t see it that way. I think it’s a common language and intention that you can apply into photography or in furniture or in art. That’s why we think those things are combinable. **DVS** A home is where you just feel good. Having lived abroad for more than half of my life, you make your home your world. It’s the paths that you take that shape your idea of home, but it’s more an archipelago of things than one specific point. **MB** The things we have around us include artwork from friends or design pieces from

family. It’s just lovely how these things are being mixed with traditional items that we found on our travels. Objects are definitely part of creating a home. **DVS** And at the same time, there’s so much solidity. I always keep my shoes on. We light a fire and cook at the same time. That makes it a very nice place to live. It feels very free.

Originally from Sweden, Martina Bjorn works as a fashion photographer in Paris. Belgian architect and designer David Van Severen is co-founder of the Brussels-based architecture firm Office KGDVS. They live with their children Roman and Aliona and cat in an elegant studio flat in Brussels.



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(1) Lounge Chair & Ottoman · European cherry natural · Calma, 07 brandy · 03 polished aluminium · Charles & Ray Eames, 1956 (2) Elliptical Table ETR · HPL, 12 white (smooth) · 04 white powder-coated (smooth) · Charles & Ray Eames, 1951 (3) Soft Pad Chair EA 208 · Cosy, 19 chestnut · 60 dark bordeaux powder-coated (textured) · Charles & Ray Eames, 1969 (4) Eames House Bird · ash, black · Charles & Ray Eames



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- (1) Aluminium Chairs EA 132 Home Office · Leather Premium F, 63/80 cashew/coffee · 37 chalk powder-coated (textured) · Charles & Ray Eames, 1958 (2) Courier · 70 oak natural, oiled · 37 chalk powder-coated (textured) · Ronan Bouroullec, 2025 (3) Cork Family · Model B · Jasper Morrison, 2004





'The Slow Sofa transforms interiors with its form, its presence and the comfort it inspires, adding colour and feeling to any setting.' Ronan Bouroullec



Vitra Cushions are available in coordinated shades to complement each of the seven colours of the sofa covers.

Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec developed the Slow Sofa with Vitra using the same design language as the Slow Chair, which was launched in 2006 and has since established itself as a classic. With its distinctive aesthetic, the sofa integrates seamlessly into modern interiors while adding a contemporary touch to classic settings.

The smallest of Vitra's sofas, the Slow Sofa is designed with Flocca fabric stretched over a tubular steel frame, comfortably accommodating two people despite its compact size. Loose seat cushions, two neck cushions and three individually selected back cushions from the Vitra Cushions collection ensure additional soft comfort. This makes the Slow Sofa a favourite spot to escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The Slow Sofa is light in weight and can therefore be easily picked up and moved around.



(1) Slow Sofa · Flocca, 02 beige · 03 polished aluminium · Vitra Cushions – various sizes and colours · Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec, 2025

(2) Wooden Doll No. 8 · Alexander Girard, 1952



(1) Wire Chair DKL · 04 white powder-coated (smooth) · seat pad · Hopsak, 88 cognac/ivory · Charles & Ray Eames, 1951





(1) Eames Contract Tables · HPL, 01 white (textured) · 01 chrome · 30 basic dark powder-coated (smooth) · Charles & Ray Eames, 1968

(2) Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSL · 01 parchment · 30 basic dark powder-coated · Charles & Ray Eames, 1950



The restaurant La Fonda del Sol, New York City, 1960.
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(Courtesy Vitra Design Museum, Alexander Girard Estate)

The concept behind the La Fonda base had already been developed by Charles and Ray Eames in 1948 for the Plastic Chairs presented in 1950. The final form took shape in 1960 when their friend, the designer and interior architect Alexander Girard, needed suitable chairs to furnish the La Fonda del Sol restaurant in the Time-Life Building in New York City.

With its central pedestal consisting of four parallel shafts that split at the bottom to form a four-star support, the La Fonda is one of the most elegant and unconventional bases ever created by the Eameses. Always striving to develop comprehensive design solutions, they added the new base frame to their already extensive collection of Shell Chairs.

To date, Vitra has only offered this base version for the Plastic Armchair RE DAL and a limited edition of the Fiberglass Side Chair DSL with fabric-covered seat cushions in a pattern by Girard.



Easy to add or remove: the Bikini Outdoor for the Eames Wire Chairs.

Vitra has developed a new outdoor version of the 'Bikini'. Equipped with a clip system, it can now be easily removed and cleaned or replaced. As the fabric and padding are weather-resistant, the powder-coated Wire Chairs – except the DKW with wooden legs – can now also be fitted with a comfortable 'Bikini' pad in outdoor settings.

The existing classic version of this two-piece cushion, which sits snugly against the wire construction, will still be available in the same wide selection of fabric colours and leather options. Thanks to this range of choices, a suitable Wire Chair can be found for every purpose – indoors, outdoors or both.



(1) Bikini Outdoor · Elio, 03 celadon · Charles & Ray Eames, 1951



Vera Köller and Lukas Cober combine archaic minimalism with colourful design accents in their converted miner's dwelling near Maastricht.

‘Craftsmanship is at the heart of everything.’

Vera Köller I've always wanted to be close to nature. The house stood on the edge of the forest. It was built of marlstone like the mountain, with vaulted ceilings, old doors and direct access to the mountain, to the caves. **Lukas Cober** When we found it, I immediately sensed its potential. Our plan was to start the renovation as soon as we moved in. We put mattresses down in the dusty living room and began working in the next room. That's how the house took shape organically, step by step. **VK** We poured concrete floors, insulated the roof, tore out walls and hauled blocks of stone. I'm not afraid of hard work – I know how to get things done. As the house became more

and more beautiful, we continued to grow and connect more deeply with what truly matters. **LC** Vera brought colour into the house – like the yellow mirror and the yellow staircase. I wasn't so keen at first, because I wanted everything to be clean and minimalist. But now it's a mix of both, and I'm really happy with the way it turned out. **VK** We've also had to adapt. Living here means living with nature – with high humidity and frequent shade. But it also means protection. You feel embraced by the forest and the mountain. **LC** For me, 'making' means working with my hands. We either design our own furniture or choose pieces for their materials and feel. Craftsmanship is at the heart of

everything. It has to have a personal touch and a certain lightness. **VK** We believe that things have to tell a story or be hand-crafted. Furniture that inspires and isn't just functional – that's what brings a house to life. **LC** The house will never be finished. It's a constantly evolving project. I see a creative process as something that is never ending. That also applies to this house.

Vera Köller is a surgeon at a hospital in Eschweiler. Artist and product designer Lukas Cober runs a studio for sculptural furniture in Maastricht. Both are originally from Aachen and live with their dog in a converted miner's house near Maastricht.



(1) Standard · 18 Prouvé Blé Vert powder-coated (smooth) · 04 dark oak, with protective varnish · Jean Prouvé, 1934/1950

(2) Nuage, medium · abstrait · Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec, 2016 (3) Colour Frame Mirrors, small · green/pink · Julie Richoz, 2024





(1) Anagram Sofa · platform 900 x 1800mm · Nubia, 01 ivory/pearl · 37 chalk powder-coated (textured) · attachable table Ø 350 mm · 70 solid oak, oiled · Panter & Tourron, 2024 (2) Wiggle Stool · Frank Gehry, 1972 (3) Akari 75A · Isamu Noguchi, 1951



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Adapts in a snap.
Discover more



‘Comfort, playfulness along with a soft elegance.
I believe these three qualities perfectly define the
product family.’ Ronan Bouroullec

The Slow Chair developed by Vitra together with designers Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec in 2006 has since established itself as a Vitra classic. Vitra has now created another variant of the iconic armchair and also added the Slow Sofa. The Slow Chair by Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec comes with the bouclé fabric Flocca, available in 7 colours, which gives the armchair a relaxed, cosy feel. Paired with a neck pillow and back cushions from the Vitra Cushions collection, this lounge chair provides soft and inviting comfort. The Slow Chair is light in weight and can therefore be easily picked up and moved around.



(1) Slow Chair & Ottoman · Flocca, 02 beige · 03 polished aluminium · Vitra Cushions – various sizes and colours · Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec, 2006 (2) Visiona Stool – Home Selection · Kvadrat, Vidar 4, col. 0443 · Verner Panton, 1970/2012 (3) Artek Kori Floor Light · bright matt orange · TAF Studio, 2023



(1) Mynt · 01 basic dark RE · 12 deep black powder-coated (textured) · Erwan Bouroullec, 2025 · (2) Courier · 04 dark oak, with protective varnish · 60 dark bordeaux powder-coated (textured) · Ronan Bouroullec, 2025 · (3) Tabouret Métallique · Prouvé Blanc Colombe (ecru) powder-coated (smooth) · Jean Prouvé, 1936





(1) EVO-C · 62 light mint · Jasper Morrison, 2020 (2) Plywood Mobile Model A & Model B · Charles & Ray Eames, 1941
(3) Hang it all · neutral · Charles & Ray Eames, 1953



Ray Eames working on a mobile, 1940s.
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In the early 1940s, Charles and Ray Eames conducted a series of experiments for the purpose of refining their plywood moulding techniques. These investigations led to the creation of an object whose biomorphic contours are strongly reminiscent of Ray's artwork and graphics. The Eameses hung the piece as a mobile from the ceiling of their Los Angeles apartment.

In collaboration with the Eames Office, Vitra has now complemented the existing Eames Plywood Mobile A with the new Model C, which is likewise inspired by one of Ray's paintings. At the same time, the dimensions of Model A have been slightly increased – which is why it is now called Model AL. Both Plywood Mobiles consist of two abstract, organically shaped plywood elements that playfully revolve around one another. They are available in black and now also in the colour ice grey.



(1) Silhouette Mermaid · Alexander Girard, 1965 (2) Wooden Doll No. 10 · Alexander Girard, 1952 (3) Wooden Dolls Mother Fish and Child · Alexander Girard, 1952 (4) Artek Wall Shelf 112B · birch, with protective varnish · Alvar Aalto, 1936 (5) Vitra Cushions – various sizes and colours



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