

SMALL + MODERN + URBAN =

HOME



6

DUPLEX IN BRUSSELS

Bruno Vanbesien

■ Brussels, Belgium

Photos: © Hendikx Diane/Owi.bz



▲ The large windows in the living room make it possible to illuminate both floors, as the two levels of the duplex are visually united.

Neutral colors like black and white, as well as timber tones, ► make the red wall against the staircase really stand out.





▲ To integrate the kitchen spaces as much as possible, an island was built that can be passed on either side to reach the terrace.

The wall opposite the kitchen is coated in slate. Behind it is a ► small guest bathroom.

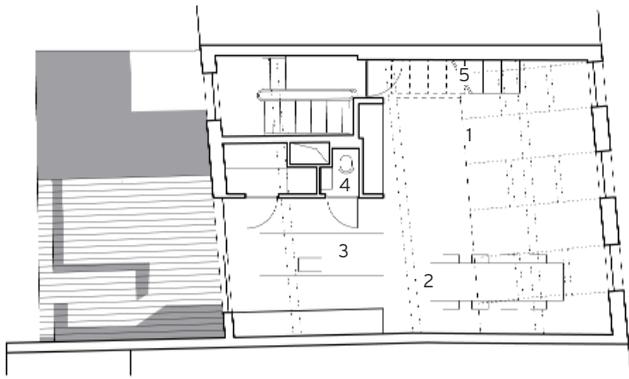


This duplex forms part of a remodeling project of a house in Brussels from the first half of the 19th century. The building underwent various changes over time, some of which contributed to it losing most of its original features. The architect decided to gut the property completely and design four units, one of which is this duplex.

Because the size of the property was reduced to less than 1,000 square feet, the main aim was to make it look as spacious as possible without renouncing functionality. By getting rid of part of the first floor area, the ceiling is twice as high in the living room. This ensures a lot more natural light and that the two floors remain connected. The whole property has been laid with the same parquet flooring, including the bath-

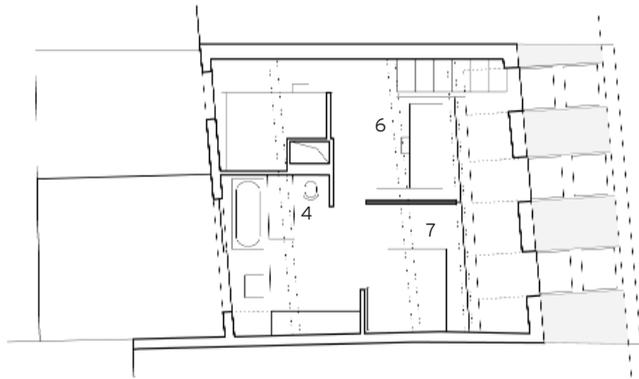
room and kitchen, in a tone similar to that of the beams. This means the different functions flow from one space to another and achieve a much roomier appearance.

To reach the upper floor, a discreet staircase in projecting steel was built against the red wall of the living room. This floor includes the office, bedroom and another bathroom. The areas are separated by various sliding panels which replace immobile walls and make it possible to distribute the space in different ways, according to need. The timber-toned floor and beams have been combined with a palette of three basic colors: red, white and black, repeated throughout the project, as well as green in the bathroom.

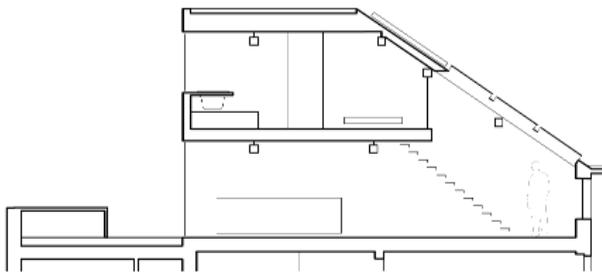


Lower floor plan

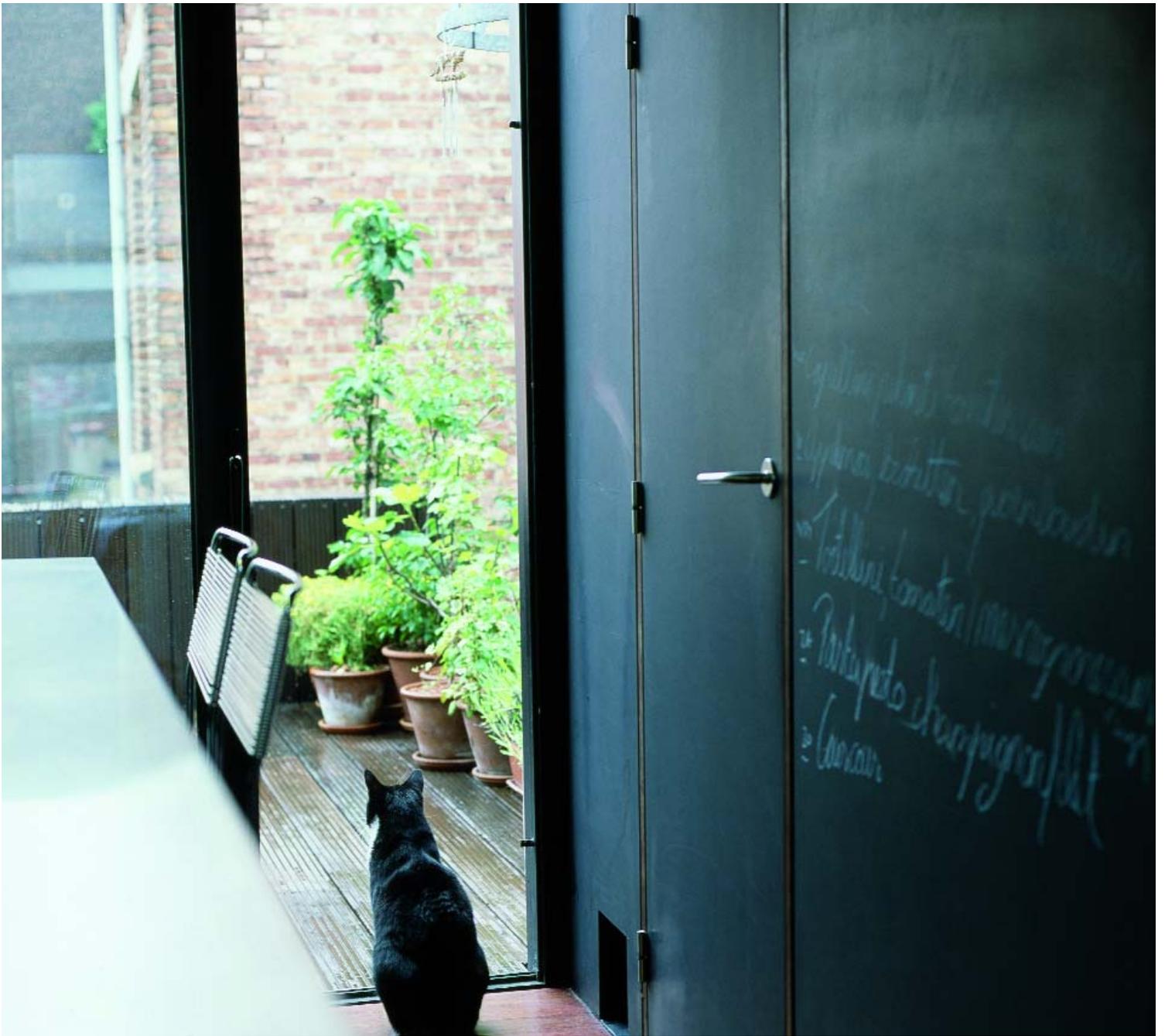
1. Living room
2. Dining room
3. Kitchen
4. Bathroom
5. Stairs
6. Study
7. Bedroom



Upper floor plan



Section



◀ This section shows how height was used upstairs, which at its lowest point protrudes over the ground-floor living room.

At the end of the kitchen is the balcony with timber decking, ▲ making it a great entry of light for the lower level.



▲ The property is so small that the stairway was designed with projecting stairs so the space beneath it could be used.

The inclined window is one of the main entries of light in the ► small study located above the living room.





The wood flooring provides access to the bathtub, below the window. In this case, the color green makes for a calm and relaxing space. ►

