



*Photography: Hendrik Biëgs*

## ANNO 1833

The wife of architect Bernard De Clerck discovered this empty, remote farmhouse in the Southern Meetjesland. The couple immediately fell in love with the quiet location and the pristine condition of the buildings in 1833. They would spend the hot summers there ... But as the works progressed, they exchanged their Directoire house in nearby Molenland for this farmstead to live there through the year.

The 2 hectares of meadows around it were too attractive and as Bernard's passion for landscape and gardens grew, he was able to realise his inspiration for a natural garden during the following years.

The buildings themselves were thoroughly and respectfully restored. The character of the house with its rather small rooms was preserved. All interior carpentry, doors, cupboards, shelves and fireplace frames were meticulously restored. Doors rather serve as room dividers because all doors are always open here and they enlarge the house. The living room extends into several adjoining rooms. The kitchen was added and has a panoramic garden window that slides into the wall.

The barn contains reception rooms for clients from home and abroad. Design sketches for future projects are presented here.

The attics on the first floor retained their atmosphere by having all the rooms (now sleeping and washing rooms) run up to the ridge.

The farm life has disappeared but is amply compensated by zones in the garden for small livestock. The garden is also designed to allow nature to take its course, thanks to a well-kept management plan that allows birds and other animals to stay in this little paradise.



























