

DECORATING

A countryside estate in Zurich pays homage to Art Nouveau architecture

Interior designer Ina Rinderknecht blends period and contemporary pieces at this archival address

By Nolan Lewis

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The spacious main living room is adorned with stylish white furniture and offers panoramic views of the surrounding estate. The dining table is situated in a small alcove with a window bench. Reto Guntli & Agi Simoes

Built on a sprawling country estate in Zurich, Landgut House dates back to 1914. Previously used as a single-family home, its existing buildings are spread across a plot of roughly 17 acres that have been retrofitted and adapted with sublime renovations last summer by [Swiss](#) interior designer Ina Rinderknecht. Now reserved for private use on weekends, the address is used to host corporate seminars and meetings during the week.

Rinderknecht teamed up with Neon Deiss Architecture, who undertook the structural renovation of the villa. She was then responsible for the entire interior renovation, including furnishing and decorative lighting. “The owner’s vision was to bring the estate back to its former glory,” she says, referring to the simple client brief.



Upon entering the house on the ground floor, one is welcomed into the large entrance hallway that features the original geometric tiled flooring, wooden doors, wall paneling and fireplace. The walls have been covered with hand painted linen fabric from de Gournay, while the grand staircase has been finished with a custom-made striped cream and raspberry carpet runner by Pierre Frey. Reto Guntli & Agi Simoes



The dining room houses many historic fixtures such as the wooden cabinet and the tiled stove that dates back to the villa's construction. Rinderknecht custom-designed the long marble table in light Calacatta Borghini, to create a central piece that would alleviate the heaviness and rigidity of the room. Reto Guntli & Agi Simoes



In the kitchen a fresh lease of light is perfectly reflected off the duck egg blue kitchen cabinets. Reto Guntli & Agi Simoes

The renovations took a total of about four years to complete. The 13-bedroom house was divided into the main villa and chauffeur house, equipped with a fitness and wellness area, a cocktail bar, cozy living rooms, a beautiful kitchen, meeting spaces, an outdoor tennis court and swimming pool. In the garden, a new mirror glass pavilion, designed by Neon Deiss Architecture, completes the ensemble and is used for events, dining, meetings and concerts. “We were inspired by the materials and patterns of the original Art Nouveau features of the estate and tried to incorporate these into our design,” Rinderknecht says.



The master suite boasts its own luxurious living room, spacious bathroom equipped with a freestanding bathtub, and a grand bedroom rendered in soft green hues. Reto Guntli & Agi Simoes



Reto Guntli & Agi Simoes



Reto Guntli & Agi Simoes

On her first visit, she was thrilled at the prospect of working on the beautiful country estate. While a treasure chest for historical materials and patterns from Art Nouveau, the main character of the building was dark and heavy and felt frozen in time. So every room in the house was carefully studied and developed under the surveillance of the cantonal preservation office. “The strict framework we were given meant that we had to start our design process with elaborate research of the original colour palette; we were instructed to maintain certain wood works and historic flooring, some of the original wallpapers and upholstered walls had to be protected, repaired, and reupholstered,” the Swiss interior designer explains.



A large wellness area, which includes a steam bath, checkroom, and spa, offers a calming, rejuvenating sanctuary that can be found in the basement of the house. Reto Guntli & Agi Simoes



Reto Guntli & Agi Simoes

She was keen to highlight the enchanting historical design details in the entrance hallways, the dark wood paneling and Art Nouveau tiling. “The hand-painted linen wall coverings, produced exclusively by renowned British wallpaper manufacturer de Gournay, portray floral vines and birds, emphasizing the country lifestyle,” she says. She also added a carpet runner by Pierre Frey in a crème-and-raspberry pattern to complete the ambience of the space, with a slightly more modern finish.



Spanning over three floors, the chauffeur house includes a multifunctional seminar room, meeting rooms, a bar and four additional guest rooms. Reto Guntli & Agi Simoes



At the end of the red driveway, visitors are greeted by the newly built glass pavilion, designed by Neon Deiss Architecture, built in the form of a crystalline mirrored glass structure which provides space for dining, meetings, and events. The architectural garden has been redesigned to include a natural pool, tennis court and flower garden completed with a pergola for outdoor dining, relaxation, and enjoyment. Reto Guntli & Agi Simoes



Reto Guntli & Agi Simoes

During Rinderknecht's extensive research process, she was drawn to a beautiful drapery fabric from Rubelli. With lively motifs of birds and branches available in different colours, this fabric was the perfect starting point to retell the story of the house in a contemporary way. Based on this drapery, she was able to set up three colour schemes in subtle blue, purple, and green hues, as one can tell from the images.

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