

GERMANY



4 HALLO BERLIN!



German architect Gisbert Pöppler has crafted sophisticated, jewel-box spaces throughout Berlin during his 20-year career. Over the years, he's cultivated a number of favorite haunts throughout the art-centric city. Below, he shares a few picks. gisbertpoepler.com

8:30 a.m. I love starting the day with breakfast in the Wintergarten café at Literaturhaus Berlin. The villa was built in 1889, during the reign of

Emperor Wilhelm II, and its garden is a calming hideaway in the middle of the city.

10 a.m. Head to Berlinische Galerie (shown above), a new museum whose primary collection is composed of art produced in the city, spanning from 1870 to present-day.

12 p.m. Hunger strikes, so I pop into Salumeria Lamuri, a casual Italian restaurant located in the Kreuzberg neighborhood. It's my favorite intimate spot for a satisfying lunch with a good glass of wine.

2 p.m. I stop by Trouvé-Berlin for a little treasure hunting. This vintage furniture store is dedicated to French and Italian design of the 20th century.

3 p.m. For treasure of a different sort, visit René Talmon l'Armée's shop. The jewelry designer makes beautiful pieces using 18-karat gold, oxidized silver and naturally colored diamonds.

4 p.m. To get a sense of Berlin's decadence in the 1920s, check out the museum at the Liebermann-Villa. German painter Max Liebermann's old summer residence by Lake Wannsee holds many of the artist's paintings and has an impressive garden.

7 p.m. Briefmarken Weine is a low-key wine bar that occupies a former East German storefront—its neon sign "Briefmarken" translates to "stamps." With amazing pasta, antipasto and wine, it's the perfect spot to end the day.



5 AGAINST THE GRAIN

File this one under happy accidents: Cologne-based designer Meike Harde was staining fabric when some of the pigment spilled onto her wooden worktop, leaving streaks of bold color to run along the grain of the surface. In that moment, her Wooden Aquarelle project was born. Based on a technique once used by German Expressionist painters, Harde's process of applying color to wood is random, so no two panels are alike. With their intense hues and soft transitions, the panels resemble dreamy, hypnotic watercolors. When applied to furnishings, like the triangular nesting tables seen here, the effect is mesmerizing. meikeharde.com