

OPEN!

*The Solarlux magazine for
living ideas & open spaces*

"The place to be"

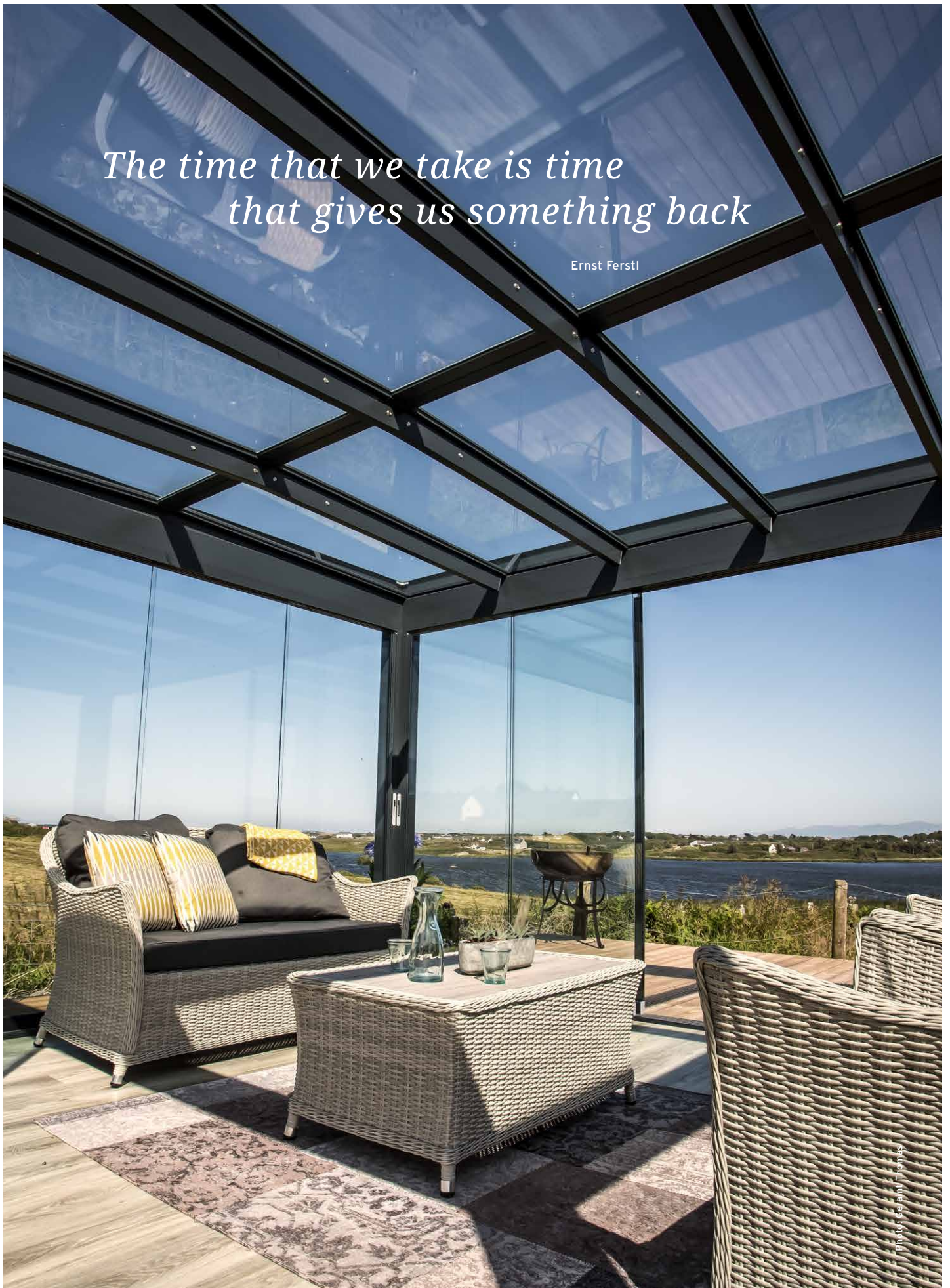
A special place on the bank
of Llyn Maelog

SAVING SPACE,
GAINING CHARACTER

 **SOLARLUX®**

*The time that we take is time
that gives us something back*

Ernst Ferstl





DEAR READERS,

There have been many studies and surveys on what the word “home” means to people. It’s obviously somewhere we feel safe and comfortable, but it’s also a place we feel an emotional connection to – somewhere that reflects our own personality. And that’s exactly what we’ve set out to illustrate with the wide range of living ideas and stories in this edition of OPEN! Read on to learn about the Swede who designed a villa for herself in Munich and whose motto is “A beautiful home needs to have personality,” the open-air kitchen that became the hub of one family’s home, and the modern wintergarden that turned an old building into the perfect family nest. In every one, the individuality and personal charm of the owners shines through. But of course, our customer magazine isn’t just about cosy moments at home – we also love to get out into the OPEN! In this edition, we visited stunning architectural cities as well as vernal vineyards in Germany’s Palatinate region, and gazing a-goggle at a most unusual glass house in the west of England. Whether you’re at home or on the go, wherever you read this edition of our customer magazine, we hope you enjoy it – and use the inspiration to get out in the OPEN!

Stefan Holtgreife *Stef Frit*

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OPEN!

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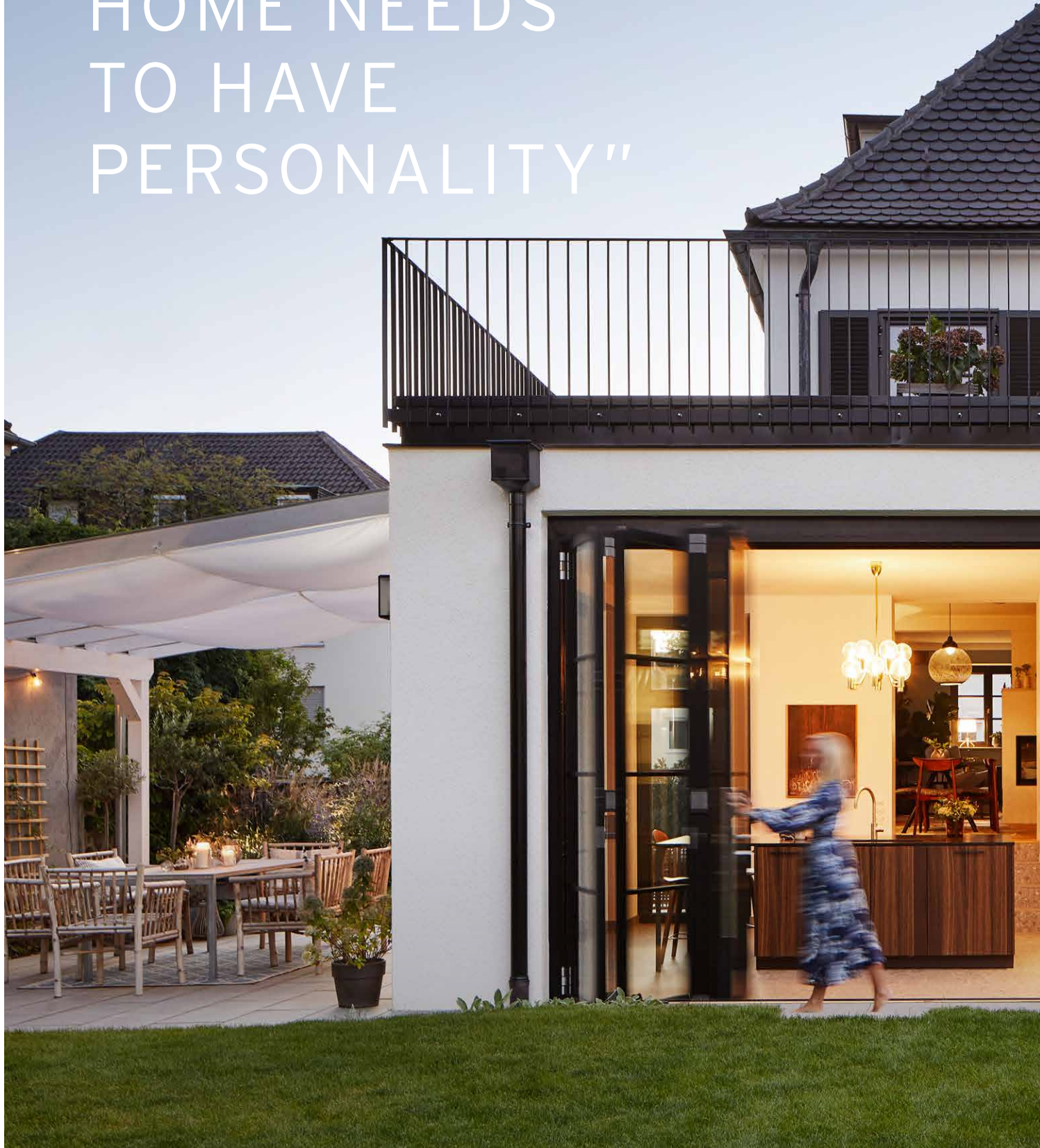
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"Our wine is our passion -
it means everything to us"

"A BEAUTIFUL
HOME NEEDS
TO HAVE
PERSONALITY"





VILLA HALLER IN MUNICH

Interior, design and individual living concepts: interior stylist Victoria Haller has always been fascinated by houses and apartments with a personal touch that really make their guests feel at home. So it's no surprise that the Swede's chosen home in Munich reflects these values perfectly: a 1934 coffee mill simply brimming with details lovingly curated by the owner.



"Extraordinarily personal" – those are the words Victoria Haller uses to describe the style of her pre-war building in Munich. The Swede has been living here with her husband and five-year-old daughter for over a year now. Looking around the house, visitors are greeted by a pleasant, cosy atmosphere in every room they enter, though each is very different from the last. The attractive blend of old and new radiates calm, elegance and a traditional yet modern vibe. But it hasn't always been this way. The house had to undergo a lot of work before the family could move in

and bring their own style to bear – a process that took around eight months to complete. "We did a full renovation starting in 2017," Victoria tells us when asked about the modernisation project. "I was working pretty much full-time as the owner-builder, so I really threw myself into every aspect of the design and construction work." From the very beginning, it was important to her that as much of the original building as possible was retained. All the changes and the myriad new details needed to fit in with the overall style and feel of the house. One of the



System:
Highline
Material:
Aluminium
Colour:
RAL 9005 Jet black
Application:
Living space



biggest decisions the family made was to add an extension, which would house a new kitchen, provide a patio space and offer access to the garden. "We love the mid-century Danish style - such an elegant, minimalistic way of living," Victoria Haller continues. "We wanted our extension to reflect this while still working in harmony with the rest of the design." In order to achieve this goal, they had to consider more than just materials, colours and which direction the new room would face - there were also a number of practical issues to deal with. "Some of

our most important considerations during the planning phase was the patio, the garden, and how to maintain the simple transition between the indoors and outside," Victoria explains. "When we started out, I only had a rough idea of how to handle these issues. Our garden designer and landscaper played a key role in hashing all that out, and worked very closely with us to bring our vision to life."

Continued overleaf >>



LARGE GLASS SURFACES FOR MORE LIGHT AND AIRINESS

Victoria Haller wanted to use a large kitchen island as the focal point of the extension, thus keeping the exterior walls of the extra room clear. This was another area where the owner's creativity came to the fore, as she made the decision to use a full-glass design for the remaining exterior walls. "Our garden is quite big by Munich standards, so we wanted to be able to enjoy it from the kitchen all year round," the Swede explains. "The extension also has a ceiling height of three metres, which gives it a very open and spacious feel. Our aim in using glass for the external facades was twofold: we wanted to really bring out that sense of airiness while also providing a harmonious transition between the inside of our home and the outdoors. As an added bonus, this also made the transition to the patio very aesthetically pleasing."



It was the Haller family's window manufacturer who pointed them in the direction of Solarlux's bi-folding doors. "The look of our extension is based on industrial lofts and old wintergardens - we've always liked spaces like that. Since we had decided to go with black lattice windows in the older part of the house, the dark aluminium look of Solarlux's floor-to-ceiling, bi-folding glass doors ended up fitting in perfectly with our overall vision." But it wasn't just the look that turned the owner-builder's head - she was also impressed with the functionality of this unusual solution. "Of course, we wanted to be able to open up the facade completely when the weather is good, but we didn't want the individual window elements to break up the space and get in the way. Thanks to the Solarlux system's folding technology, the transition from inside to outdoors is nicely understated, and the individual glass elements can be pushed to one side to save space." Victoria Haller is still thrilled with how perfectly the solution worked out. "As soon as it's warm enough, we open the bi-folding doors. That way, it feels like we're outside, even when we're sitting at the kitchen island rather than on our patio."





With her Swedish background, her past life as a sales director and her passion for interior design and fashion, Victoria Haller loves making her customers the focal point of her projects – and she's always got one eye on the owner's personality when coming up with new interior design ideas. Renovating her own home has taught her a lot about individual design concepts. Victoria now hopes to share this knowledge with other passionate owner-builders.

OPEN!: What drives you?

"My dream is to make interior design accessible for everyone and to demonstrate how, with just a little effort, you can create a beautiful home by working with what you've already got. Starting from scratch with an expensive redesign is easy – but that's not what makes a home comfortable. You need somewhere with personality, character. In my work, I want to help people come up with realistic ideas and transform their own homes into somewhere that is beautiful to them."

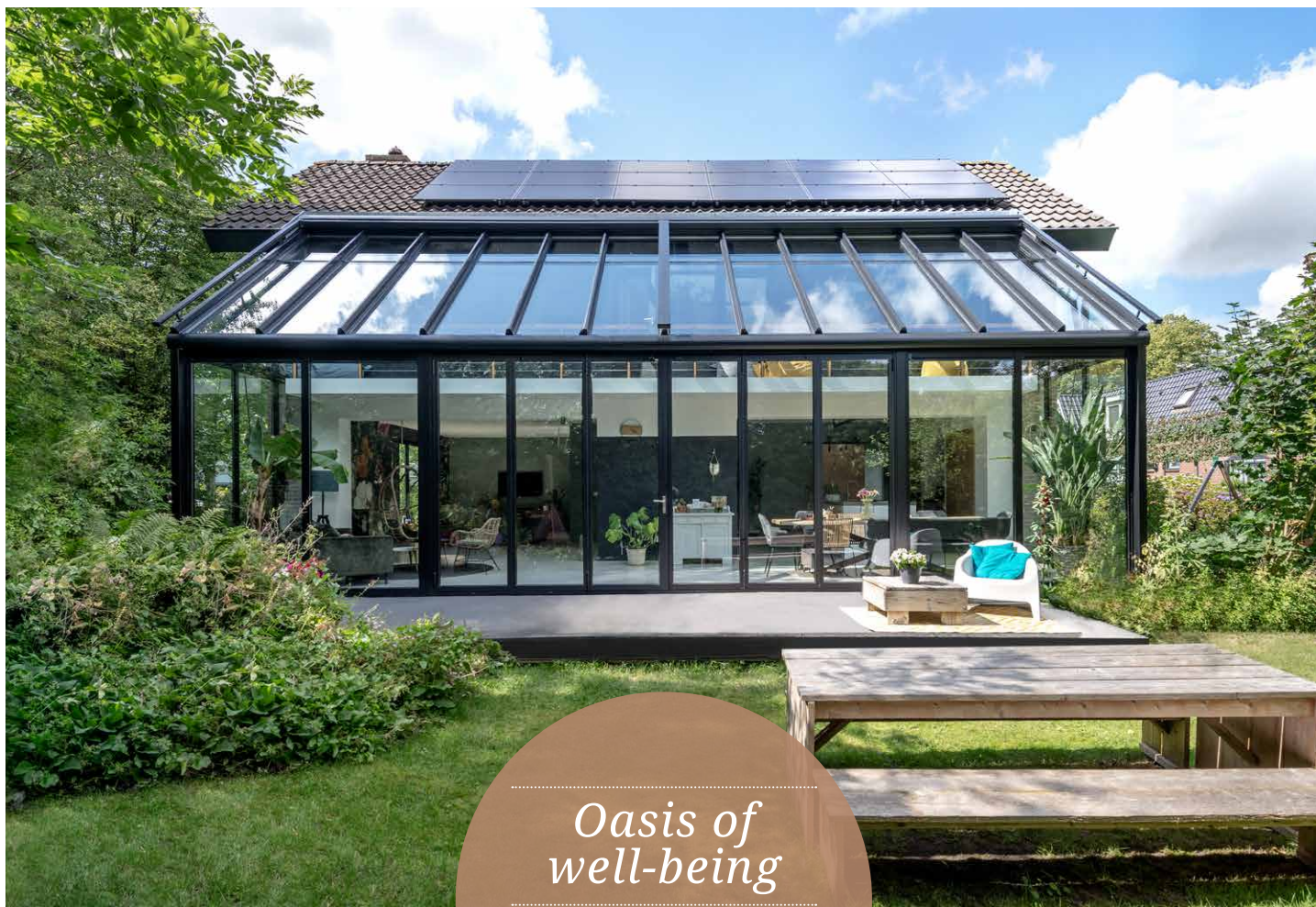
OPEN!: "Where do you get your inspiration from?"

"I always get new ideas from the people I work with. A lot of the details I incorporate into my designs are simply things that I like and have been waiting for the opportunity to make a reality, so to speak. A lot of my inspiration is sparked by things I just stumble across on Instagram."

OPEN!: "Why is individuality so important when creating a beautiful home?"

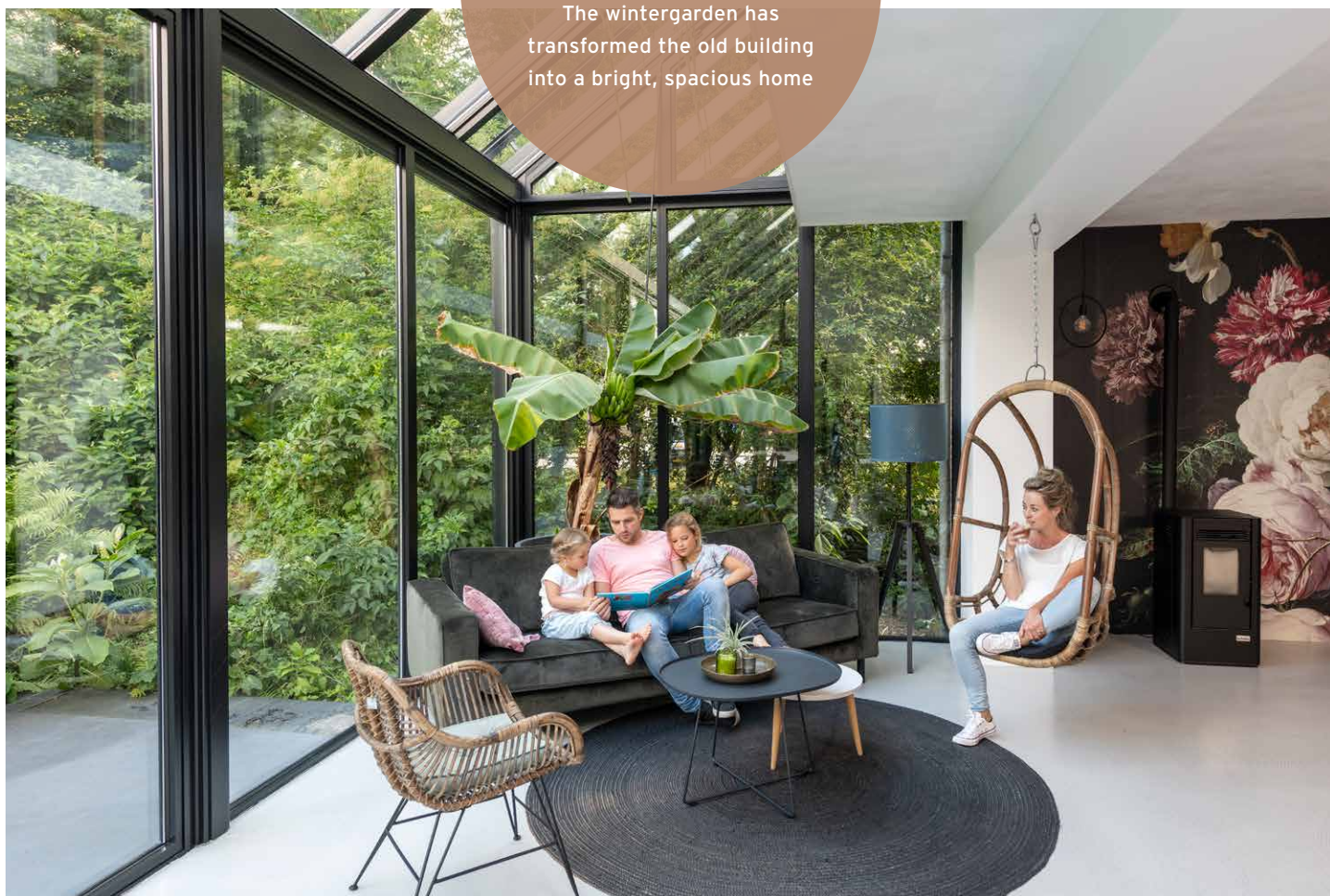
"I believe that every home should reflect the personality of those who live in it. But it also needs a practical aspect. For example, we always have friends over for barbecues in summer – that's why we wanted to put our kitchen in the extension, making it an extension of the garden as well. For other people, it might have been better to put the living room in the extension instead. That's why every design should start with the individual needs and lifestyle of the residents."

**YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
VICTORIA HALLER'S WORK AT
VILLAHALLER.COM OR ON
INSTAGRAM @VILLAHALLER**



Oasis of well-being

The wintergarden has transformed the old building into a bright, spacious home



Bright, spacious, modern – BRINGING A LIFESTYLE DREAM TO LIFE

A home of their own with comfortable, bright rooms and plenty of scope for their own ideas: it's what the Ploeghs from Surhuisterveen, Netherlands always dreamed of when they eventually bought a house.

At the start of 2017, the family of five finally decided to invest in a house built in the 1970s. In the space of just a few months, they had transformed the dusty charm of the old building into a cosy, modern home.

A lot of sweat and passion has gone into the two-storey building with its generous garden, as the family designed the home all by themselves. "During the planning phase, my wife, Esther, did a lot of research, putting together all these different ideas of how we could make the house a home," Geraldus Ploegh recalls. The young builder-owner trawled the Internet for inspiration and came up with a number of details that now give the home a special touch. One example is the striking floral wallpaper. "I saw something similar on Pinterest, and I knew straight away that was what I wanted." Little by little, other details were added to the project. "In the end, we even designed the kitchen to suit our own needs and dreams," the couple recall.



Continued overleaf >>

THE IDEA OF THE GLASS EXTENSION

The couple had always loved bright, spacious rooms – so it was only logical that they would decide to include a wintergarden in their plans. “We’d seen a lot of spaces like this in restaurants and at friends’ places,” Geraldus Ploegh recalls. “So when we decided to go for a house that had been built in 1972, it didn’t take long for us to come up with the idea of a wintergarden.” One of the factors behind the decision was that the couple wanted to make their house brighter. But they also wanted to be able to enjoy the greenery of their generous garden while indoors. “I liked the idea of being able to sit down at the table, but under the trees,” Esther Ploegh continues. “And it just seemed to make sense to incorporate the garden next to the house into our overall living concept – our own green oasis.”

Together with De Boer Serrebouw, a specialist dealer based in Oenkerk, the couple came up with a design that picked up on these ideas and incorporated them perfectly into the building’s existing architecture. “It felt right straight away,” Esther says of the partnership. “Our consultant at de Boer really put a lot of thought into how we could solve every little problem. And on top of that, the Solarlux wintergarden system gave us a whole range of options for tweaking the smaller details to suit our needs.” Good ventilation was one of the top priorities in the design. “Our bedroom and the kids’ rooms are all upstairs, so it was really important to ensure that we could get good air circulation up there.” There are now



tilting windows to provide suitable ventilation on the side of the building with the roof construction. An awning trimmed to fit the roof system perfectly prevents the wintergarden from getting too hot. And the family also chose another special feature to ensure that they get plenty of fresh air in their glass extension: the entire front of the wintergarden is fitted with Solarlux bi-folding doors, which can easily be opened all the way across. In addition to providing perfect ventilation, this also creates a seamless visual transition between the wintergarden and the outside. “Whatever time of year we’re



Photos: Thea van den Heuvel

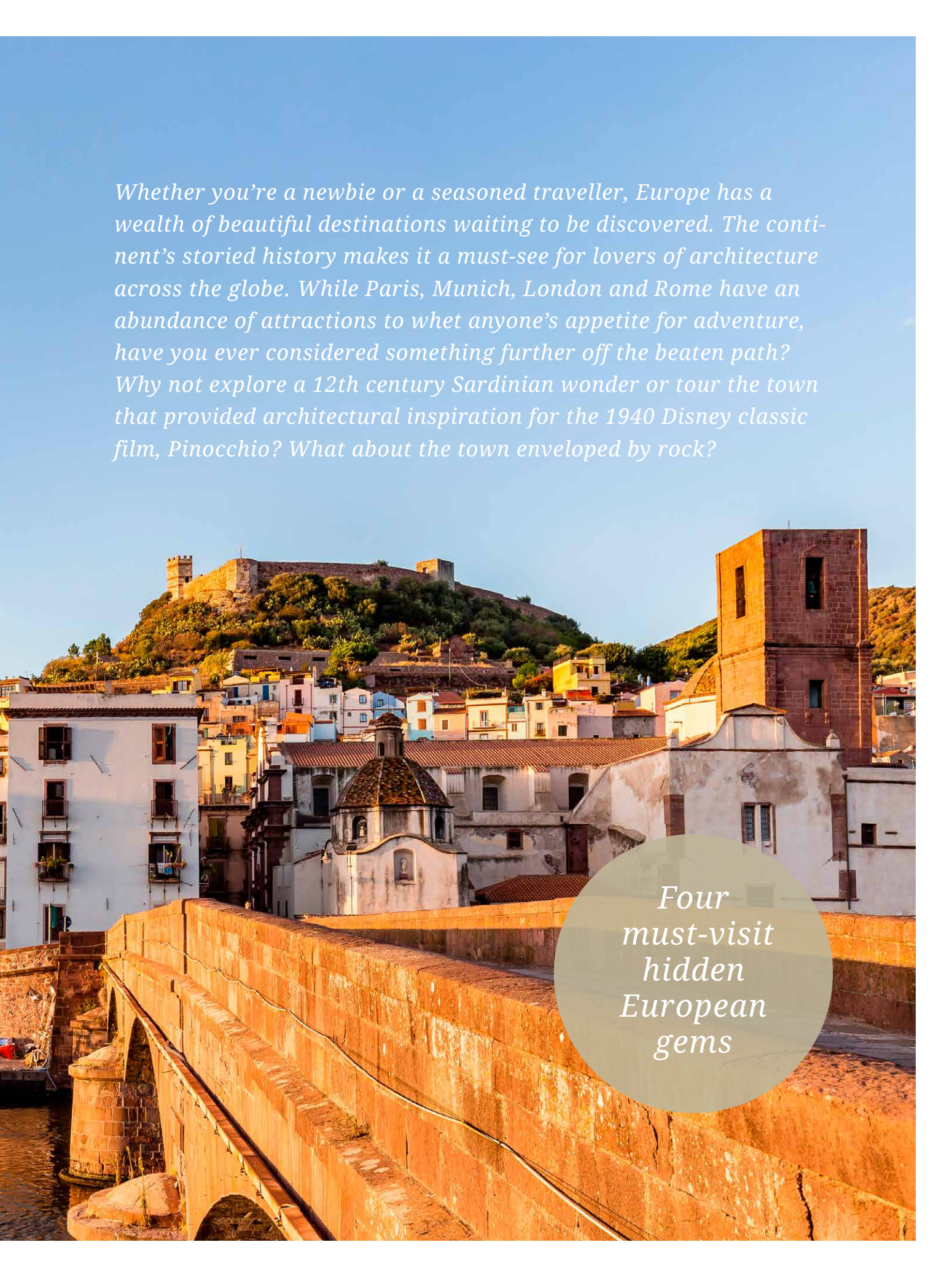
enjoying our home, every season has its own special charm. Our wintergarden plays a huge role in that - we've always got a front-row seat to the outdoors," Esther Ploegh grins. "In spring and summer, when the garden is lush and green, all the glass blends the inside and outside together perfectly." But the wintergarden has also become one of the family's favourite places to nestle in for the winter. "We love it when the sun shines through the glass roof, warming up our home and giving us a great view of our surroundings. We've always loved this style of living - so this home really has made our dreams come true."

System:
SDL Akzent plus
Opening system options:
Ecoline
Outward-opening
Material:
Aluminium
Colour:
RAL 9011
Application:
Living space

FOR ARCHITEC- TURE LOVERS



Whether you're a newbie or a seasoned traveller, Europe has a wealth of beautiful destinations waiting to be discovered. The continent's storied history makes it a must-see for lovers of architecture across the globe. While Paris, Munich, London and Rome have an abundance of attractions to whet anyone's appetite for adventure, have you ever considered something further off the beaten path? Why not explore a 12th century Sardinian wonder or tour the town that provided architectural inspiration for the 1940 Disney classic film, Pinocchio? What about the town enveloped by rock?



*Four
must-visit
hidden
European
gems*



1. Bosa, Italy

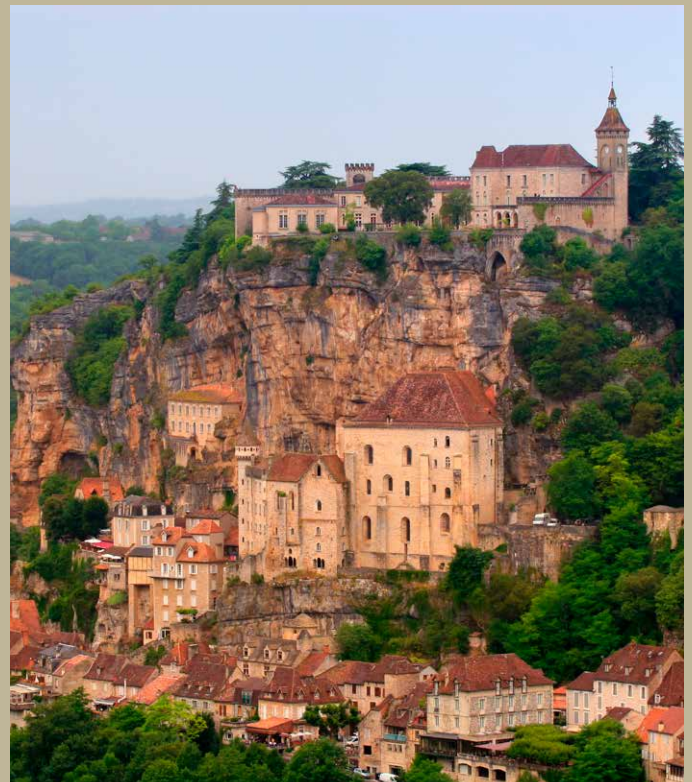
Located on the west coast of Sardinia is one of Italy's true hidden gems. Bosa is a picturesque village lined with pastel-coloured houses, cobbled streets and scenic sandy beaches. With the serene backdrop of the Sardinian hills, the town's history is abundant. Bosa has its roots in prehistoric times but was officially founded by the Malaspina family in 1112. The River Temo meanders through the town, holding key reminders of its historical economic importance. The medieval Italian town's "time stands still" aesthetic, paired with its vibrant piazzas and cafe's teeming with people, truly exudes a charming Mediterranean spirit.

MUST-SEE: Malaspina Castle was said to be built in the 12th century and is perched on a hilltop overlooking the town. The castle, which is also referred to as the Castle of Serravalle, can be accessed by a steep, winding staircase. A tour of the castle explains the castle's history and gives visitors unrivalled scenic views of this slice of Sardinia.

2. ROCAMADOUR, FRANCE

Rocamadour is a medieval village perched on a cliffside overlooking the Alzou River. Many of the village's buildings are carved into the side of the cliff, giving it a truly unique appeal. The village received recognition as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO as it is part of the Way of St. James pilgrimage route that spans across the continent. The village can be explored by walking the Rue de la Couronnerie, a long, paved street that traverses through medieval houses. Making the journey to L'Hospitalet will give you stunning views across the region.

MUST-SEE: Pilgrims have visited the historic village for over 1,000 years. The main attraction being the Vierge Noire (Black Virgin) statue that can be found in the Chapelle Notre Dame, which was constructed in 1479. The statue was carved from a walnut tree in the 12th century and had numerous famous visitors, including Henry II and French kings Charles IV and Louis XI.





3. Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany

Rothenburg ob der Tauber is a real treat for fans of the fairy-tale aesthetic of old Germany. With its gabled roof timber houses and cobblestone streets, Rothenburg is one of the German villages to have maintained its original charm. The town is an hour and a half journey west of Nuremberg and holds a dear place in the hearts of many Germans. It's renowned as one of the country's best shopping towns and is especially popular for its Christmas markets. There are plenty of sights and activities to soak in the town's beauty, including a scenic walk of the Rothenburg's Castle Garden oasis.

MUST-SEE: Plönlein („Little Square“) is Rothenburg's most famous and photographed areas. A slender timber-framed building stands between the Koblzeller tower and the taller Siebers Tower. Both towers were built as part of Rothenburg's first expansion in 1204 and secured the town's entrance. Eagle-eyed Disney fans will notice that the Plönlein served as the template for one of the buildings in the 1940 film, *Pinocchio*.

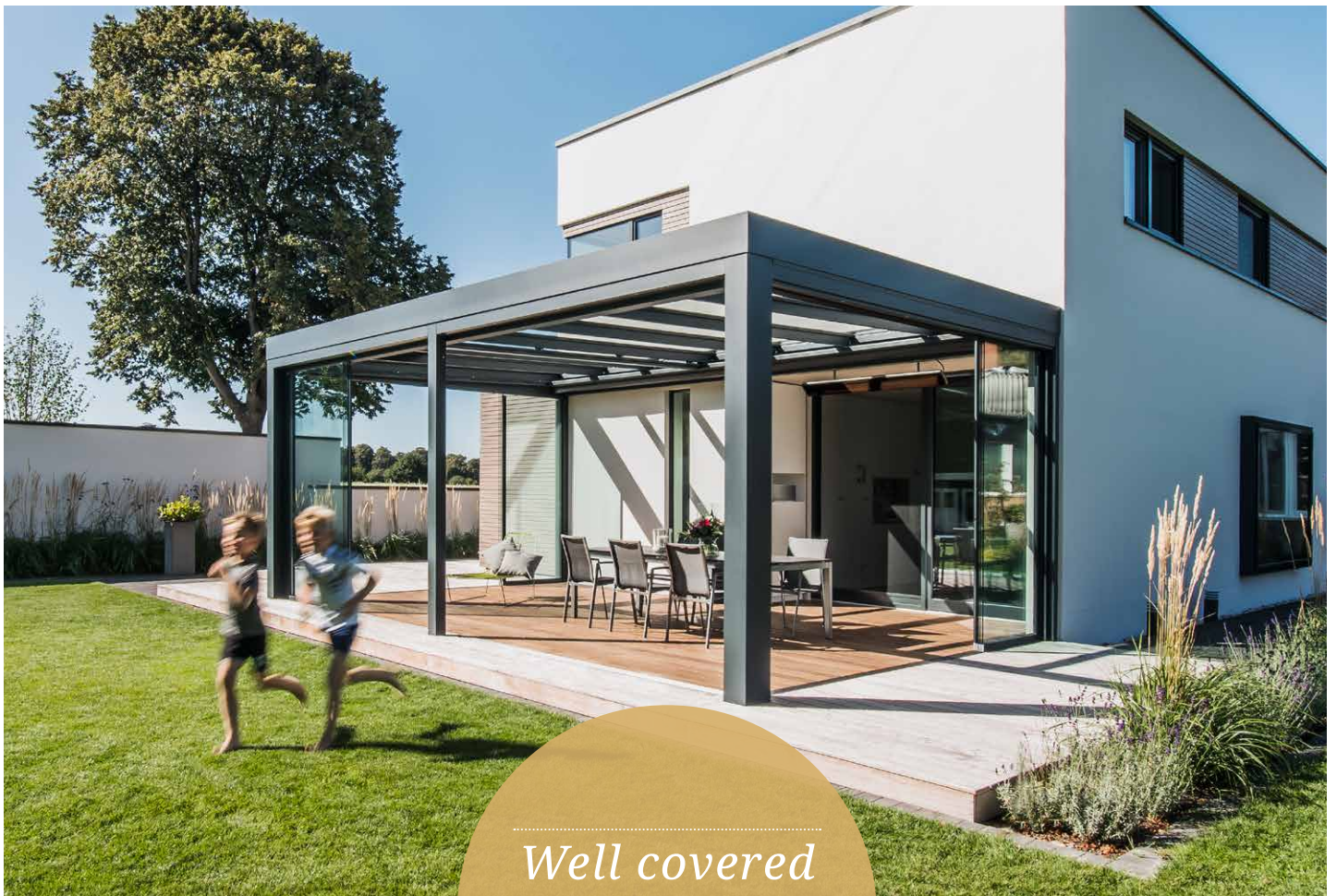


4. TBILISI, GEORGIA

Tbilisi is the capital of Georgia and is also the nation's largest city. Recently referred to as the 'Rome of the Caucasus', the colourful city is spread across a deep valley giving it a dramatic and breath-taking visual appeal. There's an intriguing blend of traditional and contemporary in Tbilisi, which is reflected in both its art and architecture. The city features an assortment of styles and influences throughout the ages. Medieval, Art Nouveau, Middle Eastern, Neoclassical and Byzantine building can be seen scattered among the traditional Georgian buildings.

MUST-SEE: The Narikala Fortress dominates Tbilisi's skyline. With a history dating back to the 4th century, the ancient fortress provides stunning views overlooking the Georgian capital. Narikala is accessible on foot or by cable car and houses the newly restored St Nicholas church, known for its depictions from the Bible and Georgian history.





Well covered

It wasn't just the "perfect harmony" of the SDL Acubis that impressed the family - they also love the technical details



ON HOLIDAY IN THEIR OWN HOME

Adding a modern extension to their grandmother's house created plenty of space for the Liskas, a family of four – but it was the cubic SDL Acubis glass canopy that really enabled them to make the most of their wooden patio. “It’s really rounded the whole thing off – metaphorically speaking,” Kerstin said.

It's a tale as old as time: for the Liskas, like many families before them, finding their dream home with the perfect property in the right location was like looking for a needle in a haystack. “When we got the opportunity to build a modern extension for our family in my husband's grandmother's garden, it didn't take us long to make up our minds,” Kerstin Liska recalls.

The flat roof construction with the wood inserts on the windows is built directly onto the house, and is everything the family have always wanted. Co-builder-owner Stefan Liska has always had an eye for architecture – and right from the start, this was the only design for him. “We were really happy with the house when we moved in. The big garden and the adjoining fields were great, too – but all that open space actually turned out to be a bit of a problem. There are no neighbouring buildings on any side of the house, so our patio was exposed to the wind from all directions.”



“It’s so nice here, we don’t even need to go on holiday anymore!”

Again and again, this became a source of frustration for the family, as it rendered their patio effectively unusable. “Even when the weather was great, we would often find ourselves sitting in the living room and eating breakfast indoors. It could be 23 degrees and sunny, but that didn’t stop the wind blowing the toast off our plates!” the mother of two remembers. “We kept coming back to the idea of finding some kind of way to permanently shelter us from the wind and weather.” Yet the perfect solution proved difficult to find. At first glance, nothing on the market met all the family’s needs: they wanted the shape of the patio canopy to match the aesthetic of the house and be made completely of glass, so that it didn’t block the light from getting into the living room. The solution also needed to be a space they could use all year round and – most importantly – had to shelter them from the wind and draughts. “Some solutions we rejected straight away, but there were others we liked the look of that



just didn’t meet the technical standards we needed.” Good roof drainage was particularly important to Stefan Liska, as he knew how big a problem this could be for flat roofs. “When we came across the SDL Acubis at Solarlux, we were impressed right away with the aesthetics, the functionality and – in my husband’s case – the engineering,” Kerstin Liska tells us. The cubic glass canopy has a roof pitch of just 2° – barely perceptible to the naked eye, but essential for flat roof drainage. “We were won over by every aspect: the shape, the use of durable aluminium, the large glass sliding elements with versatile opening options, and the high-quality accessories, like the matching awning.” The project finally kicked off in 2018. The family did



Photos: Malik Pahlmann

a complete redesign of the garden to suit their needs, taking out a lot of the old plants in order to instil a new, modern aesthetic and make the glass house they had dreamed of for so long a reality. Covering an area of 15 m², the glass house provided a whole new room that made life outside more than just comfortable for the family. "We were finally able to make proper use of our patio," says a delighted Kerstin Liska. "We love spending time out in the garden and the glass house now. My husband keeps saying, 'It's so nice here, we don't even need to go on holiday anymore!' He's not wrong either. But the boys don't quite agree - they love the sun, beach and seaside too much!" Kerstin Liska laughs.

System:
SDL Acubis
Opening system
option:
SL 20 sliding elements
Material:
Aluminium
Colour:
RAL 7016 FINE
Application:
Glass house

A narrow house with a modern glass extension and a courtyard with a pond. The house is built of brick and has a red-tiled roof. The modern extension is made of glass and black frames. A man is walking from the extension into the courtyard. The courtyard has a stone path, a pond with lily pads and white flowers, and various plants. A balcony with a metal railing is on the upper floor.

Wow factor

Out-of-the-box thinking
and modern construction
techniques turn a narrow house
into a real treasure

SAVING SPACE, GAINING CHARACTER

At first glance from the street, Lea Kuipers and Hugo Vos' house looks like any other old building in the residential areas of the Dutch city of Haarlem: friendly, yet small and unassuming. But take a look around the back and you'll be in for a surprise.

The moment we saw the house, we knew it was the one for us," Hugo Vos recalls. "My partner and I have always had a bit of a thing for old buildings – places with history and character."

That was what made the pair decide to set down roots in Haarlem and buy the house. Their "dream home" is located on a quiet side street, nestled among a series of small townhouses. A stone's throw away, the neighbourhood bustles with cafes, bars and even a small theatre. In short, it's the perfect location for life in the city.

A picturesque city in the North Holland region, Haarlem has managed to retain its medieval charm despite years of urban development. Its proximity to thrumming Amsterdam has made it a popular destination for tourists and residents alike, with a population of close to 160,000. The centre in particular is filled with typical old Dutch buildings like the one that stole the friendly couple's hearts: tall, narrow, often brick constructions with lots of windows and the trademark pitched roofs, with their gradually tapered gables.





System:
Ecoline
**Opening
system option:**
Exterior
Material:
Aluminium
Colour:
RAL 9005
Jet black
Application:
Living space



Before: Rigid glass elements obstructed the view of the garden

"It wasn't actually that hard to turn our house into a real oasis in the heart of the city," Lea Kuipers tells us, gesturing broadly towards the small garden and redesigned kitchen. The house was built in 1894, and actually doesn't look like anything special when you approach the front door from the street. Indeed, first-time visitors would hardly believe that this portal leads to 270 m² of living space - including a patio. This special house more than makes up for its lack of width - just five metres wall to wall - with the space it offers in length and height. The ground floor has a white facade that contrasts beautifully with the floors above. The ground floor itself stretches out a long way towards the back and eventually opens up into the kitchen, which in turn looks out onto the small garden nestled between the neighbours' walls. But the



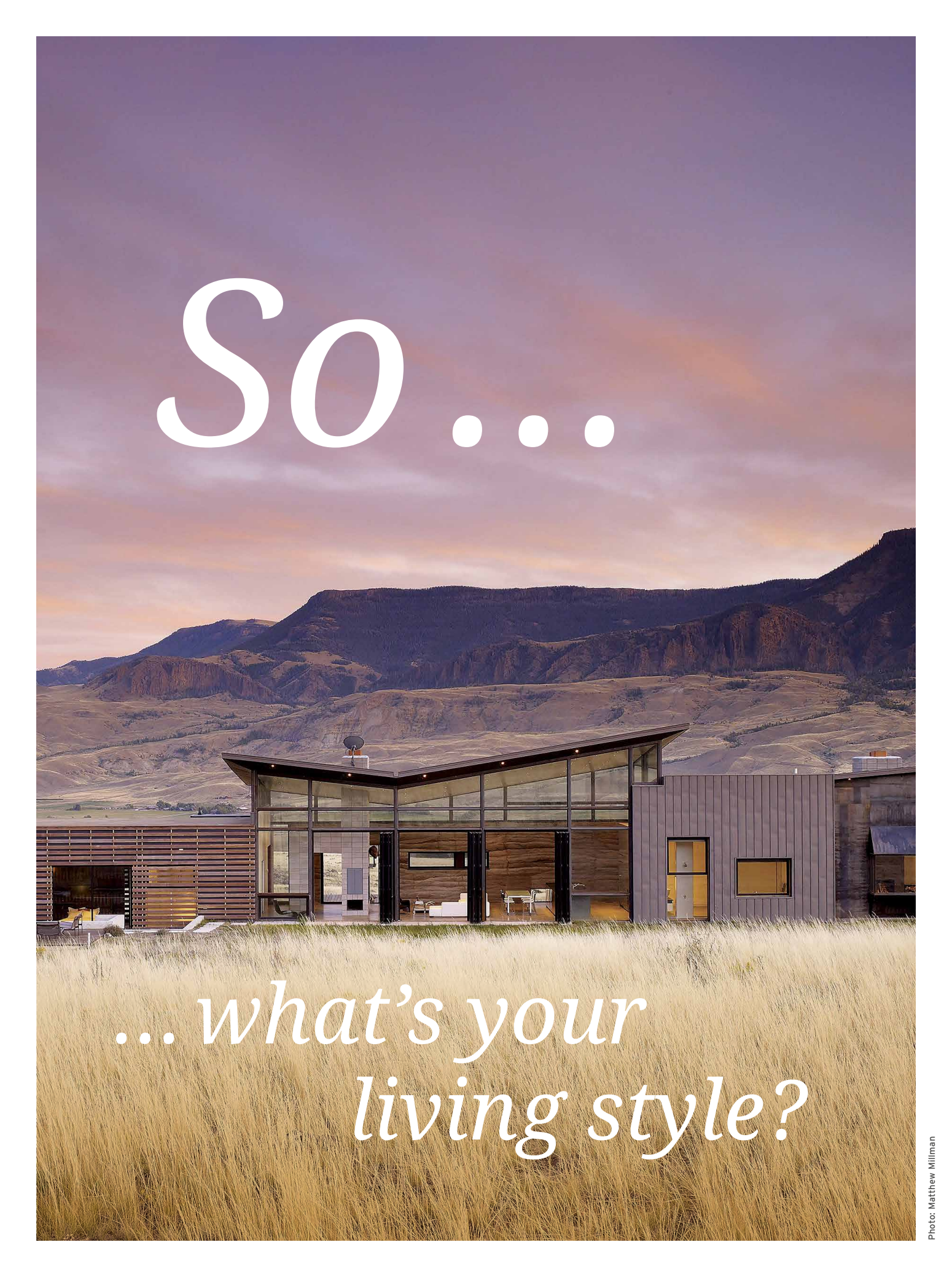
Interesting connection with walk on skylights which form part of the kitchen ceiling

“My partner and I have always had a bit of a thing for old buildings – places with history and character.”



real stroke of genius is in the space above the kitchen, which is dedicated entirely to a generous 50 square metres of patio. “Our house is very narrow, and on top of that the garden is surrounded by tall buildings. With that in mind, it was important for us to let as much light as possible into the inside of our home,” Hugo Vos explains. The building already had glass doors opening out onto the garden when the couple bought it – however, these were extremely clunky and rigid, and there was a clear boundary between the garden and the kitchen even when they were open. “When we first experienced the flexibility that Solarlux bi-folding doors could offer, we were amazed. The versatility, the ability to open them across large areas, the excellent thermal insulation they provide when closed – we were sold straight away,” his partner, Lea, smiles. The

bi-folding door the couple chose is made up of six glass elements that fold away to the left and right in two sets of three, hardly taking up any space at all. Save for the single supporting column required for the structural integrity of the house, the threshold between the kitchen and the garden is now completely unobstructed. Inviting and bright, the whole area seems more like one harmonious, completely new space where the line between inside and outside blurs, thanks to the flush-mounted, accessible floor tracks. “Instead of the two narrow doors, we now have the bi-folding doors across the whole wall. When the sun comes out and we open them up, our kitchen and garden merge into one. It’s our new party area!” the two builder-owners laugh.



So ...

*... what's your
living style?*

LIVING THE DREAM AROUND THE WORLD

“Home sweet home.” That’s how the saying goes – and isn’t it true that we feel most at peace in our own abode? With that in mind, it’s no surprise that we’re so fascinated with what other people’s homes look like. The OPEN! editorial team has been travelling the world to discover how people’s modern living concepts and ports in a storm reflect their own, individual lifestyles.

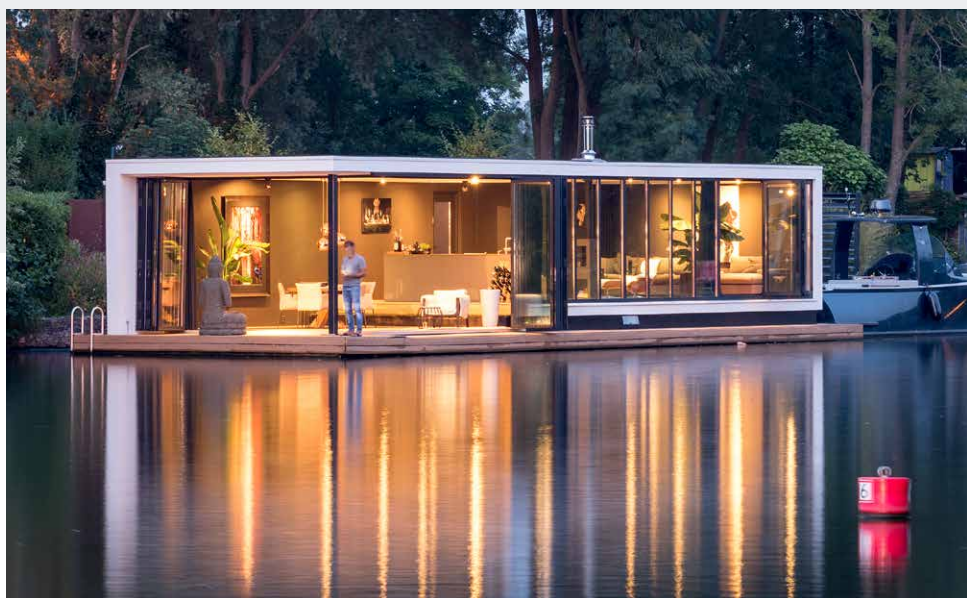


THE UTRECHT HOUSEBOAT

The owner of this houseboat has poured a lot of love and ideas into its renovation. At first, the boat was almost completely closed off from the outside world. But little by little, the builder-owner implemented his ideas to turn it into a modern, spacious home. The materials used in the project are also the perfect reflection of this approach: the white plaster cladding combines with the high-quality wood elements and generous glass surfaces to give the houseboat a unique personality.

01

Continued overleaf >>



02

DETACHED HOUSE IN AMSTERDAM

If you're looking for examples of how a winter-garden can bring more light and space into your home, look no further than this detached house near Amsterdam in the Netherlands. The wintergarden serves as an extension to the existing roof of the house, thus granting the residents more living space. Bi-folding doors are used as the exterior elements to open up the space and create a generous, smooth transition between the kitchen and the patio.



SAN DIEGO RESIDENCE

This detached house in San Diego, USA is full of life and colour. Thanks to the generous use of coloured, bi-folding glass doors, the family's home is extremely open and airy in addition to being so colourful. What a great idea!

03



VILLA IN WAPITY VALLEY

Photo: Matthew Millman



This luxurious villa is nestled in the heart of the Wapiti Valley in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, USA. The large building is surrounded on all sides by breath-taking nature. Instead of normal windows, the residents have chosen floor-to-ceiling bi-folding doors that offer them an unrestricted view of the local wildlife, the desert, and mountains as far as the eye can see. With a view like this, every day is an adventure!

VILLA IN HAMBURG



Photo: Christiane Koch

A new residence that is expressive, yet restrained? This modern villa just outside the northern German metropolis is the perfect answer. The interplay between the understated interior with its exclusive fittings, the large glass elements of the zero sliding windows, and the old trees of the countryside surroundings gives the house a unique flair.

DETACHED HOUSE IN WOERDEN

This detached house in the Dutch city of Woerden boasts some thrilling architecture: comprising a main building, an extension and a wintergarden, from the outside the home resembles a small set of steps. In order to emphasise this effect, each part of the building is made of a different material. The friendly builder-owner designed the whole thing himself, even going so far as to build a model out of clay before construction began. This is definitely one of the most creative homes we've seen.



Photo: Mies van der Heijde



Appreciating
NATURE'S BEAUTY
IN COMFORT



Rhosneigr is a charming village nestled in the North Wales countryside. The village sits between an unspoilt sandy coastline and Llyn Maelog, a lake teeming with wildlife and nature. It's an area where it's easy to forget the hustle and bustle of urban living. This picturesque setting provides the idyllic backdrop of an installation we at Solarlux are immensely proud of.



The home overlooks the Llyn Maelog lake and the rolling Welsh landscape, with a view of the Irish Sea on the horizon. While the surrounding natural beauty is undeniable, the sea breezes synonymous with this area often made these open views difficult to enjoy. To make the most of the Anglesey scenery, the homeowners decided to install a version of the award-winning SDL Acubis glass house with a truly unique design. A decked area next to the home was chosen for the installation as it represented the best place to enjoy the view. The free-standing design and frameless glass elements of the glass house provide for unobstructed views of the landscape, and its clean



modern lines and innovative design are guaranteed to keep out even the worst of the British weather. As the area is known for experiencing high winds, steel reinforcements were built into the rafters and columns to give the glass house increased stability. This, combined with Solarlux's unique powder coated aluminium system profile, gives the glass canopy a reliable and sturdy backbone. The Solarlux glass house is a bespoke creation that is precision-engineered to our customers' exact requirements at our factory in Melle, Germany. Incorporating the client's ideas and vision, every detail of the glass canopy



Photos: Thea van den Heuvel

is tweaked and thoroughly tested to ensure absolute perfection and a swift and easy installation process. The thick, laminated safety glass protects the residents from wind and rain, while the system's design allows the glass panels to glide effortlessly along their tracks. The glass canopy blurs the line between the indoors and outdoors, allowing for a full appreciation of the panoramic views surrounding the home. This is a space that the homeowners can enjoy all year round; a unique feature that provides shelter, letting them soak in the wonder of the Welsh countryside for many years to come.

System:
SDL Acubis
Opening system option:
SL 20e
Material:
Aluminium
Colour:
RAL 7016
Application:
Glass house



The image shows a modern glass extension with a white interior and grey tiled floor. The extension features large glass panels with slim black frames, providing an unobstructed view of the garden. The garden has a wooden fence, trees, and a paved area with outdoor furniture. The interior of the extension is furnished with a grey sofa, a wooden sideboard, a large TV, and a colorful rug. The ceiling of the extension has recessed lighting and a skylight. The overall design is clean and minimalist, blending indoor and outdoor spaces.

Looking out

Slender profiles and large glass surfaces offer an unobstructed view of the garden

LIGHT, *natural light!*

The English couple didn't know exactly what they wanted their home conversion to look like, but certain requirements were an absolute must: they wanted to expand their living space and connect it to their garden, while at the same time giving the house a more modern and exclusive look.

Catherine and Pete Gibney's home is located between Mansfield and Nottingham in England. They live in a terraced house in a quiet residential area with their two daughters, aged 10 and 13. The home was built in 2002, and the red-brick architecture is that of a "typical English house," as the couple describe it.

But a few years after they had originally moved in, they decided it was time to make some changes to their home. The children were getting bigger and the space was beginning to feel smaller, so in 2017 they eventually decided to build an extension. The living room and open-plan kitchen were increased in size, making everything seem a lot more spacious. This created a new heart for the home, a space where the family could relax and spend time together. But the Gibneys wanted something more from their conversion, too - so they took the extension as an opportunity to give their "hum-drum" home a unique twist.



Continued overleaf >>



They were looking for something modern, but were at pains to ensure that their view of the garden remained unobstructed. Being able to see straight out into the natural world from the living room and kitchen was very important to the family, and especially to Catherine Gibney. "My wife didn't want to spend her time staring at bulky window frames," Pete explains. On a visit to the Grand Designs showroom in Birmingham, the family came across Solarlux and the cero sliding windows. They spoke to an advisor for some time, and it quickly became clear that cero could fulfil their expectations to the letter. The couple were especially taken with the large glass front-

ages. Catherine was impressed - the slender frames and modest profiles didn't disturb her view of the outside one bit. So what did they like most about the solution? "The light, natural light!" It took just three and a half days to install all the elements. Catherine and Pete were impressed with how smoothly everything went: "The team was fantastic, great people - they did an amazing job." And though it has become part of their everyday lives, the family are no less thrilled with the system now than the day it was installed. Everyone is still amazed by how easy it is to operate - despite the size of the huge panes of glass, opening and closing the sliding doors is child's



House
System:
 cero II
Material:
 Aluminium
Colour:
 E6EV1
Application:
 Living space



play. For the Gibneys, the conversion was a complete success. In addition to giving them more living space, it has also enabled them to join the inside of their home up with their garden so that they can enjoy the outdoors with no restrictions. And best of all, their house is now anything but ordinary!

Photos: Christopher Terry

“The team was great, great people – they did an amazing job.”



A photograph of a modern garden kitchen. The structure has a dark frame and large glass doors. Inside, a wicker basket sits on the floor, and a lit shelf holds bottles. The kitchen is set on a lawn, with a dense green hedge and trees in the background. The sky is overcast.

A NEW FAVOURITE PLACE:

THE KITCHEN IN THE GARDEN



Photo: Eugen Eslage

More and more, people are taking steps to reconnect with nature. The outdoors is the new indoors, and moving one's main living spaces into the garden is the latest trend. There's nothing better than cooking, barbecuing and spending time with friends and family in the open air – so why not combine your kitchen and garden to create your new favourite place?



Photos: Sonja Schäfer



FROM BARBECUE COURSES TO AN OPEN-AIR KITCHEN

The open-air revolution has swept up many followers, and this family from Germany's Lower Saxony region is no exception. Their fascination with fire started when they got an indoor fireplace. Soon after that, they took a course on barbecue cooking, after which they were determined to create a space where they could cook and relax together outside. But just putting a barbecue in the garden would have been too simple. What the builder-owner wanted was an indoor fireplace he could cook on - but in the middle of the garden. An open-air kitchen was the answer, and the Acubis system provided the perfect space to realise this dream, with high-quality fittings that created the ideal conditions for the family to enjoy the outdoors for more than just the summer months. The new kitchen quickly became their favourite place to be, a true highlight to their home where they can while away the hours together surrounded by greenery.



**WATCH A TIME LAPSE OF THE
SDL ACUBIS CONSTRUCTION PROCESS**



Photo: Eugen Eslage

3 QUESTIONS FOR OLIVER NEUGEBAUER

The open-air kitchen was created by Ofensetzerei, a company run by Oliver Neugebauer. Its combination of functionality and clear design won the innovation the German Design Award Special 2017. All the materials used in the construction are sturdy enough to withstand the strain of the wind and weather all year round. The kitchen is a stand-alone modular system that can be combined with elements such as fireplaces, barbecues, water and lighting.

OPEN!: What exactly is an “open-air kitchen”?

Strictly speaking, anyone with a barbecue in their garden has an “open-air kitchen”. What makes our open-air kitchen different, however, is the years of experience and craftsmanship we put into it. Outdoor kitchens aren’t a new idea. But the interplay between our experience and the materials we use makes our open-air kitchen an unrivalled outdoor product with real fire – tamed to make a functional fireplace/flame grill, of course.

OPEN!: What kind of people are usually interested in open-air kitchens?

In a world where our children are taking to the streets to stop the destruction of the natural world we live in, our open-air kitchen product encourages people to live outside, like humans used to do. Our core business is in hand-crafted ovens and hearths, so we have always been in touch with humanity’s roots. Sustainability is very important to us. Our target audience makes a conscious effort to live sustainably and with a focus on value stability and quality time.

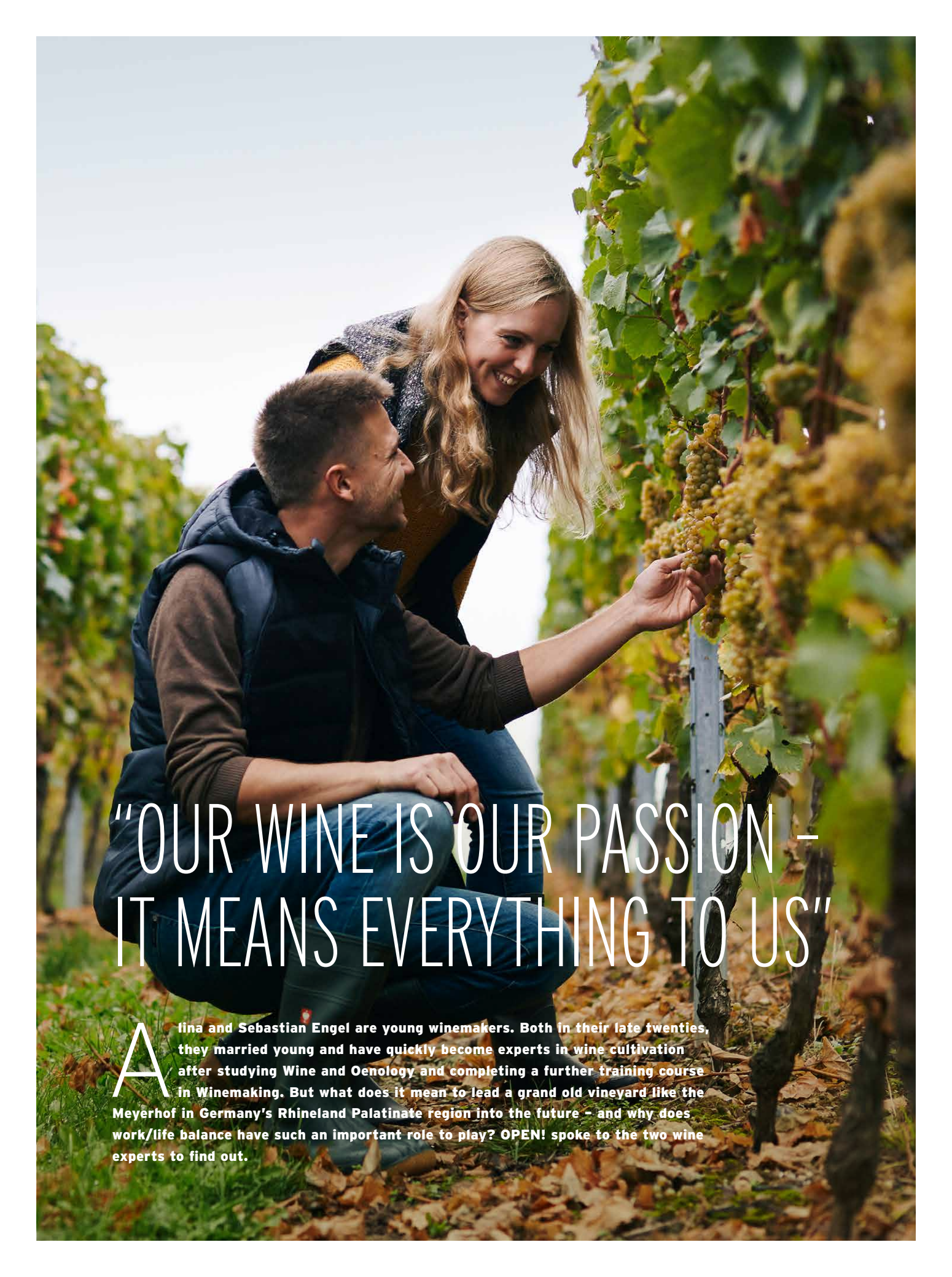
OPEN!: So does no-one cook indoors anymore?

People do still cook “indoors”, of course – and they always will. The open-air kitchen gives them the option of taking this “indoor” experience “outside”. What we’ve noticed is that when people cook indoors, they often use mass-produced ingredients – where as those who cook or barbecue outside tend to buy their ingredients fresh from the market. In the open-air kitchen, instant products are almost unheard of – but in indoor kitchens people will often turn to jars and packets for quick fixes.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OPEN-AIR KITCHENS

HERE: FREILUFTKUECHE.COM





"OUR WINE IS OUR PASSION – IT MEANS EVERYTHING TO US"

Alina and Sebastian Engel are young winemakers. Both in their late twenties, they married young and have quickly become experts in wine cultivation after studying Wine and Oenology and completing a further training course in Winemaking. But what does it mean to lead a grand old vineyard like the Meyerhof in Germany's Rhineland Palatinate region into the future – and why does work/life balance have such an important role to play? OPEN! spoke to the two wine experts to find out.



“Winemaker? You couldn’t have chosen a worse profession!”

The history of the Meyerhof family vineyard stretches back to the 18th century. When Alina’s father, Bernd, decided at the age of 15 to take up a career at the small vineyard in the Rhine-Hesse region run by his great uncle, Artur Meyer, his mother said to him: “You couldn’t have chosen a worse profession!” It was considered a physically demanding job, hard on the joints, and it wasn’t exactly what Alina’s grandmother had in mind for her darling son – especially after he had spent his entire childhood as a Frankfurt city-boy. But Bernd stuck to his guns, and in 1980 he and his uncle constructed a new building outside the tranquil vineyard village of Flonheim – thus giving birth to what has been the home of Meyerhof wine ever since.

“If we’re going to do this, let’s do it properly” – Alina and Sebastian get on board

Visitors to the Meyerhof vineyard at this site today might be surprised by the lack of rustic flair: with its modern “Vinothek”, guesthouse and high-tech winemaking facility, the operation now bears the unmistakable fingerprints of daughter Alina and her husband, Sebastian. But the younger generation’s eventual involvement in the family business was not always a foregone conclusion. While Alina was studying Winemaking and Oenology in Geisenheim (a Winemaking and Cellar Management apprenticeship), Sebastian had actually

started a dual-studies Mechanical Engineering program that would see him gaining practical experience at Siemens – 150 miles away in Germany’s Ruhrgebiet region. When the pair’s paths crossed again and they became a couple, Sebastian began helping Alina at her family’s vineyard at the weekends. Eventually, they had to make a choice – commit their future to the vineyard they had spent so many days working on together, or focus their careers elsewhere? Sebastian and Alina don’t do things by halves, so Sebastian decided to follow up his Mechanical Engineering degree with an apprenticeship in winemaking – and thus the course was set. At the same time, the Meyer family decided to expand their traditional vineyard operation and open up a new guesthouse and Vinothek. “We opened the guesthouse in 2014 and it got off to a roaring start. We’re just a small family business, so to be honest I was worried we might be not be able to sustain the hospitality venture. But the demand was higher than we’d expected, especially so early on, and before we knew it we had become more of a half-board hotel than “just” a vineyard – and we’d had enough on our plates just making the wine!” Now with regular wine-tasting and gourmet weekends, traditional home cooking and barbecue evenings and its popular seasonal asparagus dishes, there’s always a full house at the Meyerhof vineyard.

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A real family business: Together with Alina's father, Bernd, Alina and Sebastian are leading the Meyerhof



"Sustainability and quality are very important to us"

There are plenty of ideas for new things to do with wine – and with the Mainz Wine Salon, an association of young winemakers in the Rhine-Hesse area, Alina and Sebastian have a great network to work with. "German wine is really popular, especially among young people. The image of the dusty late vintage sitting on the back shelf is a thing of the past," says Alina. This is reflected in the over 2,500 visitors that flock to the Mainz Wine Salon's monthly after-work events on the banks of the Rhine, which are held between April and September. And of course, the Meyerhof vineyard is still going strong as well. "Luckily, my dad's not some old farmer

who's stuck in his ways," Alina laughs. "He's really open to trying out our ideas. He'll shake his head sometimes, but generally we've pretty much got free rein to do what we want." One of the biggest decisions the family has made recently is undoubtedly going fully organic: starting in 2020, the Meyerhof vineyard and all its wines will be certified organic. "Apart from that, we're not planning any big changes or expansions in the near future," says Sebastian. "It might sound strange, but we're happy with how things are going right now. Our main aim is to keep focusing on sustainability and quality –even more so than we do right now." "We're a real family business, and my parents are still young," Alina adds. "But over the next ten years



vineyard into the future

they want to start taking more of a back seat and use the extra time to go traveling. I think that'll be great for them. Of course, it also means that we'll need to change our approach again. Our work/life balance is something we're always thinking about - in the wine industry there's always something that needs doing." The pair use their life outside of wine to go skiing in winter, or simply take holidays for several weeks at a time. Making sure they get plenty of downtime between seasons is important, especially in light of Alina and Sebastian's guiding principle: quality knows no limits.

Photos: Meyerhof vineyard

"German wine is really popular, especially among young people. The image of the dusty late vintage sitting on the back shelf is a thing of the past."



EXPERIENCE THE MEYERHOF VINEYARD FOR YOURSELF

If you want to find out more about the Meyerhof vineyard or try out the quality of the wines for yourself, visit weingut-meyerhof.de to find out more, order some wine or book a weekend break.



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