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# BOX FRESH

A remote old barn in the Swiss Alps has been completely reinvented, preserving its integrity and locating an ultra-modern cube within

PHOTOGRAPHY **MONICA SPEZIA/LIVING INSIDE**  
WORDS AND PRODUCTION **FRANCESCA SIRONI**





#### ALPINE ESCAPE

Architect Christoph explains, "The building had been uninhabited and abandoned for years, so I decided to intervene, preserving the original structure to comply with the strict planning permission in this beautiful area." From the outside, everything remains as it was but strengthened and reinforced, and a wooden cube inserted inside is the new home: "Like a house in a house"



### EMBRACING THE ELEMENTS

The walls, ceiling and windows of the new property were made offsite by a local carpenter and then transported for assembly. The build took two years as the location is isolated and difficult to reach, especially in winter - Christoph did lots of the building and construction work himself to keep costs down. The new box was covered in a slatted casing painted in pitch black, which reinforces the striking contrast with the old shell



## REINVENTING TRADITION

Inside, the cube has two levels. An open-plan living room and kitchen are in a double-height space on the ground floor with bedrooms above, separated by a corridor overlooking the living area. Utilising lots of traditional materials, many of the crisp, modern interiors are Christoph's own designs. The dining table and bench are from the Okro gallery while the soup tureens are heirlooms





#### INSIDE STORY

In the main bedroom, the bed was custom-made to Christoph's design by Manum and contrasts with an old stool and bench. The bedlinen and blankets are by Society Limonta and the little suspended bedside light is by Konigs in St Gallen (opposite). The interiors are surprisingly light-filled, thanks to a big wooden sliding door that can be opened, plus the windows are much larger than those usually found in a barn



#### SUNBLIND & SNOWBOUND

Wooden elements predominate inside, making the house surprisingly cosy. The entrance at the back has a steep wooden staircase, which leads to the upper floor, and a slender antique wooden bench with a Society Limonta throw (opposite). Christoph is a keen skier, so is in his element in this Alpine region, which specialises in winter sports. *For more on Cavigelli architects, see [cavigelli.com](http://cavigelli.com)*

