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Timeless by nature

Elevating its organic materials with contemporary styling and a complementary palette, this Swedish barn presents a polished take on the country aesthetic

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Photography JONAS INGERSTEDT/HOUSE OF PICTURES





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With a carpenter brother and an architect as his best friend, it was only a matter of time before entrepreneur Martin Nygren made the decision to roll up his sleeves and build a home from scratch. Clad in stained black wood, the contemporary barn he conceived blends seamlessly into its rural setting in Skåne, southern Sweden, while inside, a blend of organic finishes and design classics lend a coolly polished note.

'I love natural materials because they withstand time with dignity,' says Martin, who built the property in 2016. Fittingly, his new home features a contrasting combination of old oak eaves, polished concrete flooring and lime plaster walls. 'I selected pieces that will age beautifully,' he continues. 'Over the years, they will all develop a lovely patina.'

Located on a plot originally owned by Martin's brother Henrik, close to where the siblings grew up, the barn is surrounded by nature, but still within striking distance of the beach and the town of Kristiansand. From its generous windows, the only visible landmarks are an old windmill and the faint outline of Henrik's house in the distance – and that's just the way Martin likes it. 'I travel a lot and always have projects on the go, so my home is my hideaway,' he says.

Its layout is simple, comprising a large, open-plan living room, dining area and kitchen, with a bedroom and 'chill-out' space tucked beneath the eaves above. Despite that lack of complexity, there's a deceptive deftness of touch here. From the architectural staircase and the concrete-clad Scandinavian stove to the laundry room, which is thoughtfully concealed within the entrance hall, details are important in this home. 'I was determined to surround myself only with pieces I love, as well as with adequate storage,' says Martin. 'A walk-in closet and a well-organised utility area can accommodate most necessities, leaving plenty of breathing space.'

With order attained, a harmonious colour palette pulls everything together neatly. Composite stone finishes are complemented by the aged leather furnishings; polished concrete by the soft mint tones of the kitchen cabinetry and warm oak cladding by tactile washed neutral linens and soft grey rugs. The dining area is set in an atrium that, in warm weather, can be completely opened out onto the fields. 'I think that symbolises this home's success,' reflects Martin. 'It's both at one with its surroundings and uniquely "other". It will withstand the test of time and that is very satisfying.'

Living room A leather 'Mags' sofa by Hay and two 'Ari' lounge chairs by Arne Norell are clustered below a 'Franklin' chandelier by Søren Rose for Menu **Exterior** The barn's stained-wood silhouette blends with its surroundings **Portrait** Owner Martin Nygren relaxes beside his bespoke, concrete-clad stove – one of the focal points of this home **Stockist details on p188** ▶





Kitchen The 'System 10 Bistro' cabinetry by Ballingslöv includes open storage. The countertop is Silestone's 'Coral Clay'.
Dining area Homeowner Martin designed the table himself, while the 'CH23' chairs are Hans J Wegner for Carl Hansen & Søn. A 'Drop' chandelier by Kristian Sofus Hansen and Tommy Hyldahl for 101 Copenhagen adds dramatic flair **Stockist details on p188 ▶**





Terrace Now a sunny place to relax with a glass of wine, this decked area will soon house a sauna and jacuzzi
Bathroom Ballingslöv's 'Lessmore' cabinetry is topped by a composite stone counter. The 'Luv' bath is a sleek design by Cecilie Manz for Duravit
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Hallway Polished concrete flooring and walls clad in wood set the tone for the rest of the home. Simple metal rails provide a practical solution for storage. **Snug A** 'Baseline' sofa by Eilersen is squeezed in beneath the eaves in this space. It is paired with an 'Oak' coffee table by Jonas Lindvall for Skandiform and 'Secto 4200' pendant lights by Secto Design. **Stockist details on p188 >**



Bedroom A vintage 'Bumling' table lamp by Ateljé Lyktan and a 'JWDA' lamp by Jonas Wagell for Menu sit either side of the bed by Carpe Diem Beds. A 'Mags' footstool by Hay sits in the corner **Stockist details on p188** 