

# Pastoral Retreat : Inside a Luxurious Modern Appenzell Villa

Bavarian wood specialists Schotten and Hansen collaborate with international interior architect Ina Rinderknecht to bring their nature-inspired design and cutting-edge timber technology to Villa Fernblick.

When Ina Rinderknecht's client first purchased the property that would become Villa Fernblick, he called her with excitement. The land, perched on a mountain crest in Appenzell, held a unique history—it was once a vacation home for nuns and their students.

"They already found the most serene space to create their sanctuary," Ina recalls, reflecting on the mystical quality of the site. The challenge, as she saw it, was to respect the land's spiritual legacy while introducing something new. "It was about reading the land, understanding and appreciating what was there, and then treating the new with respect."

Set on this tranquil hillside, Villa Fernblick blurs the boundaries between architecture and the natural world. Designed to harmonise with its surroundings, the villa blends into the landscape rather than disrupts it.

"We wanted the roofline to disappear into the hill," Ina explains, emphasising her commitment to creating a structure that would feel like a natural part of the environment.

The property includes a main villa, a guest house, and a thoughtfully designed garden, featuring a pool pavilion and a natural swimming pool. Ina collaborated with Schotten and Hansen, Bavarian wood specialists, to ensure that the villa's interiors reflected the calming, spiritual nature of the land. Their craftsmanship is evident in the wood panelling that mirrors the natural tones and textures outside, creating a seamless transition between indoor and outdoor spaces.

Ina, who returned to Zurich to establish her practice after years of working on luxury projects from Hawaii to Milan, has built a reputation for creating spaces that are both luxurious and understated. Villa Fernblick captures the essence of its historical roots while thoughtfully incorporating modern design elements that complement and elevate its surroundings.



Credits:  
Architecture: Sito Architekten GmbH  
Landscape Architecture: Enea GmbH  
Lighting Design: Lichtkompetenz GmbH  
Architectural Concept, Interior Architecture,  
Furnishing Interior & Exterior: Ina Rinderknecht

Text: Julianne Raboca Photography : Reto Guntli and Agi Simoes  
翻译 : Kay Chan





## DESIGN THEORY: HOLISTIC AND HARMONIOUS

The villa's design navigated community guidelines while aiming to evoke a distinctly Asian aesthetic. "We wanted to give it a notion of Asia," Ina explains, reflecting her personal background and the desire to infuse the architecture and interiors with a serene, harmonious atmosphere.

One of the client's specific requests was to avoid bare walls, which led to an exploration of yacht-inspired wall panelling. "The idea of the wall panellings coming from the yacht industry was very intriguing to us," Ina notes. The challenge lay in integrating different materials to create a cosy feel without being overly decorative. Instead, the design focused on achieving a holistic, well-rounded interior architecture.

Heritage colour references played a role in developing a specific colour scheme, incorporating creams and ivories with subtle tints of natural shades, perfectly matched to the travertine floors with their off-white and yellowish undertones. Additionally, the use of strongly veined woods in deep browns added a layer of depth and structure to the space.

Ina's approach to luxury residential design is both adaptive and respectful of context. "You're not just a translator for your clients' wishes; you also have to be a good reader of the time, location, and historical context," she reflected.

Luxury, she explains, varies widely depending on cultural and personal preferences. "In Switzerland, some clients want shiny textures, while others prefer roughness and rawness." This flexibility means that each project is unique, shaped by the client's vision and the particularities of the landscape.

Ina likens her role to that of a detective, piecing together a design that aligns with the client's aesthetic needs and cultural background. She noted, however, that her design philosophy leans towards a more serene, Asian-Italian understated luxury, rather than more ornate or traditionally British interiors.



## A SHARED VISION

When designing Villa Fernblick, Ina knew that the materials she chose would define not just the look but the very feel of the home. Schotten and Hansen were selected precisely for their ability to create a sense of natural luxury.

"You create that in a staging process," Ina explains. "The bigger the spaces are, the more you need to structure them the right way—whether it's colouring, lights, or material volumes. You have to respect the harmonies we create; it's innate."

This understated elegance is why Schotten and Hansen's materials, with their rich textures and honest, natural quality, were indispensable. Their wood panelling doesn't just cover walls; it transforms the physical experience of the space, making it feel grounded and authentic. "They're honest, they're real, they're natural," Ina adds, summing up the impact of Schotten and Hansen's influence on the villa.

Ina's admiration for Schotten and Hansen's craftsmanship is born from experience. "I really fell in love with their material," she says. "Once you stay in a room with Schotten and Hansen wood floors or wall panels, you'll never go back to anything else."

This was evident in a project in Italy, where the client initially chose a generic oak veneer for some rooms but used Schotten and Hansen's colourful woods for others. The difference was stark.

"Once it was installed, they were like, 'Wow, why didn't we go with Schotten and Hansen right away?'" Ina recalls. This is the moment when clients realise that quality materials make a world of difference. "The results are miles apart," she says. Even when budget constraints arise, the difference between using Schotten and Hansen's materials and not using them is always significant.







# 踏进瑞士阿彭策尔 宁静奢华度假别墅

由巴伐利亚木材专家 Schotten and Hansen 与国际级室内建筑师 Ina Rinderknecht 携手合作，设计取材以大自然为蓝本，并融合尖端木材科技，打造出位于瑞士山区的费恩布利克（Fernblick）别墅。

当 Ina Rinderknecht 的客户购入别墅之时，他怀着兴奋的心情告知她：因为在这片位于阿彭策尔的山脊土地拥有着独特的历史，亦曾经是修女和她们学生的度假之地。

「她们已经找到了最宁静的空间去建造自己的胜地。」Ina 回忆道，并反思这个地方的神秘色彩。她认为项目挑战在于引入一些新元素的同时，并要尊重这片土地过去的精神。「我们需要理解这片土地，明白并欣赏个中一切，并怀着谦卑的态度对待新事物。」

费恩布利克别墅坐落于宁静的山坡之上，模糊了建筑与自然之间的边界，别墅设计与周围环境和谐共存，目标是融入景观，而不是破坏它。「我们希望屋顶线条能够消失于山坡之中。」Ina 一直强调她的期望，是创造一个犹如大自然一部分的建筑物。

项目包括一座主别墅、客房大屋和一个精心设计、美轮美奂的花园，内设水池及天然游泳池。Ina 与木材专家 Schotten and Hansen 合作，确保别墅内部空间可反映土地的平静及灵性特质。他们的工艺在木制饰板上表现淋漓尽致，与户外的自然色调和质感互相呼应，营造出室内外空间之间的无缝连接。

在夏威夷到米兰的高端项目工作多年后的 Ina，回到了苏黎世成立自己公司，以创造低调奢华风格空间而声名远播。费恩布利克别墅捕捉其历史精髓，同时巧妙地融入现代设计，与环境互相衬托，结果相得益彰。

## 设计理念：整体与和谐

别墅设计在遵循该区指引的同时，也希望带出明确的亚洲美学。Ina 解释道「我们希望赋予它一种亚洲的感觉。」，这正反映出她的个人背景，以及希望将宁静、和谐的氛围融入建筑和室内设计的期盼。

客户的具体要求是避免空白墙壁，促使她探索来自游艇的墙面设计概念。Ina 指出「来自游艇中使用的墙面设计对我们而言是非常具吸引力的。」。挑战在于整合不同的材料，创造舒适感觉而不过于修饰，使设计专注于实现整体及均衡的室内建筑。

典雅的色调在制定色彩方案中发挥作用，融合奶油色和象牙色，带有富自然色泽的色调，与米白和黄底的石灰华地板完美配合，再使用深啡色深纹理木材为空间增添深度和结构感。

Ina 对豪华住宅设计的看法既灵活又尊重背景。「你不仅仅是为客户实现愿望，你还要善于阅读时间、地点和历史背景。」

她说道并解释对“奢华”一词的理解因文化和个人偏好而有很大差异。「在瑞士，有些客户喜欢光泽质感，有人则偏好粗犷及原始感。」这种灵活意味着每个项目都是独一无二，并受到客户的偏好和景观的影响。

Ina 认为自己好比侦探，拼凑出一个符合客户审美观和文化背景的设计。然而她指出，其设计理念更倾向于亚洲的宁静感、意大利的低调奢华，而非华丽或富传统气氛的英式室内设计。

## 共同愿景

在设计费恩布利克别墅时，Ina 知道她选择的材料不仅取决于外观，还取决于能否带出家的感觉，所以能够创造自然奢华感的 Schotten and Hansen 是不二之选。

「你在设计过程中会把所有东西创造出来。」她解释道。「空间越大，你越需要正确地建构它——无论是颜色、灯光还是材料大小。你必须要尊重由我们创造的和谐；这是与生俱来的。」



Ina's relationship with Schotten and Hansen, particularly with the founder Torben, is close and collaborative. "We've worked on several projects together, including some large villas we couldn't photograph," she says.

Their relationship deepened after Ina discovered Torben's sampling of colours, which led to a shared vision. Together, they developed a showroom concept in Ina's office in Erlenbach, showcasing a colour palette that aligns with an NCS system. This collaboration extended to exhibitions, like their launch at Clerkenwell Design Week in London, where they presented the possibilities of Schotten and Hansen's veneers and colours. It was, as Ina notes, "very well received."

## NEW REALMS OF CREATIVITY

For Ina, this project with Schotten and Hansen was more than just another collaboration; it was a springboard. "We're constantly exploring new opportunities," she reflects.

As Ina continues to experiment, her latest venture—a furniture line developed with an international Asian manufacturer—signals her intent to bring her designs to a global stage. "It's fascinating," she says, noting how this collaboration has grown beyond her initial expectations, now spanning continents with plans to debut at Milan's Design Week next year.

But the villa remains a personal highlight, particularly the spa, where every detail was custom-made to perfection. The slatted wood, the emerald green stones, the heated stone benches—all contribute to a space that's not just unique, but irreplicable.

"Every corner is customised," she explains, underscoring the bespoke nature of the project.

Looking ahead, Ina's plans are as ambitious as ever. With new residential projects, a striking lakeside restaurant, and an innovative boat design on the horizon, her collaboration with Schotten and Hansen continues to evolve.





这种含蓄优雅正是 Schotten and Hansen 产品的特性，其丰富质感和真实自然是项目中不可或缺的。他们出产的木面板不仅复盖墙壁，也能改变空间的实际体验，让感觉变得实在。「它们就是诚恳、真实、自然。」Ina 简单地总结了 Schotten and Hansen 的木材对别墅的影响力。

Ina 对 Schotten and Hansen 工艺的欣赏源于她的经验。「我由衷地爱上他们的材料。一旦你住过使用他们材料制作的木地板或墙板的房间，你再也不愿采用其他材料。」

曾经有一个意大利项目可以便印证了这一点，客户最初为一部份房间选择了普通橡木单板，但在其他房间却使用 Schotten and Hansen 的多彩木材，完成品的差异非常显著。

「安装完成后，他们说『为什么我们一开始全部选择用 Schotten and Hansen 的材料呢？』」Ina 回忆道，这是客户意识到优质材料的优胜之处，而且结果相差甚远。虽然预算有限，但使用 Schotten and Hansen 的材料与否，最终的效果差异也相距甚远。

Ina 与 Schotten and Hansen 的关系密切，特别是与创始人 Torben Hansen 先生的合作更是无间。「我们一起合作过不同项目，包括一些不容许拍照的大型别墅。」她说。

有一次 Ina 发现了 Torben 的色彩样板之后，他们的关系更加深入，愿景也更加同步。他们在 Ina 位于埃伦巴赫的办公室开设共同陈列室，展示出一个与自然色彩系统（NCS）相符的色彩样板。合作还延伸到展览，他们在伦敦克勒肯韦尔设计周的发布会上，展示出 Schotten and Hansen 的饰面和颜色的可能性。正如 Ina 所说，这一切获得了很大的回响。

## 创造新领域

对 Ina 来说，这次与 Schotten and Hansen 的合作不仅仅是项目，也是一个跳板。「我们不断探索着新的机会。」

随着 Ina 继续实验，她最新的成果是与一家国际亚洲制造商合作，一同开发家具系列——标志着她将设计推向全球舞台的决心。「这实在是引人入胜。」她指出这合作超出她最初预期，如今已跨越数个洲份，计划明年在米兰设计周首次亮相。

但费恩布利克别墅仍是她的亮点之一，不能不提的是水疗中心，每个细节都是度身定制。木栅栏、翡翠绿石、加热石凳，一一为空间增添独特而无法复制的特色。她强调「每个角落都是定制的。」

对未来的展望，Ina 的计划同样充满野心而且巨集大。包括崭新的住宅项目、引人注目的湖畔餐厅、以及创新的船只设计通通即将面世，而她与 Schotten and Hansen 的合作亦将会延续下去，共同创出更多亮丽经典。

# Schotten & Hansen

