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# ALPINE SANCTUARY

*Weathered natural materials, accented by deep blue, are key to this Austrian home's modern take on the log cabin look*

Words **EMMA LOVE**

Photography **CHRISTOPH THEURER/HOUSE OF PICTURES**

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**Living room** An 'Extrasoft' modular sofa by Piero Lissoni for Living Divani (available at Aram Store) sits on a Casalis 'Opera' rug. The wall lamp by Serge Mouille is a striking feature set against the weathered larch panelling, while the walnut coffee table by New York-based furniture company BDDW is decorated with a vase by Kaj Franck (try Ebay)  
**Stockist details on p150 ►**



**Kitchen** The fitted kitchen was custom-designed by Bernd Gruber and features a T-shaped table, which is surrounded by restored vintage Vienna leather side chairs (try 1st Dibs for similar). The 'Shadows' pendant lights by Brokis are available at Nest in the UK **Stockist details on p150 >**

# T

**he vision of Philipp Hoflehner**, creative director of Tyrol-based design company Bernd Gruber, this striking new-build, situated high in the Austrian mountains, is a contemporary space that feels comforting and welcoming. It was created as a second home for Rolf Waltz, a German entrepreneur working in the music industry, and his wife Stephanie, and was built next door to the couple's existing house. 'Their main home is often full of friends and business partners who come to stay. This connected property is a private space, just for the family,' Philipp says.

Due to its steep hillside location, the 419-square-metre plot is designed across three levels. From the ground-floor entrance, a sculptural wooden staircase leads up to the bedroom, bathroom, vast walk-in wardrobe and sound-proofed music room. Above that sits the open-plan kitchen/diner and living room. 'Wood provided a starting point for our scheme,' says Philipp. 'We chose Austrian reclaimed larch that has been weathered by the sun and tough winters for the walls and ceiling of the living area, Douglas fir for the floors and staircase, and pine in the kitchen. Pine is a softwood, so I wouldn't use it in areas that get heavy footfall – but mixed with the larch, it imbues a sense of warmth.'

The homely feel is achieved with a minimal colour palette. 'There is just one strong, lead colour, which is the navy blue that you see on the custom-built kitchen units and the Casalis rug in the living room,' Philipp says. 'For me, the cosiness comes from the materials: the leather benches by Baxter, the hewn granite basins in the bathroom, and the entrance hall's Pietra Piasentina stone floor. Everything is natural, and much of it is made by local craftspeople.'

Lighting also helps to create a home fit for snuggling up in during the cold evenings. 'We wanted the style of lighting to reflect the materials used elsewhere, so we chose anti-glare wall washers and downlights to keep it gentle.' On the ceiling in 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*



➕ See even more of this contemporary mountain retreat, plus our edit of the world's most beautiful countryside homes, in ELLE Decoration Country Volume 11, on sale 16 November 2017. For more previews, follow us on Twitter and Facebook @ELLEDecoCountry



**Living room** Weathered larch wood has been used to clad the walls and ceiling, creating a cocooning space. In the corner, a 'Rockstar' bar by Buster + Punch adds glamour. Stockist details on p150 ►



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**Bathroom** A freestanding ‘Spoon’ bathtub by Benedini Associati for Agape (available at West One Bathrooms in the UK) stands next to a pair of cedarwood ‘Bidu’ side tables by Paola Navone for Baxter. At the entrance to the room (right), a leather ‘Garçon’ bench by Matteo Thun and Antonio Rodriguez for Baxter faces the roughly hewn granite basins, which sit atop a vanity unit by Bernd Gruber **Stockist details on p150 ED**

