



I CAPTURE THE CASTLE

Brought into the modern day with a simple and serene interior, this 600-year-old German castle is now the ultimate summer escape for its city-dwelling owners

Photography PHOTO GIULIO ORIANI/VEGA MG



SET AMID rolling farmland and wildflower meadows, this 14th-century *Wasserschloss*, or 'water castle', is the country home of Düsseldorf-based couple Michael Pakenius and Doris Zehr. The castle is located in the Lower Rhine area, just half an hour's drive from the city, where Michael (now retired) used to work in advertising and where interior designer Doris runs her concept store, Anna van Neerhave. Steeped in history and full of character – the couple have two pet swans, named Anna and Thederich, who live among the wild ducks in the moat – the property has a clean, white interior that forms an unexpected contrast to its dramatic façade. It is furnished with flea-market finds that Doris has sourced and arranged artfully to create an ambience of considered yet unpolished elegance.

ELLE DECORATION LOVES the light-filled living area, or 'summer room', which has been fitted with a reclaimed Versailles parquet floor, a Baroque fireplace and newly enlarged windows that open out onto the garden.











