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WAY IS UP



What could be better than a quaint mountainside chalet? How about a luxury six-floor interpretation with an updated take on traditional charm?

Words **JEREMY CALLAGHAN** Photography **GAELE LE BOULICAUT**





Living area Divided into a cosy and bespoke raised lounge area and a dining spot, this is a hardworking family space. The table was custom-made to a design by the homeowner and the chairs are by Klaus Lichtenegger. A 'Smithfield' pendant light by Jasper Morrison for Flos hangs above. The artwork in the snug is a photograph by Stefan Bogner ▶



It was memories of childhood winters spent in the wooden cabins that dot the snow-topped mountains of Gerlosberg in Austria's Tyrol region that drove Tobias Petri, co-founder of interior-design brand Holzrausch, to search for a home here. Recapturing the past did not prove easy, though. After years spent searching for a rustic chalet in need of renovation, Tobias decided to take matters into his own hands, building his own interpretation of the properties he loves.

'It seemed to me that those traditional cabins were the perfect size for spending quality family time in. They are conducive to a confined togetherness, which I really like,' explains Tobias. Enlisting the help of Munich-based architecture firm Grünecker Reichelt, he took this cosy inspiration and, quite literally, elevated it.

Turmhaus (or Tower House) is a luxurious six-storey interpretation of mountain living. 'We designed it like a stack of those old cabins,' says Tobias. To maintain a modest appearance, half of the building is concealed underground. These subterranean levels include a garage, games room, wine cellar and an entire guest suite – perfect for hosting grandparents or family friends. Above the thick, white blanket of snow that covers the land in winter are the main living areas: an open-plan kitchen, living and dining room; kids' bedrooms and a bathroom. On the top floor is the main bedroom with its own office space and sauna. All of these levels are linked by a concrete spine that conceals the chimney flue and a lift. 'We needed it to transport the bags, supplies and wood. But in an alpine environment like this, where winter sports are so prevalent, I thought that the option of stairs was a sporting challenge I couldn't pass on,' quips Tobias.

Hanging at the foot of this grand staircase is one of a series of photographs depicting Tyrol's historic farmhouses, a collaboration between Tobias and German photographer Florian Holzherr. It's an apt place to find the seed of inspiration from which this towering home grew. Like those early structures pictured, this house consists of a very strict, natural palette of materials. Massive boulders of quartz excavated during the creation of the basement levels were



used as flooring, a kitchen worktop and even a sink. 'We were so excited by this discovery that we decided to go with the idea of using only local materials,' says Tobias. 'We used larch wood sourced from the nearby mountains, plus concrete and the stone. That's it. Nothing else.'

The purity of this approach is the essence of this property's beauty. 'Normally, we don't use so much wood in our projects,' admits Tobias, referring to his work with Holzrausch, 'but here it felt very important. We wanted to use the traditional chalet material, but make something that was modern. For us, it's about simplicity and sophistication.' Those looking for a winter escape with a difference can experience Turmhaus for themselves, as it is now available to book. offgridhideaways.com; holzrausch.de; gruenecker-reichelt.de

Opposite Stone unearthed during the excavation of this home's lower levels has been used as flooring, and also as a worktop in the adjoining kitchen. One of the cabin's many balconies, this outdoor room beside the dining space is an ideal spot to wrap up in a blanket and enjoy the alpine view
Above A compact 'Traffic' sofa by Konstantin Grcic for Magis, an 'AJ' floor lamp by Arne Jacobsen for Louis Poulsen and artwork by Walter Maurer create a feeling of modern comfort in one of the home's guest suites ►



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Bedroom Located on the sixth floor of the towering home, this room is clad in white fir and features a bespoke mirrored wardrobe that reflects the snowy scene outside the window. The bed linen is from Maison de Vacances and the vintage Scandinavian chair in the corner was one of the first pieces Tobias bought for this property – for a similar look try Carl Hansen & Søn ▶





'WE WANTED TO USE TRADITIONAL CHALET



MATERIALS, BUT MAKE SOMETHING MODERN'

Study A Prada Marfa sign, a prop from artists Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset's unshoppable Prada store beside Highway 90 in the American desert, is placed above this custom-made white-fir workspace. The stool is a piece by Karl Lichtenegger and the green table lamp was picked up at a flea market in Arezzo, Italy
Bathroom Lined with larch wood and featuring a white resin floor, this space is inspired by the natural palette outside the window. The bath and sink are from German brand Michel Bäder and the playful tap is the 'Pinocchio' by Bruno Negri for Emmevi Rubinetterie **See Stockists page for details** **ED**