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Sandra Hofmeister (Ed.)

At Home

Architecture for Rural Living

Your own house in the countryside? That is a dream of many people, as such a home with a garden also implies the promise of individual freedom. Nevertheless, we have to address a matter of conscience: does it still make sense to build one's own house in the face of increasing land sealing and the glaring climate emergency? The desire for a private retreat - which in the coronavirus pandemic has become stronger than ever - appears to be incompatible with the struggle against suburbanisation, destruction of habitats or global warming.

In light of the fact that a detached house is still the most popular way of living in many countries, ideas must be sought that help minimise its overall environmental impact, without having to forgo building it in the first place. *At Home - Architecture for Rural Living* presents 26 houses that seek a balance between individual dreams and ecologically sensible architecture. The comprehensive documentations show specific solutions that skilfully embed each house in its environment while using regional resources and reinterpreting local building traditions. Sustainable dwelling quality is created through the choice of materials and carefully considered details, as well as floor plans that are flexible and designed for a long life cycle. The projects presented in this book are divided into individual chapters according to overarching themes: spatial organisation and materials, strategies of sustainability and the refurbishment of buildings. The demands in the various climatic zones of the respective houses differ and require differentiated construction solutions – be it in a Swedish archipelago, in Portugal's Alentejo or in the Australian hills around Melbourne. The uses of the projects are just as varied, ranging from multigenerational houses to holiday homes. What unites all the projects realised over the last ten years, however, are the careful architectural concepts and solutions with which the dream of a house in the country was thoughtfully realised - from the overall idea right down to the constructional details. Three introductory essays by Sandra Hofmeister, Wolfgang Bachmann and Heide Wessely discuss the challenges raised by this type of building.

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At Home. Architecture for Rural Living

With contributions by Wolfgang Bachmann, Sandra Hofmeister, Heide Wessely

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