



### LOW COUNTRY LUXE, 19/01/15

Belgian architect [Vincent Van Duysen](#) is a master of luxurious less-is-more design. His pared-down monochromatic interiors are object lessons in how to use the bare essentials—light, space, proportion, and texture—to create rooms that are serene and sophisticated yet warm and livable.

Now it's possible to experience one of the architect's trademark environments first hand. [Graanmarkt 13](#)—an über-chic restaurant, art gallery, and fashion and design boutique located in an historic townhouse in the center of Antwerp—recently commissioned Van Duysen to turn the top floors of the building into a [short-term rental apartment](#). We'd check into the elegantly understated home-away-from-home for its two bathrooms alone. The master bath (above) is an exercise in simple symmetry. The vanity and other accouterments are hidden away behind wall panels. The stained-wood floors, plaster walls, linen curtains, and marble tub are all in muted shades of gray. Against this muted background, the brilliant white porcelain sinks, the gleaming chrome fixtures, and the abundant natural light bring a touch of animating contrast. We'd never want to leave.

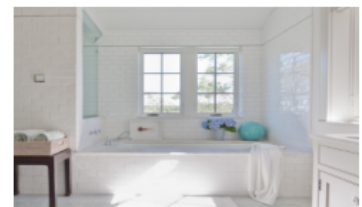
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