



FIAMMETTA d'ARENBERG FRESCOBALDI  
JEAN-PIERRE GABRIEL

# LIVING WITH ART IN BELGIUM

FOREWORD BY AXEL VERVOORDT

LANNOO



*A decor that combines  
diverse styles, playing on  
contrasts that result in a  
harmonious composition.*

# Palladian inspiration. The Flemish *Rotonda*

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In Flanders, near the city of Ghent, at a time when the city was one of the leading industrial centres in the Netherlands, many classical buildings were built either as summer residences or for the hunting season. Of these small castles in the countryside, Crabbenburg, built in 1821, is undoubtedly one of the most monumental of the era. It was designed by the architect Jean Baptiste van de Capelle, who drew inspiration from Palladian villas, and more specifically from *La Rotonda*, a villa in Vicenza. Baron François Heynderycx, a passionate botanist and collector of rare and exotic plants had the castle built. Heynderycx founded the magnificent Ghent *Floralies* exhibition with its plants and flowers, which takes place in the centre of Ghent to this day after more than 200 years. He was able to grow many plants in his garden, from palms to pineapples to citrus fruits. "He even managed to grow bananas in the castle cellar," according to Marie-Louise van Overdijk, interior decorator who was in charge of the castle's renovation and decoration. Marie-Louise, who has always lived in houses with stories that inspired her work as a designer and stylist, was the most suitable person to handle the restoration of the house. "Renovating the building took more

*The view of the garden of this splendid residence designed by the architect Jean Baptiste van de Capelle who drew inspiration from the Palladian villa "La Rotonda" in Vicenza.*



