

MEDIA INFORMATION

Heike Bering, Your contact person

T +49(0)711 7451 759-15 · heike.bering@bering-kopal.de

Filled with perfect light

What began as the redesign of a kitchen turned into a complete refresh of a villa by Lake Starnberg – including a lighting concept that lent structure to the property using luminaires from Nimbus.



To many it is a dream destination – Lake Starnberg, just about 25 kilometres southwest of Munich in the Bavarian Prealps. This is where a family fulfilled its dream, moving into the villa with a view of the lake back in 2009. Designed by the developer, it became evident after a while that not everything corresponded to the clients' wishes. The kitchen in particular was one thing that didn't meet their expectations, and so it underwent a complete makeover in 2021. The redesign of the kitchen prompted the owners to consider an overhaul of the entire interior as, during the design process, it became increasingly obvious that there was potential for optimisation in the other rooms too. This idea eventually led to the total revamping of all the interior spaces, including a new lighting concept using Nimbus luminaires.

The owners of the villa wanted a fresher, more modern look and better functionality, which also included optimising the lighting design. With this in mind, they called in a number of experts to assist in the revamping of the property. Alexandra Meyer, an architect and expert for single-family homes from Starnberg, took charge of the project. Other major project

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participants included Pirkelmann + Schmidt Möbel- und Küchenmanufaktur and Das Badstudio, both based in Ismaning.

The property receiving the new interior was built in Bauhaus style with each floor becoming more transparent as the building rises from the ground. The higher the floor, the greater the communion with the surrounding greenery and the more wonderful the view of the nearby countryside and the lake. Whereas the ground floor with its predominantly closed wall surfaces provides a solid basis, the shell opens up more and more with each floor, culminating at the top in the accessible roof terrace.

Centrepiece and highlight: the new kitchen – seamlessly integrated into its surroundings

The top floor is a key element to life in the house. It accommodates the living room, dining room and kitchen in a generous, uninterrupted space measuring around 100 square metres and opens onto a roof terrace. The intention was to make it the centrepiece and highlight of the house. "The clients wanted a fluid transition to the living and dining areas as well as to the exterior space," says architect Alexandra Meyer. Together with Sebastian Schmidt from Pirkelmann + Schmidt Möbel- und Küchenmanufaktur, she experimented with the idea of redesigning the house. The result was new zoning in three major areas. Facing the dining table, the team installed a block "as a wave breaker and meeting place", as Alexandra Meyer describes it. Then came the work zone with sink and hob – again designed as a compact block. These two zones are supplemented by a room-forming cube. Accessed through a room-height double door, its interior houses not only a dumbwaiter but also an oven, an upright freezer and a small storage space.

Facing the glazed facade aligned to the roof terrace, this "room furniture" accommodates a bar with seats and a counter with, in the architect's words, "a fantastic view of Lake Starnberg". The colour scheme of this element creates a direct connection to the treetops that can be seen from here. The boundaries between indoors and outdoors become fuzzy – especially when the doors to the roof terrace are opened.

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Tranquil background and perfectly targeted lighting

To enhance the visual impact of the kitchen and all other elements in the interior, the rooms needed a new, quiet setting. The designers and clients therefore decided to visually tone down all the surfaces in the house: parquet floors were sanded and white-oiled, wall surfaces were filled to make them smooth and white, white built-in furniture with no handles was integrated wherever storage space was required. Very large tiles achieve the same effect in the completely refitted bathrooms. Against the background of these tranquil, even surfaces, the selected designer items and works of art – already owned by the family before the refurbishment – are able to unfold their full impact. This could only be achieved in conjunction with the lighting, which was also completely overhauled. The idea of using Nimbus luminaires was put forward by the design-savvy clients.

Multi-talented Nimbus Q Four: suitable illumination for every kind of area

With its discreet look and wealth of variants, the luminaires from the Q Four family proved to be the perfect solution: visually, they are very discreet. Precisely adaptable to varying requirements, their main contribution is to give rooms soul through their light language. At dusk and in darkness, their light creates a living, cosy structure composed of lighter and darker areas. A total of five different variants of the Nimbus Q Four were installed in the villa, including dimmable versions, varieties with adjustable light colour and models whose light can be directed to exactly where it is needed.

For example, Q Four IN LED luminaires are installed almost flush with the ceiling in the hallways and bedrooms to give soft general lighting. In contrast, the cone of light emitted by the tilting and turning Q Four TT ceiling spots highlights every nuance in the colourful works of art or create golden beams of light on tranquil surfaces. Q Four LED ceiling spots have been added where focused downlighting is required – for example onto the work surface of the kitchen island. All Nimbus Q-Four luminaires have special lenses that suppress glare and bundle light. They reduce light emission to a minimum. Light is either distributed throughout the room or accentuates smaller areas, depending on the beam angle. Thanks to its great

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variability, the lighting atmosphere becomes an ever changing design element.

The family is very happy with the new layout and new design and appreciates the adaptation to its specific needs. Architect Alexandra Meyer summed up by explaining, "Everyone involved in the project played a role in achieving this result," adding "Without the open-mindedness of the clients and without the commitment and significant input of the furniture, plumbing and lighting designers, the project could never have been such a great success. It was a tremendous joint effort."

Facts

Client: Private

Architecture: Architekturbüro Alexandra Meyer, Starnberg

Lighting design: Nimbus Group

Design and realisation of the kitchen and interior fittings: Pirkelmann + Schmidt Möbel- und Küchenmanufaktur, Ismaning

Bathroom design: Das Badstudio, Ismaning

Executed: 2021

Total living space: Approx. 315 square metres

Layout:

Ground floor: Storage spaces, technical systems, fitness room, child's bedroom with bathroom

First floor: Bedroom with master bathroom, study, child's bedroom

Top floor: Kitchen, dining room, living room

Photos: Philipp Funke Fotografie, Zurich

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1 Light exactly where it is needed: the special lenses of the Nimbus Q Four LED ceiling spot ensure perfect, glare-free illumination of the kitchen work surface with minimal light emission. Photo: Philipp Funke Fotografie, Zurich

2 Q Four LED ceiling spots have also been fitted in the living area, where they highlight designer items and works of art. The Roxxane Leggera CL from Nimbus provides additional warm light when needed. Photo: Philipp Funke Fotografie, Zurich

3 The design team chose green as the basic colour for the kitchen – as a reference to the old trees in the grounds and to the surrounding nature. The "room furniture" is lit by tilting and rotating Nimbus Q Four TT Track spots. Photo: Philipp Funke Fotografie, Zurich

4 The worktop with sink was made using heavily veined Brazilian quartzite. The play of its colours is highlighted to particular effect by the Nimbus Q Four luminaires. The natural stone was combined with silky matt surfaces and fronts made of Fenix. Photo: Philipp Funke Fotografie, Zurich

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5 The designers introduced a feeling of tranquilly to the rooms by using storage cupboards without handles and with smooth surfaces. When closed, a pleasing lighting effect is created on the fronts, when opened the content is perfectly illuminated. Photo: Philipp Funke Fotografie, Zurich

6 Effective lighting hierarchy: the Nimbus Q Four ceiling spots almost disappear into the ceiling at the entrances to the rooms and shine as if from an invisible source. When something requires showcasing, focus is placed on the featured item – in this case, on a colourful, large painting. Photo: Philipp Funke Fotografie, Zurich

7 The clients are passionate about art and design. They are delighted with the perfect colour rendition in their collection – enabled by the precise, adjustable light emitted by the tilting and rotating Nimbus Q Four TT Track spot. Photo: Philipp Funke Fotografie, Zurich

8 Bathroom also completely renewed: the matt black Nimbus Q Four LED ceiling spot enters into a natural combination with the black bathroom fittings. Photo: Philipp Funke Fotografie, Zurich

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9 Nimbus Q Four ceiling luminaires are characterised by their perfect glare suppression and precise, focused lighting effect. All models are available in black and white. Photo: Nimbus Group / Frank Ockert

10 The Nimbus Q One supplements the luminaires from the Q Four family. Its focused light enables the definition of lighting zones and therefore, for example, the distinct highlighting of surfaces. Photo: Nimbus Group / Frank Ockert

11 The Nimbus Q Four TT is dimmable and can be rotated through 335° and tilted by approximately 60°. It has a manoeuvrable cubic body. Photo: Nimbus Group / Frank Ockert

12 In its flush-mounted version, the luminaire itself recedes into the background, placing greater importance on the light, which is emitted at either 40° or 80° depending on the version used. Photo: Nimbus Group / Frank Ockert

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About Häfele and Nimbus

Nimbus has belonged to the Häfele Group since 2019. Located in Nagold, the internationally operating specialist for furniture fittings and lighting is indispensable for furniture production and the carpentry trade, while the Stuttgart-based Nimbus Group is held in high regard in the architecture sector. Two target groups, two different worlds. And yet they have come together and boast a broad joint portfolio of lighting systems for rooms and furniture as well as integrated lighting and acoustics solutions. Product development in the fields of light and acoustics is centred in Stuttgart.

www.nimbus-group.com

www.haefele.de

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