

Press Information

Opulent Lifestyles – Living in a cabinet of curiosities

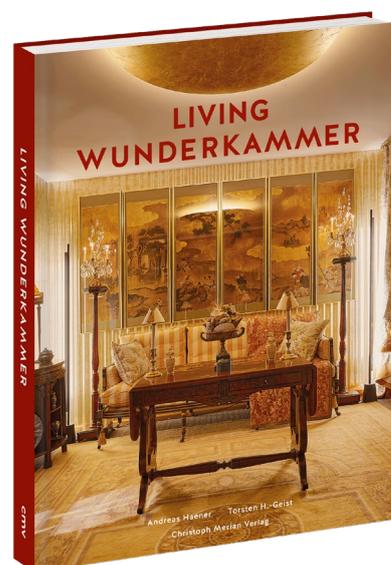
The splendid living-quarters of the antique collector Andreas Häner are characterised by a subtle sense of style and exquisite elegance. His book *Living Wunderkammer* (Christoph Merian Verlag) invites readers on a stroll through his two fascinating refuges. These imaginatively repurposed buildings are home to significant 'cabinets of art and curiosities' dating from the Late Renaissance and the Baroque eras. The author's luxurious Basel apartment and his idyllic rural refuge in the vicinity of the city have been staged in a museum style yet are cosy modern living spaces

However unexpected and surprising the entrance to the sumptuous vestibule from the sober staircase may be, after that narrow dark hallway the light-filled spacious main living area just a few steps later is all the more impressive: an altogether effective scenographical trick. The apartment in what was formerly Basel's sex cinema, Corso, now houses a meticulous composition of colours and light, historical furniture and structural elements, contemporary architecture and art, as well as modern Italian chic. As an artistic synthesis and place of feel-good comfort, it offers space both for work and everyday life, as well as for guests, while also constituting a place of retreat.

This concept has also been applied in the carefully restored historical forge in Ziefen (Canton Basel-Landschaft), which, though decorated in a more simple way, is no less elegant. In both apartments, the interior design elements also make reference to what surrounds the buildings: the urban loft apartment referring to the Art Deco era of the 1930s; the apartment in Ziefen to the blacksmith's workshop built in a rural context in 1837. Andreas Häner's mode of interior design highlights how precious historical items can enrich life in the here and now. His interiors create atmosphere and enable imaginary emotional excursions through space and time.

With large-format photographs and numerous detailed views of the objects, this book takes readers deep into the microcosm of these two animated 'cabinets of curiosities'. Two architecture specialists present the buildings and locate them in the history of architecture. The visible red thread running through the publication is formed by the wonderful world of valuable antique textiles. These too are knowledgeably described and historically classified at the end of the book. All the texts are in German and English.

With contributions by Daniel Burckhardt, Klaus Spechtenhauser, Birgitt Borkopp-Restle and a portrait of the collector by Gudrun Sachse



Andreas Häner, Torsten H.-Geist
Living Wunderkammer

256 pages, 234 colour illustrations,
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 German/English

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