



The redeveloped apartment on Tenerife.



Family home in Küssnacht, Zurich.

Gabriel Walti
and Daniela
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Individual architecture through recognising atmosphere, environment and each client's singularity

Every project is individual and design ideas have to grow over time. For architects Gabriel Walti and Daniela Niedermann this is key, especially to be flexible when it comes to clients' needs and dreams. Both architects founded their own architectural office in Zurich in 2012.

TEXT: JESSICA HOLZHAUSEN | PHOTOS: NIEDERMANN WALTI ARCHITEKTEN

"We try to find creative and individual solutions for every projects, with an eye for detail and a harmonious overall concept," says Gabriel Walti, who takes his inspiration from contemporary architects like Paulo Mendes da Rocha or Sanaa. Two projects currently in focus are quite different in kind – especially because they have been developed for two rather distinct regions and for rather different purposes. One is the redevelopment of a holiday apartment on Tenerife, the other a newly built family home in Küssnacht, Zurich.

"Of course the specific place plays an important role for the actual design," says architect Gabriel Walti. "Climatic specifics

directly influence the chosen building envelope or the building services, while the atmospheric and cultural particularities of a location carry some weight when it comes to design ideas."

The redeveloped apartment on Tenerife is quite small, but nonetheless the owner wanted a sense of openness and space. The concept was to turn the room into a floating space, structured through built-in furniture and different zones for different purposes: living, cooking, eating and sleeping. The bed, sofa, sideboards and a bench are – according to local traditions – part of the room structure, so that only table and chairs were necessary additional furniture. "We chose

the materials accordingly to support the impression of a floating space," says Walti.

With the second project – a family home in Zurich – the client had very distinct ideas right from the beginning: a minimalist but elegant concrete building, light flooded and directly connected with the garden. Especially the last aspect became key for the design: Large windows and a patio not only catch the light but also connect all three floors – among them an open-plan garden level. "Even though it is a solid build, the house seems transparent," explains Gabriel Walti.

The projects might be different, but the overall idea stays the same: "It is essential for us to develop a feeling for what is important for the builder, how a client wants to live and what kind of building would befit him."

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