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A retreat on the 'Bavarian sea'

The **Chiemgauhof – Lakeside Retreat**, designed by Matteo Thun & Partners, is inspired by the ancient typology of the Chiemgauhof: a German word that combines the name of the Chiemgau region with that of farm, or courtyard, “hof”

In Germany, Lake Chiemsee is nicknamed the Bavarian Sea, due to its size and tides. Poetic sunsets unfold there – the most beautiful in the region, they say – and nature paints the horizon green. The Chiemgauhof Lakeside Retreat, a hotel with 28 rooms and suites overlooking the lake and mountains, is located in a secluded corner of that picture postcard that has been declared a natural area. Designed by the stu-

dio Matteo Thun & Partners, it is inspired, as the name suggests, by the ancient idea of the Chiemgauhof: a German word that combines the name of the Chiemgau region with that of a farm, or courtyard (“hof”). The focal point of the project is the dialogue between the genius loci and contemporary design, between traditional Bavarian materials such as brushed larch and fir wood, juxtaposed with natural elements such as glass, marble,

and stones, and the elegant and minimalist aesthetic repeated in each of the three buildings: the main building and the two outbuildings intended for the rooms. Connected to the hall through gardens, patios, and sliding glass doors, the rooms are characterized by personalized design and some nods to the past, such as the majolica-covered fireplaces and the inlaid wooden doors (the bathtubs in front of the bathroom windows are also made of wood, to emphasize the relaxation effect). The lounge and reception areas also offer citations: a stove covered with handcrafted tiles infuses warmth, matching the Bavarian-decorated carpets made with recycled materials. The dining room recalls, while updating it, the atmosphere of the old stube, while in the bar, oriental-inspired chandeliers illuminate dark wood tables and other custom-made furnishings. Inspiration knows no boundaries, and while this architecture as a whole has a “contemporary Bavarian” soul, in the Bootshaus, the wooden pavilion on the pier, other suggestions are breathed. «It is a relaxation space with



Architecture and interior design:
Matteo Thun & Partners

Bespoke furnitures: Haute Material/Silvia Interiors
Furnitures: &Tradition, Arflex, Atmosfera, Baxter, Carl Hansen & Søn, Cassina, Eichholtz, Ferm Living, Giopagani, Gloster, Gubi, Honoré Deco, Janua, Mogg, Rh Interiors, Serax, Tischlerei Toni Ober, Tribù, Vitra, Weishäupl, Zeitraum

Lighting: Artemide, Barovier&Toso, Calma, Corston, Delta Light, Devol, Flos, Goodmoods Editions, Lostine, Lumina, Occhio, Porta Romana, Rbw, Rothschild & Bickers, Santa & Cole, Simone & Marcel, Taiwan Lantern, Viabizzuno, Visual & Comfort & Co

Bathrooms: Catalano, Cielo, Fontealta, Geberit, Rapsel, Vola

Carpets: Benirugs, Chi Design, Jankath, LPJ Carpets, M2R

Fabrics and leather: Dedar, Mariaflora, Perennials, Pierre Frey, Schumacher Fabrics, Studioart

Glass coating: Arte Veneziana

Parquet flooring and tiles: Gresart (Panaria Group), In-seltöpferei Klampfleuthner, Schotten & Hansen, Trapa

Carpenter: Kamper Handwerk+Bau

Upholsterer: Neuraum

Metallic panels: Naturtex

Paint: Argile Peinture, Matteo Brioni, Sikkens

Vases: Bitossi

Sauna: Klafs

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Photo credits: Elias-Hassos





a large dark metal and stone fireplace, a bar, and a tea room. Here, Bavaria meets Japan through the play of light at dawn and dusk, and the design details and fabrics recall the “culture of lanterns.” The aesthetic mood, the continuous search for dialogue between tradition and modernity (and different and distant worlds), do not neglect a concept of conscious hospitality: in addition to the strategic orientation of the three buildings, heating with biomass pellets and photovoltaic panels camouflaged among the shingles of the roof reduce the energy impact, enhancing the ecological footprint of the project. «We have translated the charm of the old wooden barns into the here and now, with time nature will do the rest, giving the hotel a splendid patina», concludes the architect. If the elegance of the retreat is palpable immediately, for the “patina” we can only wait.

