RUM

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

A SCANDINAVIAN MAGAZINE OF DESIGN AND INTERIORS

21/2025



LIFE LESSONS

HUMAN CONNECTION is everything. Meet creative mentors and mentees who grow through mutual respect, friendship and the great piece of advice that makes all the difference

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DKK 200 / 16.10.25-19.11.25 / UBD 4035 / RETURDGE 47

Perched atop a north-facing slope in the forests of southern Sweden, the holiday residence of celebrated Danish artist Cathrine Raben Davidsen and her Swedish husband Jens Lindegaard offers a serene escape from everyday life. A project several years in the making, Pinehouse was conceived by renowned Swedish architect Johan Sundberg in close collaboration with the couple and fitted with an elegant curation of Danish and Swedish design. But, Cathrine Raben Davidsen and Jens Lindegaard tell RUM, the dream originated in altogether less imposing surroundings, in a rickety, hessian-clad 1960s cabin.

TEXT LISE ULRICH STYLING MILLE COLLIN PHOTOGRAPHY LINE THIT KLEIN

SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS



Inspired in part by Swiss architect Peter Zumthor's untreated wooden houses in the Alps, the couple has chosen to leave the outer pinewood walls of their holiday home entirely untreated, opting instead to let the wood weather and grey organically with time.

ARCHITECT JOHAN SUNDBERG ON PINEHOUSE

What was it like working on this project?

"The process was unusual because I was working with a couple that are very sensitive to the deeper meaning of the aesthetics of things. Not just the visual appearance, but how things are made; what hands made them, the meaning of shapes, their cultural connotations, and the feeling you get when thinking about all those things. Cathrine and Jens are well-versed in culture, art, architecture, and so on. Bringing something to the table with them was a pleasure and a challenge because I knew they would strive to get an understanding of both the practical aspects, as well as what I was trying to accomplish in terms of feeling and meaning. When they questioned my ideas, or wanted to develop them further, I knew it would go in interesting directions, often breathing more life into the project. At the same time, however, I had to defend the project from all manners of creative ideas, but that was met with a lot of respect. We realised together that we needed some core principles for the fitting of the interior of the house to work – a basic material palette. All the design additions from the network of collaborators and friends had to be curated so they made sense and did not blur the outlines of the project."

How did the surrounding nature influence and inspire the build?

"The spirit of the whole place is quite interesting and unique. A north-facing slope is in itself an unusual place for a holiday cabin, and because the forest used to be grazing ground for livestock, the landscape is currently in a state of transition. The light in this sparse forest, on a north slope, can often create some intense atmospheric experiences. Not always sunny, the light is almost always filtered through the vegetation. I could not imagine designing a building without trying to channel the energy of the place – that was what we all wanted to do."

What does Pinehouse say about how Scandinavians today dream of living life and spending their free time?

"Now more than ever, I think we long for a strong connection to the place, and to the nature of the place. We want the short and intimate views into nature, and the long view out over the landscape. We want to be in the shade under a roof, and we want to be in the sun. We want to feel a connection to how something is made, and so the construction of Pinehouse is entirely visible; part of the experience of the house is that you see how it was put together. The same goes for the handmade materials and interiors. This creates a layering of authentic experiences, which I think is what we all dream about in a holiday home."



The beautiful concrete floors by local company Veinge Betong AB come alive in the airy spaces of Pinehouse. The windows and doors are by Let There Be Light, and the FL12 table lamp is by Ammitzbøll Winther from Tableau Copenhagen. All curtains are by &Drape.