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Neubau eines Einfamilienhauses in Israel

HAUS ZWISCHEN ZWEI GÄRTEN



Für eine geradlinige, kraftvolle und ausdrucksstarke Architektur entschieden sich Pitsou Kedem Architects bei ihrem Entwurf eines privaten Wohnhauses. Trotz der formalen Strenge bleibt viel Raum für individuelles Wohnen und für das gekonnte Zusammenspiel von Außen- und Innenraum.

[**E**](#) English translation on page 113

In der israelischen Stadt Ramat haSharon haben Pitsou Kedem und der verantwortliche Projektarchitekt Nurit Ben-Yosef für einen ungenannten Bauherrn mit ihrem "Haus zwischen zwei Gärten" ein Wohngebäude entworfen, das sich um einen zentralen Raum gliedert, der beeindruckende sechs hoch und 17 Meter lang ist. Der Name des Gebäudes ist, wie wir erfahren durften, den Planern sehr wichtig und gilt ihnen als Sinnbild für den Entwurfsprozess. Der straßenseitig orientierte Innenhof, man wagt es kaum, ihn Vorgarten zu nennen, wurde um drei Meter abgesenkt und wirkt ebenso wie der rückseitige größere Garten mit Pool durch das Gebäude hindurch. Diese topografische Schnittstelle schafft einen einzigartigen Querschnitt, der die Masse des Gebäudes auflöst und einen intimen Ort dort entstehen

CREDITS

Projekt: Einfamilienhaus

Ramat haSharon House 13

Standort: Ramat haSharon

Bauherr: privat

Bauaufgabe: Neubau

Baubeginn: 2009

Fertigstellung: 2012

Anzahl Geschosse: 3

Geschossfläche: ca. 600 m²

Materialien (Decke, Wand, Boden):
Sichtbeton, Putz, Glas, Marmor und Holz

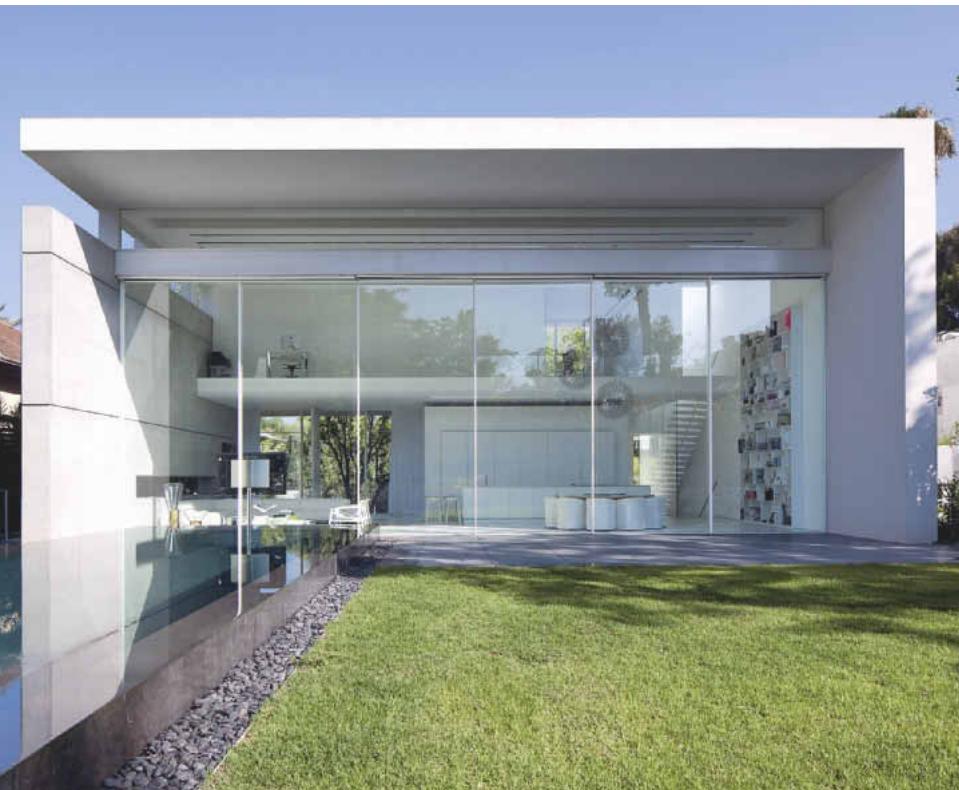
lässt, wo er eigentlich nicht zu erwarten ist. Der "Vorgarten" wird faktisch privatisiert.

Der bereits erwähnte zentrale Raum ist als Küche, Esszimmer und Wohnfläche in zwei Richtungen, nach Westen und Osten, offen. Daraus ergibt sich eine weitgehend gleichbleibende, natürliche Belichtung, die die grelle Mittagssonne aussperrt. Die Innenarchitektur wird optisch nicht von den großen Fenstern begrenzt, sondern von den grünen Bäumen im



Eyecatcher: ein geschoss-übergreifendes Regal.

Der Garten wirkt durch das Gebäude hindurch. Sein zentraler Wohn-Koch-Essbereich öffnet sich über die gesamte Hausbreite.



Garten. "Streng genommen hat man das Gebäude bereits betreten, wenn die äußere Einfriedung überwunden ist", so Kedem.

Eine Brücke über den frontseitigen Innenhof führt direkt auf die Schlaf- und Kinderzimmer zu und ermöglicht, noch bevor man die Haustür erreicht, ungestörte Einblicke in privateste Bereiche. Puristische Ganzglasgeländer verstärken diesen Eindruck zusätzlich. Distanzlos findet man sich nach Über-



"Der zentrale Wohnraum kommt ohne sichtbare Stützen aus, seine Front ist komplett transparent"



Stil ist nichts End-gültiges, sondern beständiger Wandel.

There is no finality in style – only continuous change.

Walter Gropius, Architekt | Architect

Wer verändert Ihren Stil? | Who influences your style?

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schreiten der Brücke hinter der Haustür mitten im zweigeschossigen zentralen Wohnraum wieder, der sich über die gesamte Front mithilfe von Elektromotoren öffnen lässt. So erweitert sich der räumliche Eindruck bis in den Garten und bricht die traditionelle Grenze zwischen innen und außen auf.

An den Wohnraum angrenzend, zieht sich ein Außenpool kerzengrade durch den Garten und wiederholt in der Spiegelung die großartigen Durchblicke, die das Haus bietet. Das Schlafzimmer des Hausherrn öffnet sich im zweiten Stock zur Galerie und somit auch zum Garten. Dort lassen sich Privatsphäre und Familienleben genau dosieren. Die seitlichen, zu den Nachbarn hin orientierten Wandscheiben werden betont. Auf der einen Seite zieht ein hochwertiger Sichtbeton die Blicke auf sich, während auf der gegenüberliegenden Seite ein zweigeschossiges, in purem Weiß gehaltenes Regal als Bibliothek durch seine Höhe mehr Show- als Aufbewahrungsqualität hat.

EIN ARCHÄOLOGE DES ORTS

Bemerkenswert ist auch der Umgang mit Treppen. Alle Trittsstufen sind aus Betonfertigteilen in Sichtbetonqualität. Auf sämtliche Setzstufen wird, auch im Außenbereich, konsequent verzichtet. Rahmenlose Glasscheiben als Geländer halten keinen Blick auf. Genauso pur und unverkleidet bleiben Boden, Wand und Decken im zentralen Wohnbereich. Keine Stüt-

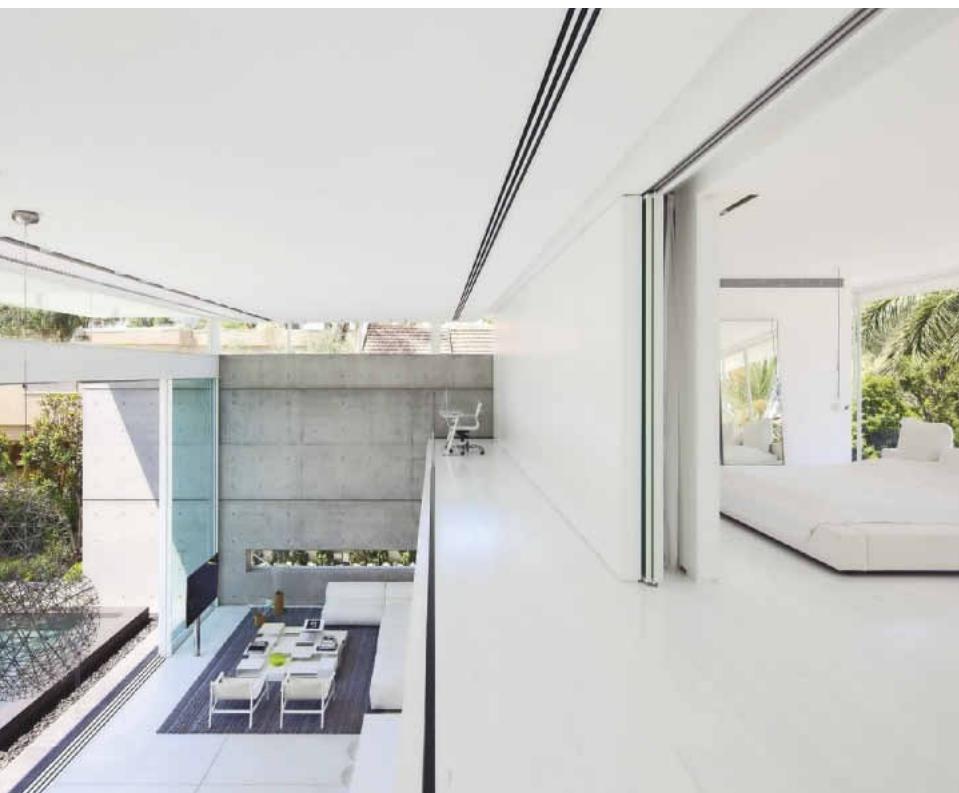
ze stört den Durchblick. Farbe findet man nur in den zum Wohnen üblichen Accessoires. Sämtliche Oberflächen versuchen sich mit ihren hellen, weißen Tönen unsichtbar zu machen. Alles folgt einer linearen Strenge, die in ihrer Aufgeräumtheit viel Platz lässt für eigene Interpretationen des Wohnens.

Der israelische Architekt Pitsou Kedem schafft es, gegenüber seinen Bauherren eine Vertrauensstellung aufzubauen, die ihm eine weitgehend freie Wahl der



Die Treppen sind einheitlich puristisch gestaltet.

Panoramablick von der Galerie mit Schlafraum.



Oberflächen und Materialien ermöglicht. Anders sind die bei seinen Arbeiten durchgängig zu beobachtende Architektursprache sowie seine sich wiederholende Materialentscheidung nicht durchzuhalten. Man kann in seinen Entwürfen eine deutliche Hinwendung zur räumlicher Qualität und hochwertigen Baustoffen entdecken. Was ihm einmal gefallen hat, wird erneut verwendet und doch ist er ein Planer, der darauf verzichtet, sich selbst zu zitieren.



*“Bemerkenswert ist der Umgang mit den Treppen. Auf Setzstufen wird **konsistent** verzichtet”*

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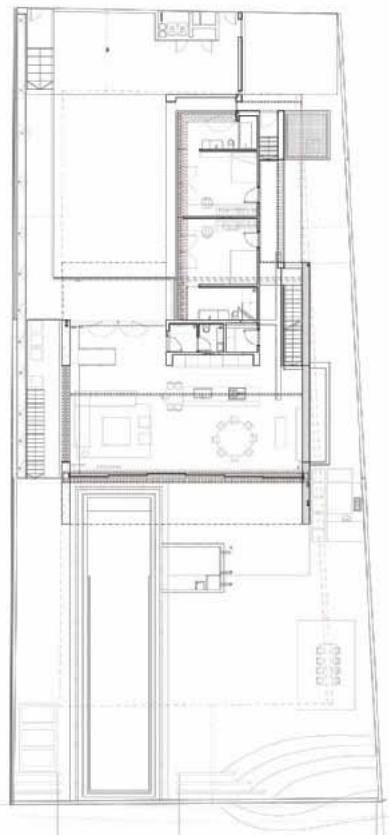
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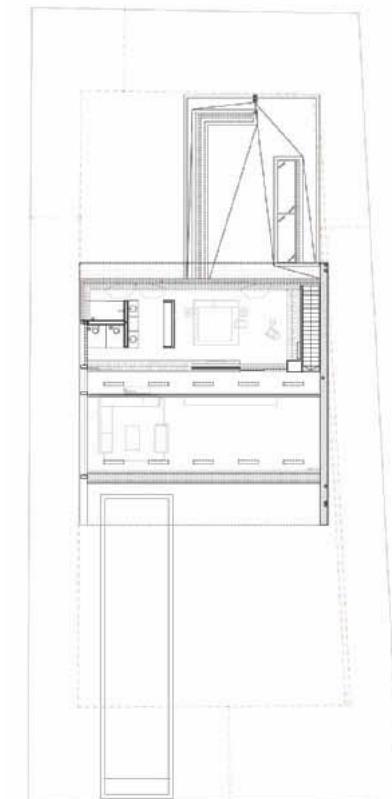
Deutsche Messe



“Der Vorgarten wird faktisch privatisiert”



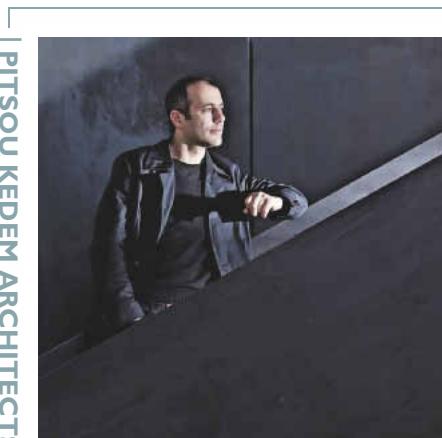
Grundriss Erdgeschoss



Grundriss I. OG



Der Zugang zum Haus erfolgt über eine Art Brücke.



Pitsou Kedem studierte in London Architektur und unterhält seit 2002 ein beständig wachsendes Büro. Sein Stil: hochpräzise im Detail.

Büro: Pitsou Kedem Architects
Standort: 39, Ma'aze St.
 Tel Aviv/Israel 65214
www.pitsou.com
Inhaber: Pitsou Kedem
Gründungsjahr: 2002
Mitarbeiter: 11
Arbeitsorte: Israel und Nachbarn
Realisierte Projekte: ca. 100

Ihre Gestaltungsphilosophie?
 Die Bürophilosophie von Pitsou Kedem Architects basiert auf einem Stil der sich an den Fünfzigerjahren des vergangenen Jahrhunderts orientiert und den wir für jedes Projekt individuell adaptieren. Uns ist eine erkennbare persönliche

Handschrift und unsere “architektonische Wahrheit” sehr wichtig.

Wie finden Sie Inspiration?
 Inspiration finden wir in der Welt der Kunst. Ein Teil eines Song oder einer Musik können uns inspirieren, vielleicht aber auch ein Film, eine Skulptur oder eine Fotografie.

Welches Projekt war für die Entwicklung des Büros das wichtigste – und warum?
 Es gibt kein “wichtigstes” Projekt, vielleicht ist es ja das jeweils nächste. Wir wollen verbessern, innovativ sein, frische Architektur schaffen, die magische Momente enthält.

builder-owners feel at home in many places. She remembers her first visit: "From St. Moritz we drove about one hour, following the natural course of the river. We then came to a turn and discovered the small Tschlin village on the flanks of Piz Mundin, sitting like a small nest high above the valley at a height of about 1,500 metres." Despite its bad condition, the farmhouse behind the run-down façade revealed qualities that provided wings to the imagination of the future builder-owners. When signing the contract it was decided which architects' studio was to be commissioned with the elaborate restoration of the house: two young architects from Zurich who had converted a dilapidated car-repair shop into one of the most noticeable galleries in Switzerland. Lukas Voellmy and Chasper Schmidlin planned to make the house's history visible. "Over the centuries, the farmhouse had been converted repeatedly. Since the middle of the 19th century, a part of the former stables had been used as a bakery. We had to solve the question of what do we want to keep and what should be added?" To execute the demanding conversion, they selected experienced local craftsmen. First of all they had cleaned the representative south facade by removing a balcony that had been added on at a later stage, and the windows of the bakery were bricked up. Because former owners had applied concrete plasterwork on the façade, paintings and sgraffiti were past remedy. So the façade was covered with fresh off-white lime plaster. "We were lucky in so far as the typical old arched doorways were still stacked in the barn. We were able to have them restored and attached them again on the south and east façades", recall Voellmy and Schmidlin.

In accordance with tradition

The roof truss, particularly worthy of conservation, was still intact. Because insulation was mandatory, it was reinforced, provided with a sub-roof and the new roof covered with metal tiles. Wherever possible, the building's envelope was insulated with insulating plaster from within so that the character of the existing walls was maintained and the building's outer proportions left unchanged. "The mighty quarry-stone wall

on the barn's west side received three niches with round arches. We suppose that in former times these openings had been walled up when the neighbouring house was built", says Lukas Voellmy. In all, the house retained its typical character both inside and outside by using a lot of larch and stone-pine wood plus natural stone. "Preserve the old and add new elements minimalistically. Those were our wishes, and the architects have fulfilled them with bravura", underlines Grazyna Kulczyk. Voellmy and Schmidlin filled the rooms with new functions. The architects integrated a guest apartment with three bedrooms where formerly the stable and the storage cellars had been located. Thanks to the big arched doorway, the living space of this separate part of the house now opens out directly toward the main square in the south.

The charm of minimalism

The entrance to the main building is on the east side. In former times, this had been the so-called "sulèr", a kind of threshing floor, where also the small animals lived and some housework was done. At the same time the "sulèr" was used as a passage to the barn. The architects are enthusiastic: "You can still clearly see the imprints of the horses' hooves on the old timber floorings that we have had restored." Alongside the "sulèr" there was the "stueva", a paneled living room, and next to it the kitchen plus pantry. In the course of the conversion, these were transformed into a guests' toilet and a spacious kitchen with dining place. "We designed the central kitchen block of coloured concrete in the style of the old farmers' kitchens. Grazyna wanted the intense blue colour, which is often encountered in the houses of this area", says Chasper Schmidlin. Another door opens out toward the eight-metre high living hall, which had been the barn, with its distinct quarry-stone walls and the old wooden shutters. The architect says: "These apertures had of course not been glazed; the wind blew through the hayloft." Now the huge space is dominated by a big steel fireside. On its north side, plain stairs lead up to the upper storey. On this level, the architects inserted a cube containing a wet cell and a cloakroom in the anteroom and had

the bedroom clad with new stone-pine wood. The owners go into raptures saying that, "our favourite place is the lounge on the top floor with its new panorama window. From there we watch the sun go down."

Text: Kay von Losoncz

E English translation from page 26

A house between two gardens

New family home in Israel



When designing this private home, Pitsou Kedem Architects decided in favour of a straightforward, powerful and expressive architecture. Despite the formal austerity, there is ample space for individual living and a masterly interplay between indoors and outdoors.

In the Israeli town of Ramat haSharon, Pitsou Kedem and Nurit Ben-Yosef, the project architect in charge, have created a private home for an undisclosed client. They call it a "house between two gardens" and have arranged it around a central room, which is an impressive six metres high and 17 metres long. We were told that the name of the building is quite important for the planners because for them it is a symbol of the designing process. The inner courtyard, oriented toward the street – you hardly dare to call it a front garden –, was lowered by three metres, pervading the building in the same way as the bigger garden with pool at the back. This topographic interface creates a unique cross-section, dissolving the building's mass and creating

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an intimate place where it wouldn't be expected. In actual fact, the "front garden" is being privatized. The central room functions as kitchen, dining room and living space and is open in two directions towards the east and the west. The result is largely constant natural lighting, shutting out the glaring midday sun. The interior is visually not confined by the big windows, but by the green trees in the garden. "Strictly speaking you have already entered the building as soon as you have crossed the outer enclosure", says Kedem.

Nature pervades it all

A bridge crossing the front courtyard directly accesses the bedroom and the children's rooms, granting unhampered insights into the most private areas even before you reach the entrance door. This impression is additionally enhanced by puristic railings completely made of glass. Without having to overcome distances, you arrive, after having crossed the bridge, behind the entrance door bang in the middle of the two-storey central living room, which can be opened along the whole front by means of electric motors. In this way, the spatial impression is extended into the garden, breaking up the traditional border between inside and outside.

Adjacent to the living room, an outdoor pool pervades the garden straight as a die, repeating by reflection the gorgeous vistas offered by the house. On the second floor, the master bedroom opens up toward the gallery and thus to the garden. There, privacy and family life can be organised perfectly. The wall slabs on the side, oriented towards the neighbours, are emphasized. On the one side, high-grade exposed concrete attracts the eye, while on the opposite side a two-storey high shelf in pure white is impressive due to its height rather in its capacity as a showcase than as a storage space. How the stairs were handled is also worth mentioning. All step treads are made of prefab concrete parts in exposed concrete quality. All risers, also in the outer area, were consistently left off. The frameless glass slabs of the railings do not impede glances. The floor, the walls and the ceilings in the central living area also remain "pure" and uncovered.

No supports disrupt the perspective. Colour is used only in the usual accessories needed for living. All surfaces try to become invisible by their light and white shades. Everything follows a linear rigidity that by its orderliness leaves much space for an individual interpretation of living.

An archaeologist of the location

Israeli architect Pitsou Kedem succeeds in building up a trustful relationship with his client, which grants him a largely free choice of surfaces and materials. Otherwise his architectural idiom, which is obvious in all his works, and his repetitive material choices could not be maintained. A characteristic feature of his designs is a marked focus on spatial quality and high-grade building materials. Things that pleased him once will be used again, but he is nevertheless a planner who renounces quoting himself. Pitsou Kedem, well-known to md readers for quite some time, works very successfully. He is able to create both impressive new buildings and finely tuned renovations and conversions (md 2/2013). The location, too, will always exert the biggest influence on Kedem's interior spaces, which he will expose like an archaeologist. As he did in this case as well.

Text: Rolf Mauer

E English translation from page 40

The world is changing. And furniture?

The future of Living



Could it be that at the beginning of the 21st century basically new ideas on the design, manufacture, distribution and shape of furniture will emerge? There are many reasons to believe that. But the desire for an ever better copy of the past is still dominant.

The world of furniture has always been divided. On the one hand, our mail-boxes

are constantly overflowing with brochures with messages like "Secure yourself a 1,000-euro trade-in bonus for your old couch" or "Refurbish your home!", "Great discounts!", "Buy 6 chairs, pay only 5". The messages of all those retailers who cover large or very large sales areas read: basically, furniture does not represent a value, you will get it almost for nothing. Because let's face it. They are competing with the worldwide Ikea corporation. Just in time for the last Cologne furniture fair, Ikea announced that its aim is to almost double its market share in Germany from currently 13 to 25 percent. Considering the systematic approach Ikea has always applied in promoting its growth, it really seems feasible that this plan will be achieved in about eight to ten years to come. But if you look at products like the present PS collection with designs by Matali Crasset, Mathias Hahn, Scholten & Baijings and 20 other predominantly young designers in all, you will see that even Ikea staff will find it difficult to assemble their cheap products in the furniture store such that they make a sturdy, functional and plausible impression. But that doesn't matter. With its new right of return, which principally allows trading in used furniture for money or new furniture after years, the furniture store has once again enhanced the disposable character of many of its products and at the same time strengthened customer loyalty.

Keeping the balance

On the other end of the scale we find the brand manufacturers – be they big, small or medium-sized. Rolf Fehlbaum, Vitra's maker and provider of ideas for many years and now a board member, recently said in an interview that all design-oriented manufacturers together would make just about 10 percent of Ikea's turnover. Fehlbaum, confiding to the Dezeen online platform, held that being the boss of such a company "you are a romantic person because you believe you can do things for the world through design, which to an outsider sounds completely ridiculous. But we believe it." But this basic idea could well lead into economic exclusion. "The balance between business and fulfilling your dreams is sometimes difficult", says Fehlbaum.