

# ELLE DECORATION COUNTRY

VOLUME 11

MODERN  
COUNTRY STYLE  
FROM RURAL  
RETREATS  
TO MOUNTAIN  
ESCAPES

PLUS 50  
ESSENTIALS  
TIMELESS AND  
USEFUL DESIGNS  
TO TREASURE



THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL HOMES IN THE COUNTRY

# MODERN PASTORAL

*This contemporary mountaintop home is the luxurious counterpoint to the simple, provincial charm of the connected 16th-century farmhouse*

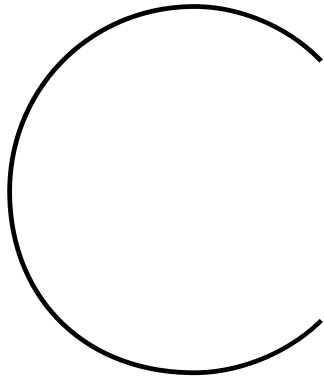
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arved into a hillside overlooking the South Tyrol village of Villandro, this Modernist house captures magnificent views of the Dolomite mountains. Its owner, Thomas Erlacher, who runs a bespoke

furniture business, built the space as an extension to the 16th-century farmhouse that stands beside it. His aim was to preserve the charm of the old farmstead, where he enjoys the simple life, tending to a menagerie and indulging in his passion for mountaineering. At first appearance, the new hideaway is a completely separate building; concealed within the landscape, it is designed as an antidote to Thomas' austere pastoral existence, a place where he can rejoin the modern world and accommodate guests.

The modern 200-square-metre house, completed in 2016 with the help of Slovakian architect Pavol Mikolajcak, is set within a verdant paddock that also sweeps across the building's roof and wraps around its walls. Only the glass-fronted façade peeks out from the mountain outcrop. The main living space takes full advantage of the view and the abundance of natural light, as does the adjoining outdoor terrace. Daylight also pours into the kitchen/dining space through a huge skylight in the concrete ceiling. Below, the basement accommodation leads to a subterranean staircase that secretly connects the bunker to the old farmhouse.

Inside, the home is almost entirely oak, with bespoke geometric blocks of storage decorating the walls. 'The design was inspired by the traditional gabled roof of the farmhouse,' says Pavol. It's a detail that betrays the incredible craftsmanship that links this new-build to its rustic neighbour. 'The ancient stone walls of the farmhouse are translated into the exposed concrete walls and ceilings in my new home, while time-worn oak is reinterpreted as freshly brushed and treated oak paired with black steel,' he adds. 'Even though the buildings are connected, it was important to me that this was not obvious, and that each place had its own character. If someone comes to visit, they have to ring the bell at the farm door. It's my way of honouring the old house.' [mikalajcak.com](http://mikalajcak.com); [erlacher.it](http://erlacher.it)









THE MAIN LIVING SPACE TAKES FULL ADVANTAGE OF ITS  
BREATH-taking VIEW OF THE DOLOMITE MOUNTAIN RANGE







'THE DESIGN WAS INSPIRED BY  
THE TRADITIONAL GABLED ROOF OF  
THE ATTACHED FARMHOUSE'





THIS MODERN  
HOME IS AN  
ANTIDOTE TO  
THE AUSTERE  
PASTORAL LIFE



