

KONFEKT

The Magazine for Sharp Dressing, Drinking, Dining, Travel & Design.

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ALL WRAPPED UP
Elda wears cashmere cardigan by Barrie



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FONDUE TO YOU
Hearty meals for chilly Alpine nights



WARM IT UP

Inspiring itineraries for winter wonders and festive feelgood.
KONFEKT is a title by the makers of MONOCLE

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SEASON'S SPARKLE
Our glimmering jewellery special



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TRAVEL. Downhill in Lech and cross-country in Bavaria's snow hole

WELCOME

Those bright, crisp days that characterise a European winter are perfect for venturing out into the world in search of inspiring stories to share – and *Konfekt*'s writers, photographers and editors have done just that. So whether you want to learn more about geopolitics in Prague, craft traditions in Nepal or jewellery shopping in Paris, you'll find just the thing in this issue.

Illustrator — Karin Kellner



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ICELAND

1

ICELAND — REGIMES

Join us in the wilderness for a dip in the thermal waters as we explore the binding relationships between this nation's creatives and its unforgiving landscape. — *p165*

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CANCALE — FOOD

Once a port where pirates would rob cargos of precious spices, today this Brittany town is still home to a company that is in the business of aromas and flavours. — *p080*

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KYLE OF TONGUE — RECIPES

Scandinavian and Scottish produce meet at Lundies House, an extraordinary property at the northernmost tip of mainland Britain. — *p096*

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PARIS — BUYER'S NOTEBOOK

Selecting jewellery in the French capital is a very personal endeavour for Stéphanie Roger, whose Whitebird boutiques gather some of the most refined emerging talent in the industry. — *p136*

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TARENDAISE VALLEY — RESIDENCE

French designer Clémentine Larroumet's studio helped her refit a derelict chalet into a charming bolthole with a view of the Alps. — *p107*

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OSLO — WANDERWEGE

Join artist-designer Ali Sha Gallefoss on a shopping jaunt around the Norwegian capital as he discusses how he blends different disciplines into his work (and picks up a present or two). — *p060*

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BERLIN — FASHION

Tehran-born milliner Maryam Keyhani has an exuberant and extravagant approach to hat design. We take a tour of her packed German atelier to find out more. — *p128*

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BASEL — RESIDENCE

A gallery-worthy collection of furniture amassed at auction takes pride of place inside curator and entrepreneur Michelle Nicol's *fin-de-siècle* villa in the northern Swiss city. — *p112*

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PRAGUE — CONVERSATIONS

Czech creatives, industrialists and journalists sit down for lunch at Café Imperial to discuss what makes a successful nation brand, Eastern European geopolitics and festive wishlists. — *p084*

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REIT IM WINKL — WEEKENDER

Blessed with abundant snow, this secluded corner of Germany is a postcard-pretty paradise for laid-back cross-country skiers. — *p055*

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LECH — INNKEEPER

For Gerold and Katia Schneider, being hoteliers is about upholding traditions with a sense of simplicity and familiarity, something that their Almhof Schneider property does well. — *p062*

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HELSINKI — FASHION ROADTRIP

Having worked for some of fashion's top maisons, designer Jonathan Ingberg returned to his family's sheep farm in Finland for inspiration. — *p123*

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More than just festive tree decorations, Lithuania's traditional *sodai* straw structures have a deeper place in the nation's agricultural psyche. — *p116*

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NEPAL — TRAVEL

In the Himalayan village of Phaphlu, enterprising local creatives are devising resilient ways of ensuring that the region's craft traditions and way of life endure for years to come. — *p066*



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CANCALE

On the busy thoroughfare of Basel's Missionsstrasse, Rudolf Schürmann opens the large front door of his *fin-de-siècle* villa and ushers us into the cool calm of his hallway, where a soft milky light filters through a lofty window. Dressed in a grey suit and polished black leather shoes, Schürmann and his wife Michelle Nicol have just returned from a foray across the French border to Mulhouse with two curator friends.

Settling down on the sofa after a long day out, the pair begin to tell the story of their move to Basel. "We wanted to change our life – and our environment," says Nicol, recalling how even though the couple own and run Neutral, an agency for "influence and identity" in Zürich, the discovery of this neoclassical, 300 sq m villa inspired a move to the Rhine in August 2021. "Rudolf made a single viewing and the decision to buy was made," says Nicol, with a smile.

The move ushered in a complete change of design focus and the pair confess that they have only a few things left from their modern, high-rise Zürich apartment. "We sold off most of our furniture and replaced it with pieces we bought at auctions in Italy," says Nicol, as Schürmann points out that the couple don't consider themselves collectors, as such. "We love to be surrounded by good design but we can also let it go again when the time comes," he says.

Schürmann, who studied graphic design in Lucerne and learned painting at Düsseldorf's Academy of Art, has a passion for architecture and its political and social dimensions. "I've learnt about architectural spaces in a very ad hoc way," he says of his passion. "I've read about them, lived them and visited them. When you're planning a creative project, you have to think conceptually. That applies to interior design and architecture."

The pair were introduced to their Austria-based architects, Atect, by their gallerist friend Eva Presenhuber. Atect was given plenty of freedom in planning the three residential floors, attic, basement, two kitchens, two walk-in closets, an office and two bathrooms. Choosing the colour scheme was Schürmann's responsibility, while Nicol had power of veto. "We decided on the very pigment-rich colours of Farrow & Ball," he says. "I find the change from matte moss



1. Michelle Nicol's workplace, with a vintage Ico Parisi desk
2. View from the living room, with green lacquered walls, to the winter garden

green in the salon to glossy avocado green in the conservatory particularly successful."

While some aspects of the house have been meticulously restored, others have been boldly reimagined. On the first floor, there is a freestanding kitchen with stainless-steel fittings and mirrored cabinet fronts. The bathrooms are housed in stainless-steel boxes inserted into the existing structure, as "architectural interventions" that stand clear of the historic structural components. "When I walk into one of these new fixtures, I move into a modern interior nestled in a historic home," says Nicol. "I love this contrast."

Elsewhere, the original features remain unchanged. The wood panelling and the heavy wooden doors, which have charmingly dissimilar handles and hinges, speak of a rich past. "We think that the central neo-baroque staircase is particularly impressive," says Nicol showing us the grand central feature. "It conveys a feeling of motion throughout the house and when you climb it, you see different perspectives on the space."

Most of the furniture they bought at auction in Italy is by late-20th century European

DESIGN — RESIDENCE — Basel

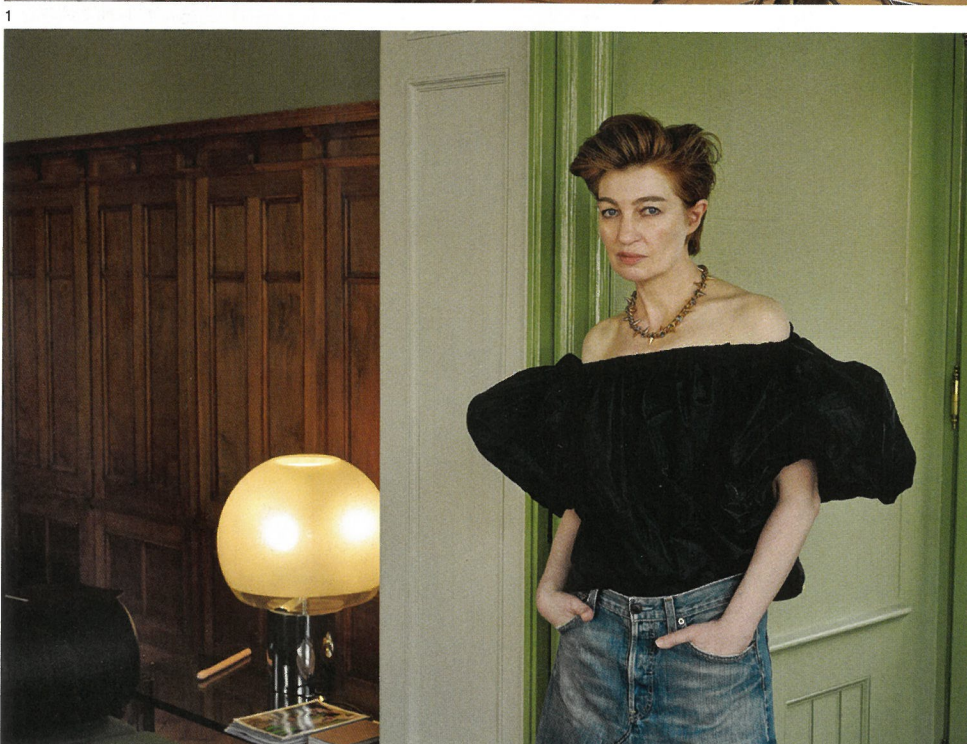
MIX AND MATCH

Photographer — David Willen
Writer — Christine Halter-Oppelt

A turn-of-the-century villa retains its original charms and gains some imaginative updates, with the focus on easy living.







“The challenge is to maintain a dialogue between the property and the architecture and at the same time set things up for a comfortable life”

1. Desk by Swiss manufacturer Wogg and Italian leather sofa from the 1970s
2. Nicol is a curator and entrepreneur
3. Door to the kitchen
4. View over the stainless-steel kitchen counter into the dining room
5. Baroque-style wooden staircase



designers. In the living room (which is divided into a salon in the middle, a working area facing the street and a conservatory that faces the garden), eight Carlotta folding armchairs designed by Antonio Citterio for Flexform in 1997 sit next to an Oscar Niemeyer lounge. A modular cubic Todo Modo sofa system by Tecno dominates the salon. This versatile sofa can be rearranged as desired and sat on from either side; it was designed by French architect Jean-Michel Wilmotte in 1993 for the exhibition halls at the Louvre. "The challenge is to maintain a dialogue between the property and the architecture, and at the same time set things up for a comfortable life," says Schürmann, showing us around the living room. "Certain pieces from the opulent 1990s work well." Simple, well-designed Swiss classics by mid-century designer Werner Max Moser and contemporary design studio Atelier Oi as well as several 1960s lacquered metal beds by Italian modernist Tobia Scarpa create contrast. "My darlings are these two lounge chairs by the late Maarten van Severen."

Floating above this carefully arranged scene are Novecento chandeliers in Murano glass by Vistosi. "Rudolf wanted contemporary interpretations of Venetian glass chandeliers." All the other wall, ceiling and recessed lights are Glo Balls by Jasper Morrison for Flos. "They're still the most beautiful round glass lighting on the market," says Nicol.

We step out into the garden, which was designed by Schürmann, where we meet a

cheerful, curious focal point: a half-submerged red canoe full of water by Swiss artist Roman Signer. Two rectangular exposed-aggregate platforms, one slightly raised, bring a sense of landscaping while cork oaks suitable for the mild local climate have been planted to complement the mature trees of neighbouring properties.

Built by architect and developer Eduard Preiswerk in 1902, the villa was once owned in the 1920s by Paul Sarasin, the naturalist and founder of the Swiss National Park. In fact, it is one of the few remaining period buildings on the street and is surrounded by more recent developments, from a 1970s apartment block next door to a residential building by local architects Christ & Gantenbein and a modern residential building by Urs Gramelsbacher. "In the 19th century the Missionsstrasse between Spalentor and Burgfelderplatz was an important exit axis and the connection to the French Alsace," says Nicol of the area's history.

Schürmann enjoys Basel for its understated flair and humanist tradition, and for the apparent ease with which people assimilate. "Basel is a city of the mind and ideas," he says, "Erasmus of Rotterdam lived in Basel for several years in the 16th century."

The city is also a great place for anyone interested in architecture. "There's a lively scene with some very interesting projects going on," says Schürmann, who goes on to explain the couple's latest enterprise: "Poeticwalls is a developer, builder, broker and marketplace for outstanding architecture." From late 2023 onwards the first properties on the platform will include three studio houses by architect Valerio Olgiati in Mittelarni in the canton of Uri; a colony of affordable housing and studios on a sunny plateau at Isenfluh in Lauterbrunnen is in the works. "With our developments we want to make a place, a landscape or a neighbourhood better and more varied, exciting and sustainable," adds Schürmann.

Meanwhile, the finishing touches are still being made to their own renovation. In a week's time, gardeners will arrive to plant more trees. And there are plans for a festive party where a creative crowd of artists, designers and architects from all over the world will mingle in its panelled hallways. — K



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