

# MONOCLE



ISSUE  
**08**

Winter  
Season  
2013/14

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Monocle believes in the power of print and paper and our winter newspaper celebrates them both

### MONOCLE RADIO

For a full line-up of Monocle 24's winter shows, go to [monocle.com](http://monocle.com)



SKIDDING ON THE RUNWAY CAN BE FUN

**Please go to glacier number four:** The strap-on-ski merchants who can turn your plane into a snow-lander with just a pair of planks. Plus: tips on landing with grace



'MY EARS ARE COLD. BALI FOR ME NEXT YEAR'

**Snow patrol:** How to get pulled on a Swedish holiday with the happy huskies



**Down-town happy:** The puffed-up winter wear for good pistes and Yoyogi Park



**02**  
Pontresina, Switzerland  
*A customised Alpine apartment that's perfect for family fun*

WORDS by Tom Morris  
PHOTOGRAPHY by Andrea Wyner

When architect Luca Cipelletti bought this third-floor apartment in the village of Pontresina, 5km from St Moritz, the first thing he did was customise the floorplan to suit his needs, creating a three-bedroom, three-bathroom property with enough space for relatives to visit. His Milanese family had a traditional house in Pontresina when he was growing up and they would regularly make the journey across the border to Switzerland. The architect hunted for something new and happened across this development as it was being built, completing in 2010. It was a fresh start and needed a fresh approach to Alpine apartment design.



"I didn't want too much of the New York style," says Cipelletti. "I wanted something more unique. Something comfortable and cosy, not super cold and white." For the bare bones of the property, Cipelletti used local materials in an entirely new way: recovered fir trees were used to line walls. The planks came in varying widths, which Cipelletti carefully arranged horizontally on the walls and treated to make them slightly paler. "I didn't want yellow wood," he says.

The stone from Lucerne that was used for the exterior of the apartment block was also applied in the interior, most notably in the kitchen and living room where it was used across entire walls. The stone and wood are joined by the black iron curtain around the fireplace, which was brought in to cover up an immovable support column.

It's perhaps no coincidence that the apartment has a touch of the contemporary-art gallery about it. In addition to running the Ar.ch.it. architecture practice in Milan since 2000, Cipelletti has also worked as a consultant art director for the UN and as a museum designer. There's something of the design magpie about him and his apartment nest here in the Upper Engadine. In front of the panoramic floor-to-ceiling windows sit two armchairs and coffee tables from the 1930s by Jindrich Halabala, a Turkish designer who was based in Prague. Gino Sarfatti lamps and a Venini vase from the same era in the living room join these Halabala pieces.

For all the impressive pieces on display, the apartment stops short of being a design showcase. "I was obliged to put in some furniture for the comfort of my mother," says Cipelletti with a smile.

The apartment is comfortable and characterful despite its no-holds-barred contemporary flavour. It's also a far cry from the second home that Cipelletti's family used to own, which had small windows and a cramped atmosphere. "Houses are far too claustrophobic up here sometimes," he says, gesturing towards the glass curtain wall of this bright, open apartment and a view across the river, forest and Bernina glacier. "I wanted a place where I had to eat breakfast with sunglasses on." — (M)

ar.ch.it

- 01 Muted second bedroom
- 02 The apartment has three bedrooms
- 03 Jindrich Halabala armchairs and coffee tables in the living room
- 04 The kitchen opens out onto the living room
- 05 Owner Luca Cipelletti
- 06 One of the flat's three bathrooms
- 07 The black iron fireplace also houses a bookcase
- 08 Gino Sarfatti lamp in the living room



**03**  
Fontanella, Austria  
*A cosy chalet with modern flourishes and picture-postcard views*

WORDS by Josh Fehnert  
PHOTOGRAPHY by Albrecht Schnabel

Set on an incline above the winding road between the Glatthorn and Zafernhorn mountains of western Austria, this simple chalet is an ideal space in which to hunker down for winter. It might look new but it uses age-old techniques and materials to get that just-so level of cosiness. "We talked a lot with the clients about traditional houses in the area," says architect Bernardo Bader, whose practice in the town of Dornbirn is a 45-minute drive north of the new build. "In the 13th century this was a village of the Walser people, who left behind a lot of valuable and sustainable architecture."

Hiking across the Alpine passes during the mild summers and settling in one place for the winters, the nomadic Walser people and their culture still resonate through Austria, northern Italy, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. Their winter dwellings are the inspiration for this high-altitude retreat — and it's one you'd think they would be proud to hang their hat in. The rough-hewn *Sägerohlen* pine and spruce construction are hallmarks of the Walser valley. "Our use of the wood was similar to how it would have been years ago," Bader says. "Simple, first-hand and rough."

On top of its sturdy concrete foundations, the minimalist ground floor is dominated by wood from the fir trees that pepper the surrounding slopes. Even furniture and fittings are wooden, as if the interiors have been whittled from a single sturdy trunk. A deep-reaching geothermal pump provides green energy while a wood stove adds the comfort of an open flame to proceedings.

Despite its alpine overtones, the architect's modern touch can be seen from the interior in the irregular windows that puncture the building's exterior. "The randomness of the smaller and bigger ones generate an exciting façade and an



**Bernardo Bader's CV**

- 1974 Born in Krumbach, Austria
- 2001 Gains diploma in architecture from Innsbruck University
- 2003 Founds his practice in Dornbirn, Austria
- 2010 Wins the Vorarlberg Builders Award, Grand Prize
- 2012 Nominated for the prestigious European Union Prize for contemporary architecture — Mies van der Rohe award, 2013
- 2013 Wins Aga Khan Award for Architecture

bernardobader.com

“Our use of wood was similar to what it would have been years ago: simple, first-hand and rough”

intimate atmosphere inside," says Bader. From the inside looking out, the geometric windows help frame pretty snowscapes like postcards.

New home to a family of six, the scenic space (named after the nearby settlement of Fontanella) features an outdoor terrace for milder months. Ideal for enjoying a hot toddy with a view, the bracing open-air space hints at the longer summer days to come. But even in midwinter this snowy outpost is an attractive place to hole up during a cold snap. — (M)



- 01 Irregularly placed windows lend a modern aesthetic
- 02 Furniture and fittings on the ground floor are predominantly wooden
- 03 One of many stunning views over the Walser valley