

# Embracing Brutalism in a High-Rise Apartment

RST 13/14 BY STUDIO OKAMI  
ANTWERP, BELGIUM  
OFFICE SPACE → RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT



Owned by a couple who moved to the quiet, up-and-coming area on Antwerp's left bank, RST 13/14 was previously an office space. The brutalist complex was originally constructed by Belgian architect, urban planner, and designer Léon Stynen, who is recognized as a significant contributor to Antwerp's architectural landscape. An appreciation of the labor-intensive formwork is evident with its brutalist style. Colorful elements were added to soften the space, such as a powder-blue staircase and walkway, subtle peach floors, and playful artworks,

furniture, and plants. Much of the furniture is true to the era of the building's original construction in the mid-20th century, with a patchwork De Sede DS88 sofa and Crate Chairs by Gerrit Rietveld. The kitchen island becomes a sculpture when not in use, but when utilized it is a high-functioning chef-level apparatus and staging area for the appliances stored in the Donald Judd-inspired wall unit.

(Opposite) The high-rise building is an iconic structure in Antwerp's Linkeroever, or Left Bank. (Above) Double-height windows expose the living room to copious light and views over the surroundings.