

Space For Art by Nuut  
Poznań, Poland  
©Kroniki / Alicja T. Agency  
designed by Nuut / Katarzyna Frankowska & Anna Maj

The apartment is located in a historic post-industrial residential complex located on the picturesque, green outskirts of Poznań, Poland. It was designed for a young busy single man who is interested in Polish young art and classic design. The authors of the project are architects from the NUUT studio.

The area of the apartment is approx. 88m<sup>2</sup>. Its advantage is a non-standard (as for modern architecture) height - 315cm and south-western exposure to the sun. The vision and requirements of the owner were as follows: "Much space and consideration of affordability (read: apartment for a guy - not for a family). Rather asceticism, but with a touch of good classic design." From the beginning, the only hard requirement was a huge concrete table, which was a kind of home archetype (childhood dreams come true). It was this table that was really the reference point for everything else. In addition, the apartment was to establish a dialogue with the art and design collected by the owner. From the very beginning, the project included space for paintings selected together with the designers.

The interference with the original layout of the apartment was considerable. In order to maintain the effect of a large space, only the night zone was separated. All partition walls have been removed. The wall separating the day zone from the night zone was built from scratch. The bathroom area was also completely reorganized - the client wanted to have both a shower and a bathtub, as well as a large amount of storage space, while maintaining a boutique character of this place.

Designers - Anna Maj and Katarzyna Frankowska, wanted to use the natural potential of the apartment - good exposure to natural light. Thanks to it, it was possible to use darker colors, leave authentic concrete elements, insert graphite blocks of furniture into the space, which became the background for the brass kitchen island. "The authenticity of the materials used and the selection of them in such a way that they correspond with the character of the place are important to us. We wanted an interior that would harmonize with the industrial character of the facility and its natural surroundings."

Hence the idea to leave the reinforced concrete structural elements visible. Through additional sandblasting, it was possible to enhance their irregularity and imperfections. Concrete elements are juxtaposed with contrasting smooth green surfaces. The built-in lighting illuminates the wall from below and thus shows its interesting texture.

The concrete table became a big challenge for the designers. It was supposed to be the "heart" of the apartment gathering guests. Simple, heavy, "strong", resistant to all kind of party mishaps. Its color was to refer to the color of the wall concrete, and its weight was

not to be too much of a load on the floor and to make it possible to transport it to the 3rd floor. The intended effect was achieved. It was also crowned with a lamp hanging above it, delicate on the one hand, and very graphic on the other, which evenly illuminates and subtly emphasizes the table.

The separation of the night zone was to provide a sense of intimacy but not close the room to the rest of the apartment. This was done using a wall with sliding doors. It has a harmonious, symmetrical division. The soothing greenery of the bedroom and dressing room, after sliding the door open, creates an intriguing second plan. The furniture in these rooms has been placed so that from the living room side it is this greenery, not the furniture, that is the main accent. Thanks to this, sliding the door apart does not reveal too much but creates an additional, intriguing depth of the view from the living room.

The raw concrete accents and the dark green surfaces were complemented by brass which covered the island and elements of the bathroom. Making them was not an easy task - it required coordination between the carpenter and the coater. Thanks to the investor's will to experiment and his patience, the intended effect was achieved.