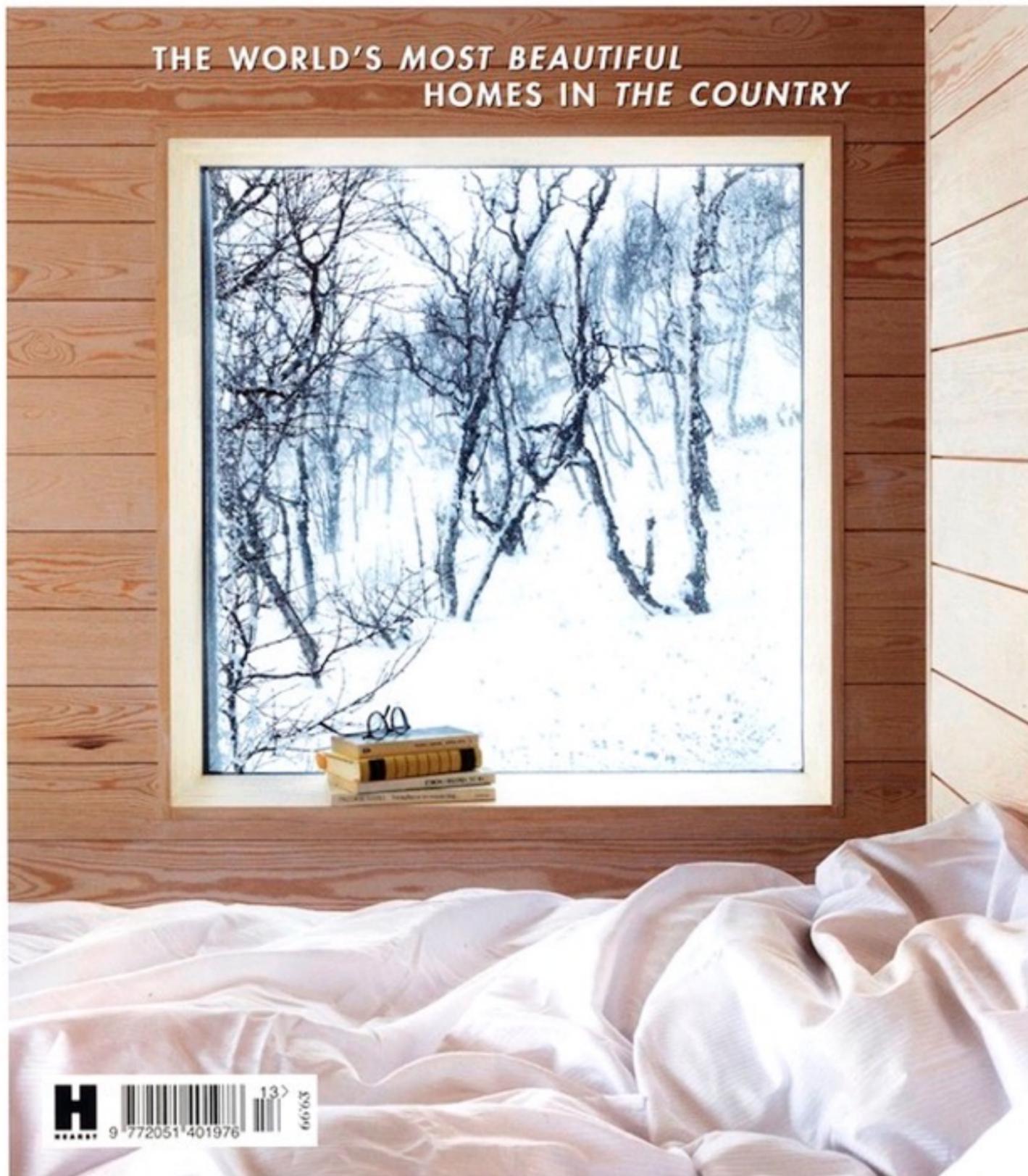


ELLE COUNTRY

DECORATION

Volume 13

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The interior of this French chalet marries minimalism with a cutting edge take on familiar Alpine charm



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irroring the peaks of the mountains that surround it, the gabled roof of this contemporary chalet in the Three Valleys ski region of France juts out gently, sheltering its structure from the inevitable drifts of snow.

Built from local stone and sun-treated wood, the three-bedroom holiday retreat, completed in 2018, is the creative vision of Arnaud Masson from Belgian interior design studio Permis de Construire and French architect Linda Jay. With its focus firmly on the view, the chalet's façades are as much glazing as anything else, an invitation to look out on the awe-inspiring beauty that surrounds this home. 'You should never forget that in the mountains the important stuff takes place outside,' says Arnaud.

Under the open sky, a generous balcony provides a spot to breathe in the crisp air, while indoors, Alpine allure meets an almost Scandinavian approach to minimalism. Brushed-concrete floor tiles create contrast with thick wool curtains, soft sheepskins and the bespoke staircase, furniture and kitchen, all crafted from reclaimed larch. Warmth comes from the grain and tonality of the wood, its knots and dark swirls reminiscent of nights spent around a log fire. Not that you're ever far from the hearth here - the steel wood-burning pit positioned centrally between the kitchen and living area offers a glowing focal point.

The joy of using such a muted scheme, says Arnaud, is that the emphasis is on the scenery and the design doesn't date. 'The idea was to remain timeless, and there is definitely a stillness here. Peace comes from the vast landscape around the house, which is complemented by the narrow palette within. For visitors, there is a feeling that time stands as still as the mountains.' permis-de-construire.be; ateliercreaandco.com







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