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# LIVING ETC

## TIME TO dream

HOMES DESIGNED TO RELAX AND UNWIND IN

● COLOUR INSPIRATION ● KITCHEN TRENDS ● OUTDOOR STYLE  
● CREATIVE KIDS' ROOMS ● DESIGN-LED SHOPPING

# FULL SPECTRUM



## OUTDOOR TERRACE

The exterior was mostly preserved, but large steps on the terrace felt out of place. 'There was a little bit of a castle look, and we took that away,' says Gisbert.

Borea Collection **outdoor seating**, B&B Italia. Custom Tuuci **umbrellas**

This historic garden home has been reimagined with an unexpected colour palette and a haute-craft approach

**PHOTOGRAPHY** Ollie Tomlinson

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## FAMILY ROOM

An earthy yellow paint – a recurring colour favoured by the homeowner – brings much-needed brightness to an entrance hall with limited natural light.

Walls in Babouche, Farrow & Ball. Custom sofa upholstered in Le Manach fabrics. Stainless-steel wainscoting and terrazzo flooring are both custom. Painting by Gabi Streile



# The download

## THE DESIGNER

Interior architect Gisbert Pöpler has a knack for creating homes that radiate bespoke craftsmanship and bold colour palettes. His Berlin studio is unafraid to reinterpret history through a contemporary lens.

## THE PROPERTY

A central hall with a powder room and wardrobe has a living room on one side and leads to a large garden hall. It connects with the kitchen on the opposite wing, as well as a glass-walled garden room. Upstairs, a central landing leads to the primary suite, as well as a children's bedroom, a family room and bathroom. A separate floor above the kitchen comprises a large bedroom with bathroom.





**FAMILY ROOM**  
 Arched openings follow a typology set by the original front door, but the rounded shapes were also inspired by plasterwork on the exterior of the house, wedged between the roofline and the wall. 'We say it looks like many half cakes under the roof,' says Gisbert, who reinforced this shape throughout the home.

Walls in Orange Aurora, Little Greene. Wainscoting in Babouche, Farrow & Ball. Vintage Carlo Scarpa side table; similar, 1stDibs

*Hidden Valuables*  
 A book with a decorative cover, resting on a patterned ottoman.

## LIVING ROOM

The homeowners planned to use the living room to entertain, but also host meetings. Gisbert opted for comfortable, yet solid, furniture that helps maintain composure without 'sinking in'. 'You still look good when you sit on the sofa,' he says.

Baba chair and Walker whiskey table, both Gisbert Pöppler. Sofa 280, Pierre Augustin Rose. Fascia Specchiata coffee table, Luigi Caccia Dominioni for Azucena. Wainscoting in India Yellow, Farrow & Ball



**t**ake out as much as you can,' were the brave words Gisbert Pöpler offered a new client. The homeowner had initially imagined a simple refresh – new colours and furniture – for their 1920s garden villa in Hagen, Germany. But while the listed clinker-brick exterior was beautifully preserved, a 1980s gut renovation hardly matched up and Gisbert wasn't impressed. Open to bold ideas, the client trusted his radical vision for a complete transformation.

The home, designed by the Ludwig brothers, sits within Hohenhagen, an early-20th-century artist colony spearheaded by industrialist Karl Ernst Osthaus and inspired by England's garden city movement. The setting is packed with history, and its garden reads more like a small park. But its interiors were destroyed by fire during the Second World War. This made the home a blank slate – ideal for the entrepreneurial client, who envisioned the estate as much for business meetings as family life.

Light was essential to Gisbert's glow-up. Despite its south-facing orientation, the house had many rooms that were surprisingly dark. First, a series of walls came down, merging three tight rooms into a spacious salon. Gisbert's team also improved the flow of light through technical solutions: subtle slants in window reveals capture more sunlight, and doorways were heightened into gentle arched openings. More dramatic interventions, such as interior porthole openings and a sculptural skylight in an orangery-like extension, funnel light deeper into the house.

A bold palette completed the picture. Gisbert proposed colours so unusual that the site's master painter phoned the client, concerned the tints were mixed incorrectly. But colour is Gisbert's calling card and one of the reasons the client approached his Berlin studio. A mix of earthy yellow, vibrant orange and light blue offsets the home's serious architecture. The playful palette pops in pieces designed by Gisbert's studio, from colour-blocked cashmere throws to rotund armchairs in mustard and powder blue.

The most striking intervention is an oak staircase to private quarters off the main entrance. Its presence is palpable: with its arched walls lined in pink linoleum, it's reminiscent of an art installation. The bold gesture also clearly marks a passage reserved for the homeowners only – no stray business guests allowed.

What was lost to history is now alive through a reverent respect of craftsmanship – the skylight alone took weeks to complete. This devotion, says Gisbert, is worthy of Osthaus's craft-centric ethos for the original artist's colony: 'He would have liked it in this era.'

[gisbertpoepler.com](http://gisbertpoepler.com)



**WC**  
Gisbert's craft-forward approach is hard to miss in this powder room, where cedar-clad walls rise into a domed ceiling and the basin was fully carved from a block of marble. 'We even made a toilet-paper holder, and also a brush holder from the stone,' says Gisbert.

Custom Honey Spider marble basin and cedar wallcovering, Gisbert Pöpler. Similar tap, Vola

THE COLOUR PALETTE OF EARTHY YELLOW,  
VIBRANT ORANGE AND LIGHT BLUE OFFSETS  
THE HOME'S SERIOUS EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURE



## DINING AREA

Gisbert chose dispersed ceiling lights instead of a chandelier so the expandable dining table would never appear off-centre, whether used for intimate dinners or meetings with 20 people.

Dining table and sideboard, both Gisbert Pöppler. Chairs, Mario Bellini for Cassina. Joy Lights wall art, Draga & Aurel. Ohne Titel painting by Stephan Heggelke, Galerie Commeter. Floor lamp, Gae Aulenti and Piero Castiglioni for Fontana Arte.



## KITCHEN

The entire project started, in a way, with the kitchen. The client worked with Ofco Küchen on the design, and it was its MD, Nicole Otto, who recommended Gisbert for the wider renovation.

**Kitchen**, Ofco Küchen. **Ceiling lights**, Mawa. **Chair**, Svenskt Tenn. **Mirror**, Ettore Sottsass at Glas Italia



## GARDEN ROOM

The sculpted skylight introduces a different, atmospheric light into the glass-walled space.

**Table** and **armchair**, both Gisbert Pöppler. **Dining chairs**, Svenskt Tenn. **Pendant**, Günther Leuchtmann at Tecnolumen



## CHILDREN'S ROOM

'Immediately you feel like you want to go to bed and read a book because of that colour,' says Gisbert of the earthy golden brown on the walls of an attic-like floor that is often used for sleepovers.

Cashmere **throws**; **rug**; **armchairs**, all by Gisbert Pöppler



## MAIN BATHROOM

Despite the intentionally calm palette here, Gisbert didn't abandon colour entirely. The custom red vanity topped with a blue glazed lava stone links the space back into the home's overall colour story.

Italian Muschelkalk limestone walls. Custom vanity and mirror, Gisbert Pöpler. Similar bathroom fittings, Duravit

