

INSPIRING
FAMILY
HOMES



gestalten

Milk
MAGAZINE



[4-5](#)

PREFACE

ISIS-COLOMBE COMBRÉAS
MILK

[6-7](#)

INTRO

MILK X GESTALTEN

—

[8-17](#)

**BERLIN
GERMANY**

APARTMENT

[18-27](#)

**PARIS
FRANCE**

LOFT

[28-37](#)

**BRUSSELS SUBURBS
BELGIUM**

BUNGALOW

[38-49](#)

**LONDON
UK**

FACTORY

[50-59](#)

**NORMANDY
FRANCE**

FARMHOUSE

[60-69](#)

**STOCKHOLM
SWEDEN**

APARTMENT

[70-79](#)

**NIIGATA AREA
JAPAN**

HOUSE

[80-87](#)

**MILAN
ITALY**

APARTMENT

[88-97](#)

VENDÉE

FRANCE
HOUSE

[98-105](#)

**PARIS
FRANCE**

APARTMENT

[106-115](#)

**UMEÅ
SWEDEN**

COTTAGE

[116-125](#)

**NUENEN AREA
NETHERLANDS**

FARMHOUSE

[126-133](#)

**MILAN
ITALY**

APARTMENT

[134-141](#)

**BARBIZON
FRANCE**

HOUSE

[142-151](#)

**PARIS
FRANCE**

APARTMENT

[152-161](#)

**GHENT
BELGIUM**

CHAPEL

[162-171](#)

**VAUCLUSE
FRANCE**

HOUSE

[172-179](#)

**TORONTO
CANADA**

HOUSE

[180-187](#)

NYC, BROOKLYN

USA
APARTMENT

[188-195](#)

**VALLDOREIX
SPAIN**

HOUSE

[196-203](#)

**BIARRITZ
FRANCE**

CABIN

[204-213](#)

**VEXIN
FRANCE**

BARN

[214-223](#)

**THE HAGUE
NETHERLANDS**

HOUSE

[224-231](#)

**CORSICA
FRANCE**

REFUGE

[232-241](#)

**ALMERE
NETHERLANDS**

BUNGALOW

[242-251](#)

**BYRON BAY
AUSTRALIA**

HOUSE

—

[252-253](#)

INDEX

[255](#)

CREDITS

WHERE
BERLIN
GERMANY

WHO
ANNA, FLORIAN, LEO,
CARLO, ROSIE

WHAT
OPEN PLAN
APARTMENT

A calm family nest in the heart of bustling Berlin

German photographer Anna Cor, husband Florian, their three children, Leo (14), Carlo (12), and Rosie (7), and dog Mimi live in a beautiful 170 m² (1,830 ft²) apartment in the heart of Mitte, the lively creative neighborhood in central Berlin, Germany. The family moved here in 2008, jumping at the opportunity of a bigger space that could accommodate their growing numbers in a popular area close to their former flat where large apartments are scarce. Then in 2013, their dream scenario came true: as the people next door moved out, they were able to join the two residences, transforming the whole layout, knocking walls down, and creating a small yet clever open kitchen.

Located on the fourth floor, the apartment is now bright and spacious enough for each child to have their own room and Anna her own work space. Another modular and multipurpose room also acts as a passageway that can be closed off by a sliding door and a metal door. "Most of the space really is open plan as we have no hallway, which is very unusual in Germany," explains Anna.

"I love that because it reminds me of New York dwellings and a summer I spent there. There's this main kitchen-dining-lounge area where we hang out, enjoy quality time together, and receive our friends, so that's a perfect volume and yet each one of us has our own space that we can retreat to when in need of a moment of peace and quiet."

The interior design favors sober, subdued hues that create a calm and comfortable cocoon—living in an effervescent city like Berlin for more than 20 years has taught Anna that she needs a tranquil, clean space for her family to unwind in. The furniture is a mix of contemporary and vintage pieces made out of long-lasting, natural materials that will age over time. "People grow up and age and our home should be able to do so, too," she says. "The time we have spent here is visible: the floor is scratched, the marble tabletop is stained, and the ceramics are cracking—I really like that. I don't want to buy a new dining-room table every five years, I want one that has lived through hundreds of family dinners and inebriated evenings with friends."









WHERE
LONDON
UK

WHO
ZOE, MERLIN,
MAX, RIVER

WHAT
CONVERTED
FACTORY

An old shoe factory converted into a crisp, contemporary loft

“We create houses with our minds, our hands, and our souls,” say architect couple Zoe Chan and Merlin Eayrs. The young duo are shaking up the architecture and interior design worlds with a daring lifestyle and business model: instead of looking for clients, they look for properties, buy them, and move in with their two children, Max (4) and River (1). Then begins a slow, immersive, creative process where Zoe and Merlin take time to fully absorb the space’s atmosphere before envisioning a new, highly crafted interior that honors the property’s vernacular history while infusing their contemporary sensibility into the space’s volumes and materiality. It’s an organic method that can take up to two years, allowing the duo a creative freedom that thrills the senses and touches the soul.

Called The Beldi, this generous London-based apartment, located in an old shoe factory, was converted by Zoe and Merlin into a verdant oasis in the lively Shoreditch district. After peeling back the layers of time to expose the building’s bare industrial charm, the couple combined imperfect handmade materials and

traditional techniques inspired by their travels to Morocco and China to create a cozy, open space with some sharp contemporary lines. The view over the treetops of nearby St Leonard’s church inspired the delicate “fennel,” “avocado,” and “olive” green shades, which softly invite the outside in.

Craftsmanship is at the very heart of the duo’s approach, and the eye-catching floor sets the space apart: laid by hand using zellige and bejmat tiles, the neutral herringbone pattern and basketry motifs gently articulate flow and movement around the apartment. This feeling of fluidity is instilled all through the space with sweeping lime plasterwork and smooth oak carpentry, while luxurious, handcrafted elements—including a green lacquered bench by Sue Skeen, Jochen Holz glassware, and the bedrooms’ hand-painted quilts by Faye Toogood for Once Milano—complete the utterly refined and cohesive composition. The next work currently on their list is a Hampstead house nested in nature—a new, exiting playground for this wholly creative family.





WHERE
NORMANDY
FRANCE

WHO
PIERRE, ÉMILIE, GEORGES,
MARIN

WHAT
COZY
FARMHOUSE

A cozy farmhouse anchors happy family gatherings

Escaping to the country is what makes Pierre Frey happy. Director of communications for the luxury French textile company Pierre Frey that bears his grandfather's name, Pierre loves recharging his batteries in the Normandy-based farmhouse he purchased two years ago with his scriptwriter and film director wife Émilie. A place to retreat from the city, it provides the perfect way to keep his well-traveled professional life in balance while passing his love of nature onto his sons Georges (5) and Marin (9 months). The couple chose this region, close to Paris, to enjoy as much quality time with their wider family as is possible: "Our house is near my father's, so it makes it easy to take the kids from one place to the other and have the whole crew of cousins over," says Pierre. "The benefits of spending time with friends and family in a different context are amazing: rather than running between two places to have dinner together in Paris, we head to the countryside to unwind, to succumb to the charm of nature and gardening. Whatever the season is, I'm here in the garden with my son Georges all weekend long."

The traditional farmhouse is located in Vallée de l'Eure, a picturesque region of undulating landscapes, sloping rivers, and impressive aqueducts. It's a perfectly lush, bucolic setting for this comfortable home, the charming interior of which infuses elegant yet unassuming classic French style with a contemporary twist as the couple's eclectic selection of second-hand objects and furniture is skillfully mixed with curtains, cushions, and throws encapsulating the Pierre Frey aesthetic DNA: colors and motifs. The house is also filled with heirlooms that once belonged to Pierre's grandma: "My grandmother Geneviève [daughter of renowned designer René Prou] was a textile designer and a keen collector of antiques with an extraordinary eye for artifacts. She would be so happy to see our whole family here surrounded by some of her lamps, bowls, china, or paintings."

Passion for interior decoration is a family affair for the Freys, whose business began in 1935 as a designer and manufacturer of furnishing fabrics, expanding later into wallpapers, rugs, and carpets before launching their own line of furniture in 2002. "A family business indeed—these bonds of blood truly are our best working tools," adds Pierre.



WHERE
NIIGATA AREA
JAPAN

WHO
SATOMI, YOSHIKAZU,
ICHIE, WAKA

WHAT
WOODEN
HOUSE

A bucolic Japanese retreat blending ancestry and modernity

Located half an hour away from the town of Niigata (north of Tokyo, Japan), this simple wooden house, nestled in a lush garden surrounded by mountains, embodies the quintessence of bucolic living where nature and architecture cohabit in a ravishing, balanced way. Japanese jewelry designer Satomi Sekiya and her husband Yoshikazu chose this idealistic location three years ago, with the idea of offering their children Ichie (7) and Waka (5) the opportunity to grow up in a vivacious, natural environment. By celebrating Japan's ancestral lifestyle, where nature's ever-changing seasons infuse the tone and tempo of day-to-day living, the couple created a routine for their kids where the principles of mindful simplicity meet modern habits and technologies.

"We believe that living with nature enables us to broaden our potential and activity," says Satomi. *"We want our kids to discover freshness, to fear or love on their own, beyond words. We're teaching them age-old techniques such as lighting a fire or tying a knot on a rope, as well as introducing them to modern technologies—and we love to listen to what they have to say."* The family grows its own

fruits and vegetables in the garden that surrounds the house, which has proven to be a fertile ground for shared activities and quality family time, as Satomi and Yoshikazu consider education to be in osmosis with the environment.

Satomi's jewelry brand Monshiro also encapsulates the spirit of this unique place, impregnating her delicate designs, each a poetic tribute to ephemeral flowers and crafted by local women. *"In Japan, each season brings dazzling fragrances, but the scent of spring is particularly awe-inspiring to me."* This is one of the reasons Satomi wanted a wooden house that could "breathe," where interior and exterior are connected in such a way that her children could constantly benefit from the fresh mountain air. *"Nowadays, houses are too insulated,"* she explains. *"We prefer the old ways of ancient Japanese wood construction techniques."* Fans of vintage furniture, the couple's white and wood interior scheme is simple and allows for the children to run around, from inside to out, while the selection of objects made of natural materials mixed with modern, connected devices creates a peaceful balance, a new order.



WHERE
UMEÅ
SWEDEN

WHO
SORAYA, MICHAEL, JACK, JAMES,
NOEL, BENJAMIN, CLARA, TIM

WHAT
18TH CENTURY
COTTAGE

A poetic eighteenth-century cottage for a family of eight

Umeå is a Swedish city located 600 kilometers north of Stockholm. This is where designer and interior designer Soraya Forsberg and digital sales manager husband Michael decided to move their big family four and a half years ago, swapping the capital's frenetic pace for the more peaceful lifestyle of Michael's hometown. There, they stumbled upon a decrepit yet graceful eighteenth-century cottage, which came as a great opportunity for the six kids of the family—Jack (19), James (17), Noel (14), Benjamin (10), Clara (8), and Tim (7)—to finally get their very own space while the garden could make Diesel and Bamse (the family's dogs) happy. Above all, the whole revamp project was an ideal playground for Soraya to unleash her fervent creativity.

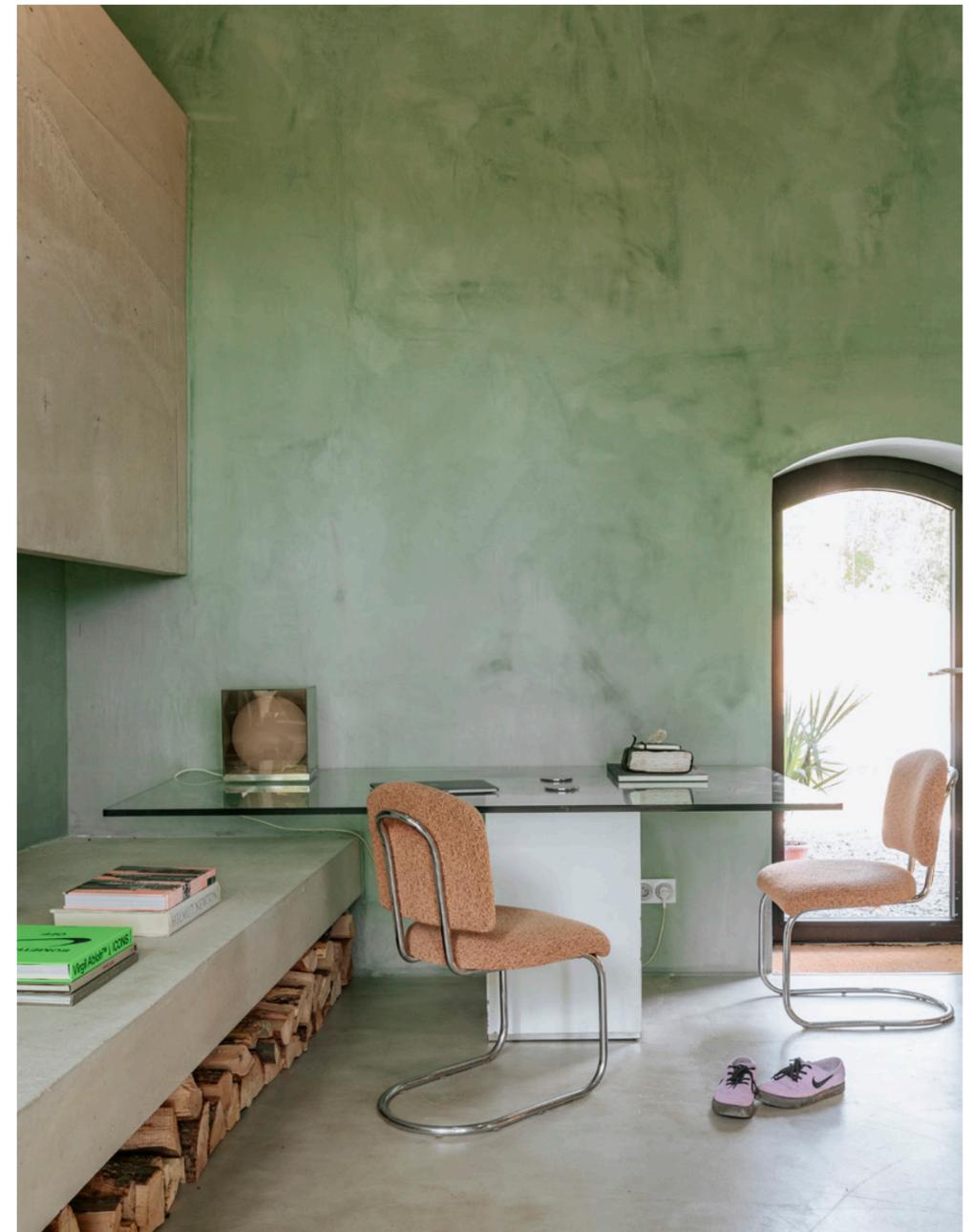
"The main floor was originally divided in two parts with a shop at the back, and there was nothing upstairs but a very cold attic. We started the renovation work by re-thinking the ground-floor layout completely, did some painting, and tore up the lino to reveal a magnificent wooden floor. The next step was to transform the first floor into

what it is now," says Soraya. This upper level now hosts four new rooms, an office, a guest room, and an open area where the children can play and welcome their friends, but the house as a whole has regained its original splendor. The half-timbered walls were whitewashed, exposing their beautiful imperfections, while earthy colors created by Soraya inject a timeless elegance. These combine with a selection of vintage and second-hand objects to enhance the beautiful, classic Scandinavian aesthetic of the house.

"In Stockholm, the kids always had to share space so they couldn't really have friends over. Now, we often have two to six additional children at home—and I love it!" Soraya, whose expertise extends to interior styling and product design, recently embarked on studying landscaping. *"When we bought the house, there was nothing but grass in the garden. Today we have a vegetable garden and a greenhouse we built. I really enjoy being outdoors and I'd love to be able to help my clients to imagine both the interior and the exterior of their family home."*











WHERE
CORSICA
FRANCE

WHO
NATHALIE, FRÉDÉRIC,
CHARLES, HENRI, HADRIEN

WHAT
MOUNTAIN
REFUGE

A minimalist rustic refuge nestled in the mountains

“I am very attached to family and childhood. I have fond memories of long summer holidays spent here in Corsica at my grandparents’ cabin in the Marana plain,” says Nathalie Ferrarini, the French founder of children’s clothing brand We Are Kids. *“I loved that I would literally live in a simple terry cotton cloth all summer long, which is something my first collection celebrated: this special connection to this place and this moment of time.”* Together with husband Frédéric, Nathalie bought a rustic Corsican summerhouse made of drystone walls and flagstone roofs nestled in the heart of the mountains. It’s a dreamy natural setting for the couple to escape to from their urban lives and enjoy breaks and holidays together with their three energetic sons, Charles (15), Henri (4), and Hadrien (2).

Once a destination for boho hippies, the charming mountainous village of Lapedina—where they bought their house in 2015—is today full of rehabilitated rustic houses, so preserving the character of their dwelling was important for the couple, who

took three years to convert it into a cozy, minimalist refuge. *“The original interior decor was a bit strange and the renovation work has been a long and laborious process—but the house has a soul,”* says Nathalie. The interior of the duplex has been thoroughly decluttered to accommodate the young kids securely and enhance the structure’s graceful details—imperfect whitewashed walls, little recesses, handsome fireplaces—reinforcing the pleasingly organic feel of the space, while the small outhouse below the main building is now Nathalie’s design studio.

“At home in Bastia, there’s always friends or family swinging by, and the children liven up our daily routine so much—it never stops! Here, it’s so different—this peacefulness helps me to clear my mind. And for the first time this year, we’ll have time to fully enjoy the house, explore the other side of Cap Corse, go to the beach every day, and have friends to stay here with us.” A taste of endless summer indeed, all encapsulated into the latest We are Kids collection of timeless pieces.

