



Farm Conversion, Berkel-Enschot. *Designed and inhabited by* Rob van Trier & Sandra van Groezen

BON VIVANT ABODE

Before painter Rob van Trier moved into his present abode, dating from 1781, the building had served not only as a farmhouse, but also as a brothel and even a laboratory producing synthetic drugs. After the latter was discovered and dismantled, little was left of the building's former glory. Rob van Trier, who urgently needed housing and was not deterred by the dilapidated state of the building. He moved in, initially as a property guardian, and slowly started to repair basic amenities. When the owner decided to split the farm into three sections and put them up for sale, van Trier bought the middle part. A more thorough renovation followed, taking three and a half years. Whenever van Trier was short of money, he funded the renovation by selling some of his paintings.

The results are impressive. The former farm is now the comfortable home of a colorful bon vivant. What had once been a pigsty at the rear of the building now serves as a kitchen, painting studio, and art gallery. At the front, where the cowshed used to be, are a hallway and living room. The attic, once used as a hayloft, now houses a bedroom and bathroom.

The house is a treasure trove of visual delights. Apart from the ubiquitous art on the walls—almost all by van Trier himself—there are many objects that elicit wonder and curiosity. Among them is a Jules Verne-like stove in the kitchen that van Trier made out of a 1901 pressure vessel. Creativity that ignores conventional boundaries between art disciplines: that is what this house is all about.