

ELLE COUNTRY

DECORATION

VOLUME 11

MODERN
COUNTRY STYLE
FROM RURAL
RETREATS
TO MOUNTAIN
ESCAPES

**PLUS 50
ESSENTIALS**
TIMELESS AND
USEFUL DESIGNS
TO TREASURE



THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL HOMES IN THE COUNTRY



ALPINE BLUE

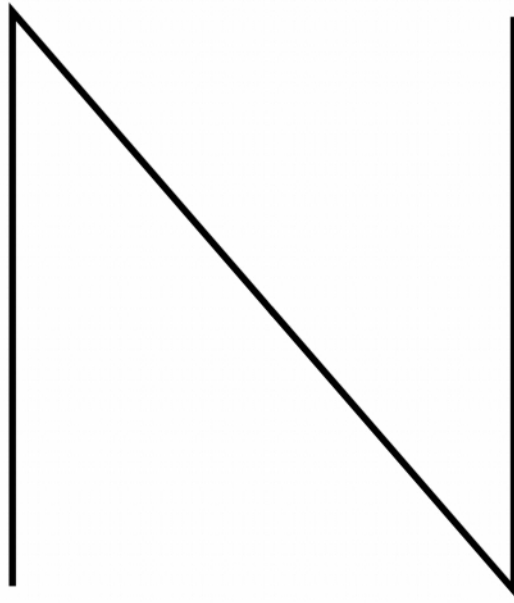
Natural materials and a restrained colour palette create an enticing haven high in the mountains

Words EMMA LOVE

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estled high in the snow-capped Austrian mountains, this striking three-storey new-build house provides the ultimate sanctuary to hunker down in. It is the work of Philipp Hoflehner, creative director of Tyrol-based design company Bernd Gruber, who created a second home for Rolf Waltz – a German entrepreneur in the music industry – and his wife Stephanie, situated right next door to their existing home. ‘Their main house is often full of friends and business partners who come to stay, whereas this property, which is connected via a secret passageway, is a private space for the family,’ says Philipp.

Despite the minimal colour palette, the house has a comforting aesthetic throughout. ‘There is just one strong, lead shade, which is the navy blue that you see in the custom-built kitchen units and the Casalis rug by the sofa,’ says Philipp. ‘For me, the sense of comfort comes from the materials: from the leather benches by Baxter to the hewn granite basins in the bathroom, and the Pietra Piasentina natural stone floor on the entrance level. Everything is very real and organic, and many of the pieces are made by local craftspeople.’

The lights in the home create a snug ambience during the cold winter evenings. ‘The idea was that the lighting should reflect the materials elsewhere, so we used anti-glare wall washers and downlights to keep it gentle,’ explains Philipp. Above the bath, the walk-in wardrobe and on the side of the staircase, Philipp eschewed solid walls in favour of narrow strips of wood that let natural light through. ‘I wanted the space to be part open, and part closed – it’s open enough to make the most of the light, but retains the feeling of a sanctuary.’ *bernd-gruber.eu*











INSTEAD OF SOLID WALLS, NARROW
STRIPS OF PINE ALLOW LIGHT TO SHINE
THROUGH, CREATING A MORE OPEN FEEL





'THE SENSE OF COMFORT COMES FROM
THE MATERIALS... FROM THE LEATHER
BENCHES TO THE NATURAL STONE FLOOR'



THE KEY TO THIS LOOK IS TEXTURE,
FROM THE SMOOTH, CURVACEOUS BATH
TO ROUGHLY HEWN GRANITE BASINS

