

Openhouse

Issue N°24

EU 24€ UK £20



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The Matter of the Eternal

In issue N°24, we discover matter not as substance, but as memory made visible. From *Chidy Wayne*'s resonant studio in Barcelona to *Luca Guadagnino*'s *Palazzo Talia* in Rome, from *Yoyo Balagué*'s performative gestures on the Catalan coast to *Oliver Gustav*'s intimate world in Copenhagen—each story speaks of what endures, of what is essential, and of the quiet beauty that time cannot erase.



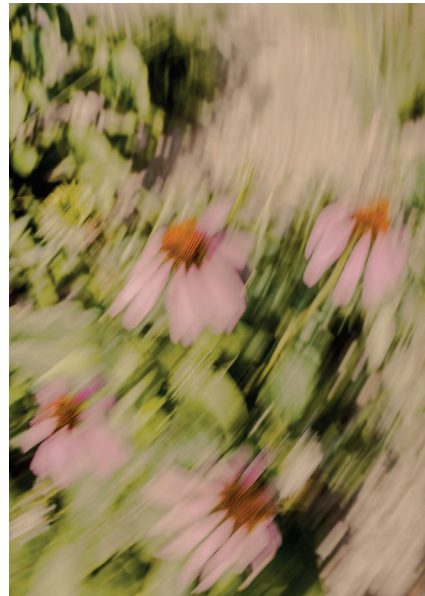
Introducing Life Within Campestre Studio

Living in the city, one becomes attuned to a particular kind of landscape: a mosaic of irregular buildings, rough pavements, and multicolored traffic. Nature may not always be visible, yet it remains quietly present, woven into the rhythm of our daily lives in ways we sometimes forget to notice. And then, in the least expected moment — a quiet corner, a weekend escape, a beam of light through a tree — we reconnect with it and remember just how essential it is, both mentally and physically.

This isn't about opposing worlds, but about reuniting what was never truly separate. As society continues to evolve, it becomes more evident that embracing our place within the natural world, even in urban environments, is key to our well-being. "Scientifically, it's proven that smelling, touching, and being with nature increases the hormone of happiness," explains Mathilde Morize, founder of Campestre Studio.

Together with her partner, Erik Uldall, the pair started their own studio two years ago, built around the concept of "planning and planting," and fusing both their visions, which combine architecture and landscaping with project execution and gardening. From urban terraces to natural parks, as

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well as agritourism sites and vegetable gardens, Mathilde and Erik create spaces that invite discovery, learning, and connection with the natural environment. Besides designing environments for people, they also shape naturalistic spaces that, through native plants, mimic natural aesthetics and dynamics, unfolding into living landscapes that develop naturally over time.

"We wanted to create a studio that could reflect our values, our identity, something that is really representative of our philosophy," comments Erik. Their experiences are also influenced by their backgrounds: with a Spanish mother and a Danish father, both architects, Erik grew up in Andalusia; Mathilde, who is French but was brought up in Madagascar, was raised with the use of medicinal plants. Amazingly, Campestre Studio captures all of those elements, translating them into every single one of their projects.

Incorporating vegetation into our homes can have a huge impact in many ways. "From an architectural point of view, it integrates the house or building into its natural surroundings and helps with the thermal regulation," explains Mathilde. Not only that, but "being surrounded by nature brings you

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peace, lets you feel part of a whole where we live with other beings, and also to experience the different seasons of the year". By integrating the inside and outside spaces, one can live as part of the natural cycle of life and the Earth. As the vital component of everything, nature brings food, beauty, purity, medicine, consciousness, and so much more.

"We design the landscape so that everyone has their own space, humans and non-humans", states Erik, "There should be space to rest, space for children to play, space to admire, space to walk around, and also space for biodiversity, for birds, for fauna...". In the end, it's about creating a setting for every living being that makes up a natural environment. "A small space can play a role in preserving biodiversity and fostering urban biodiversity, and that was incredible to realize," they contemplate.

Mathilde and Erik conceive the garden as a space that is not just admired or looked at but lived, a scene that invites you to walk through it, smell it, touch it, and make it part of your physical and emotional care. And that is, "by being part of the garden and respecting the characteristics of the environment, what makes it a unique landscape: the soils, the plants, the fauna, the rocks, the customs of the place...". As a landscape designer, there are many factors that come into play: "We are not botanists, we are not architects, we are not sociologists, but in the end we have to know a little bit of everything," they indicate.

Continuously learning and drawing inspiration from everything, Mathilde and Erik allow us to enjoy a slower pace of life and to cherish patience. A natural setting requires care, and that is its beauty—seeing it grow, develop, and flourish. Nature must be perceived not by the modern gaze, guided by immediacy, but by eyes that are able to trace it, nurture it and relate to it with humility. ○

