



Mansion for Rent

AT BLANCKENHOEVE ESTATE, WASSENAAR

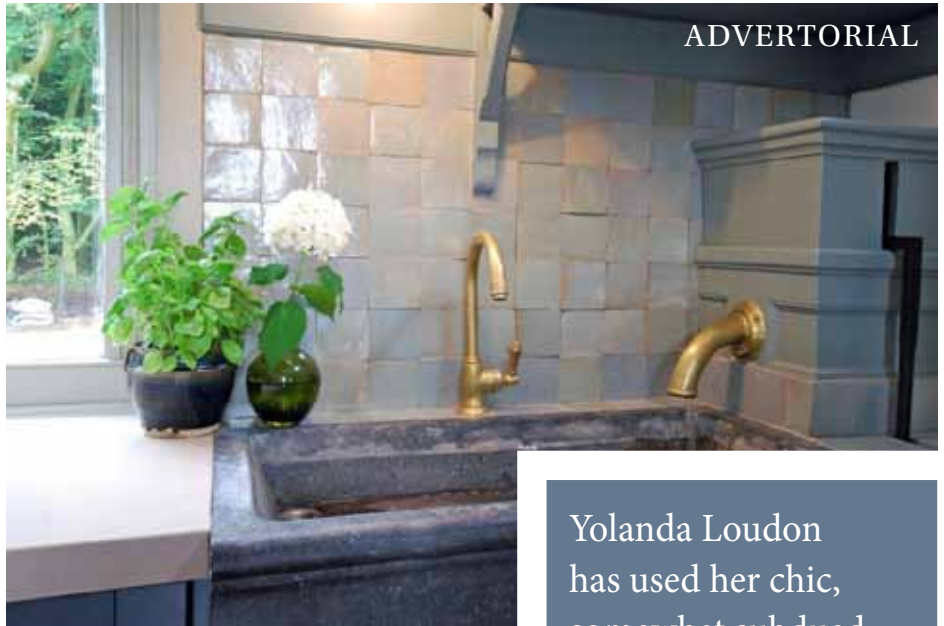
“That it would become this beautiful and that we would be allowed to live here, went beyond my wildest dreams,” says Squire John Loudon as we stroll across his estate, which has been beautifully restored.

“**B**ut we can – thanks to hard work and patience,” adds his wife Yolanda, her face radiating enthusiasm and her love for this area.

Memories of Yesteryear

Blanckenhoeve Estate is situated between the Voorlinden and Blanckenburgh estates, just behind the dunes between The Hague and Wassenaar. These handsome estates, of which Voorlinden is the best-known, bring back memories of the peace and quiet of yesteryear. They are true paradises for roe deer, foxes and meadow birds. But not only for animals. Being able to live here is

a dream that only few can aspire to. The Loudon family, which owned all three estates in 1927, once again lives on Blanckenhoeve estate. As guardians of their palpable history, and in fact of a piece of Dutch cultural heritage, they carry a special responsibility. Combined, the three estates have a rich cultural and historical value, representing the historic development of estates in the Hague-Wassenaar region. Their total original size is virtually undiminished and is unique in this region. The area represents a huge swath of green in this urban agglomeration. “We are right smack in the middle of the Randstad, but while walking here I can easily imagine myself in the untainted natural areas of the eastern part of this country,” says John.



Yolanda Loudon has used her chic, somewhat subdued touch, to transfer Blanckenduin into a villa with style

Central Location

“I can be in The Hague within five minutes and if I leave the estate through our gates on the other side, this brings me right to the center of Wassenaar. There is a wide choice of excellent (international) schools, various gorgeous golf clubs and sports facilities nearby – but perhaps even best of all; you can walk to the beach from here!” Yolanda enthuses. “A dream place that becomes more beautiful every day.”

Preserved Monument

Says John: “It took a lot of patience, but after ten years of negotiations with the National Agency for Monuments, the Province and the Municipality, we were allowed to build a new house on the estate. It became a modern, octagonal, wooden house in which we have been living happily for the past sev-

en years. The farm and the lovely 19th-century *Villa Blanckenduin*, which are also located on the estate, were leased out until last year. However, the farmer and his family who lived there decided to retire and we needed to find a new purpose for both buildings, which are officially monuments.”

So, last year, the family embarked on a total renovation of *Villa Blanckenduin*. This wonderful house, which was designed in 1893 by architect G.J van der Mark, was built in the so-called Transition Style, with Neo-Renaissance elements. It is a wonderful escape, yet close to the city of The Hague. If you enter through its high iron fence and drive up its beautiful driveway, you come upon the stately house of red brick, with green shutters and a friendly yet awe-inspiring exterior. The rooms’ decorated ceilings are four-and-a-half meters high, there are indoor shutters, marble hallways, lovely light-filled sun parlors – all the original elements are still there.

Yolanda Loudon, herself an interior decorator (www.loudonliving.nl) has used her chic, somewhat subdued touch, to transfer *Blanckenduin* into a villa with style. Special attention has been given to each detail, whether this be Farrow and Ball paint or Carte Colori, the refined faucets and door handles, or the beams in the impressive attic – nothing has been left to chance. The cozy kitchen with its original details, such as an operational water pump, is a place that future inhabitants are sure to enjoy extensively. The lovely gardens, with its large terraces and endless views, are enticing and a place to spend many a pleasant evening. At the end of the walk, John summarizes: “It has become a fantastic home and we hope it will be ‘found’ by someone who loves the good life as much as we do!” ❧



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 For more information on renting – and to view more photos of – Mansion *Blanckenduin*, Buurtweg 42, Wassenaar, visit www.buisevansoest.nl