

Haus Benz/Stuttgart

Germany/2016

Photography: Zoey Braun



“When your work is your life, create a life in and around work”

This house in Stuttgart was restored and refashioned last year for Markus Benz, director of the furniture brand Walter Knoll, and his wife Susanne. It was designed by Ippolito Fleitz Group architects (team: Gunter Fleitz, Johannes Hanebuth, Peter Ippolito, Elisabeth Napetschnig, Kerem Özerler, Verena Schiffel and Markus Schmidt).



Markus and Susanne Benz wanted a base in Stuttgart that would enable them to meet business partners somewhere other than the company headquarters 40km away in Herrenberg, on the edge of the Black Forest – and to live there too. The family found a house in the Kräherwald, a popular location above the city, of the sort known colloquially as a ‘coffee-grinder house’, which is typical of the 1920s. It had previously been used as a doctor’s clinic, so the layout had to be brought back in line with its original historic purpose. The architects were briefed to create a home environment that suited the family’s aesthetic demands, while providing a framework for their art collection. The house would also showcase Walter Knoll furniture and accessories in the authentic and atmospheric context of a real home, far removed from fairs and exhibitions.

The house stands high on a plateau with stunning views across the city, from its three storeys. On the ground floor, rooms lead off the deep purple hallway, including a meeting room painted in dove grey topped by a broad band of satiny metallic paint which carries up across the ceiling. A large round table stands on a deep-pile rug, with a globe pendant light hanging above it, made from hand-blown, cut, crystal glass and specially commissioned for the space. There is a fully-equipped catering-standard kitchen. A door in a mirrored dividing wall leads through to the study. The colour palette here is continued with a fresh and intense blue. A Walter Knoll Keypiece desk stands in the centre of the room.

In the other reception room, all the walls and shelves are in a dark graphite grey which contrasts with the powerful mustard tone of the ceiling. The Walter Knoll sofa, tables, armchairs and silk rug are used with an extravagant bronze ring lamp, which recalls a tuning fork, and with aboriginal art from the owners’ collection.

Haus Benz is a home and not a show-room. The owners’ brand and product world complement a vibrant and very personal home, filled with works of art.

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