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THE HOME OF DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE



HOME & GARDEN

WORKING WITH THE
LANDSCAPE



TRAVEL
DESIGN
INTERIORS
TECHNOLOGY
ARCHITECTURE
LUXURY ECO LIVING



seafront sanctuary

Perched atop a rocky archipelago island, this family home
was designed with views and summer living in mind

Photography James Silverman



No more does this waterside home feel alive than when the summer months take reign and a renewed warmth hits the Swedish coast. In spirit and service, the family dwelling encapsulates all there is to love about the Swedish summerhouse; it offers idyllic respite within a cove of natural beauty, its minimalist interiors ooze an intoxicating sense of calm and most importantly, its design places nature at its forefront. Aesthetically however, Stockholm House – the vision of Ström Architects – is a far cry from the typical timber-clad cabins we’ve come to expect from Sweden’s leafier locales. Featuring a sloping rocky terrain, the site of the property gradually leads down to the water’s edge where the views are utterly transcendent. With such scenery at their fingertips, it seemed only logical to the architects to design the house in a way that allowed the outdoors to be seen from as many points as possible. “It’s impossible to ignore the amazing views and location, and therefore our design was all about maximising those views and a sense of living within nature,” Magnus Ström tells us. It was also the architect’s deep understanding of the unique Swedish topography that made the design possible. Sloping hillsides meant that the floor-plan could move across different levels, offering distinct functionality as well as desirable stylistic opportunities. Upon entry, visitors are instantly welcomed by the waterfront views in a double height entrance that leads through to the more open spaces of the home, each filled with natural textures and tones to instil an understated sense of serenity. Floor-to-ceiling triple-layered glazing further opens up the home, allowing plentiful daylight to seep in, along with the fresh summer air that breezes through when the sliding wooden screens are left open.





"WE HAVE MANAGED TO BUILD A HOME THAT HAS A REAL PRESENCE WITHIN AN EXTRAORDINARY SETTING"



ARCHITECT'S QUESTIONS

What sustainable elements were implemented in the design?

We adopted a fabric first approach, designing a building with a high thermal mass and highly efficient insulation and triple glazing throughout. Sliding external screens help to reduce solar gain during the summer, and a MVHR system optimises heating and cooling. Heating is provided via a ground source heat pump with three boreholes - carefully angled beneath the sea to achieve even greater temperature stability than would otherwise be possible.

Can you tell us more about your use of levels?

Although planning regulations dictated a two-storey house on the plot, we were able to add a third storey by excavating a basement level which receives plentiful daylight thanks to the sloping site. The sloping site also allowed us to harness level changes in ways that optimise views through and from the house - emphasising its connections with the water and surrounding landscape. By placing the dining area at a slightly lower level to

the adjacent kitchen, for instance, we were able to maximise views across the dining space from the kitchen, which is otherwise set deep within the plan. Similarly, the sloping site allowed us to create a series of terraces, each with a different view and character.

What inspired your use of limestone and wood formed concrete?

Because we were building into the rocky sloping site, we needed to use concrete to achieve structural strength and stability. We made a virtue of this: the board-marked concrete wall acts as a spine to the house: accommodating the living room fireplace to one side and the hallway's cantilevered staircase to the other. It is a wonderfully tactile and visually interesting feature: almost a work of art in its own right. We always enjoy working with texture and natural materials: the sand-blasted limestone floor provides another robust and highly tactile surface. We juxtaposed these hard surfaces with oak joinery and flooring to the upper storey, which lends a welcomed warmth and natural tones to the interior spaces.

What did you want from the interior design?

As architects we like to provide the whole design package and were closely involved in the selection of all materials. We designed the bespoke kitchen and all fixed joinery, and sought to achieve a light-filled series of spaces with a distinct contemporary and Scandinavian character thanks to a clean and limited materials palette.

What can we find in the basement?

On the basement level there is a gym/ yoga room, a cinema room, a spa suite clad in sparkling black mosaic, and a sauna alongside utility and plant space.

What is your favourite thing about this house?

It has to be the location: we have managed to build a home that has a real presence within an extraordinary setting, and engages with its outstanding views. I also love the double height entrance space with its views through the large guillotine window, and the dappled light that comes through the screens into the house during the summer months.



HOME PROFILE

Built into a sloping rocky site, this elevated three-storey abode has been designed to make the most of its waterfront views and natural exposure to daylight. Contained within the uppermost floor are bedrooms for two children and a master suite, each accessorised with a glass-enclosed balcony - a token that indicates the extent to which the architects went to maintain sight-lines. The master bedroom, however, also has an additional facade that promises privacy from neighbours while still benefiting from a view of the westerly setting sun. At basement level, the sea is only a few steps away.

PROJECT SIZE
550 sq. m

LOCATION
Stockholm, Sweden



"WE SOUGHT TO ACHIEVE A LIGHT-FILLED SERIES OF SPACES WITH A DISTINCT SCANDINAVIAN CHARACTER"



"Our client wanted a beautiful home that combined high-quality design and materials, while making the most of its connections to the water," Ström Architects share

PROJECT NOTES

ARCHITECT
Ström Architects

INTERIOR DESIGNER
Ström Architects; Liljenkrantz Design

LANDSCAPE
Wägerths Trädgårdsdesign

CONTRACTOR
Hantverskdesign AB

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
BKKAB

M&E CONSULTANT
Bengt Dahlgren

DOORS & WINDOWS
Aluminium sliders, PanoramAH

JOINERY
Retsloff Snickeri

KITCHEN
Bespoke design from Ström Architects

BATHROOM
Taps, VOLA;

HighLine custom drains, Unidrain; micromosaic stone, Salvatori

FURNITURE
Rail dining table and Hug coffee table, Veermakers; Little Petra lounge chair, & tradition; bespoke bench, wall shelf and desk, Liljenkrantz Design