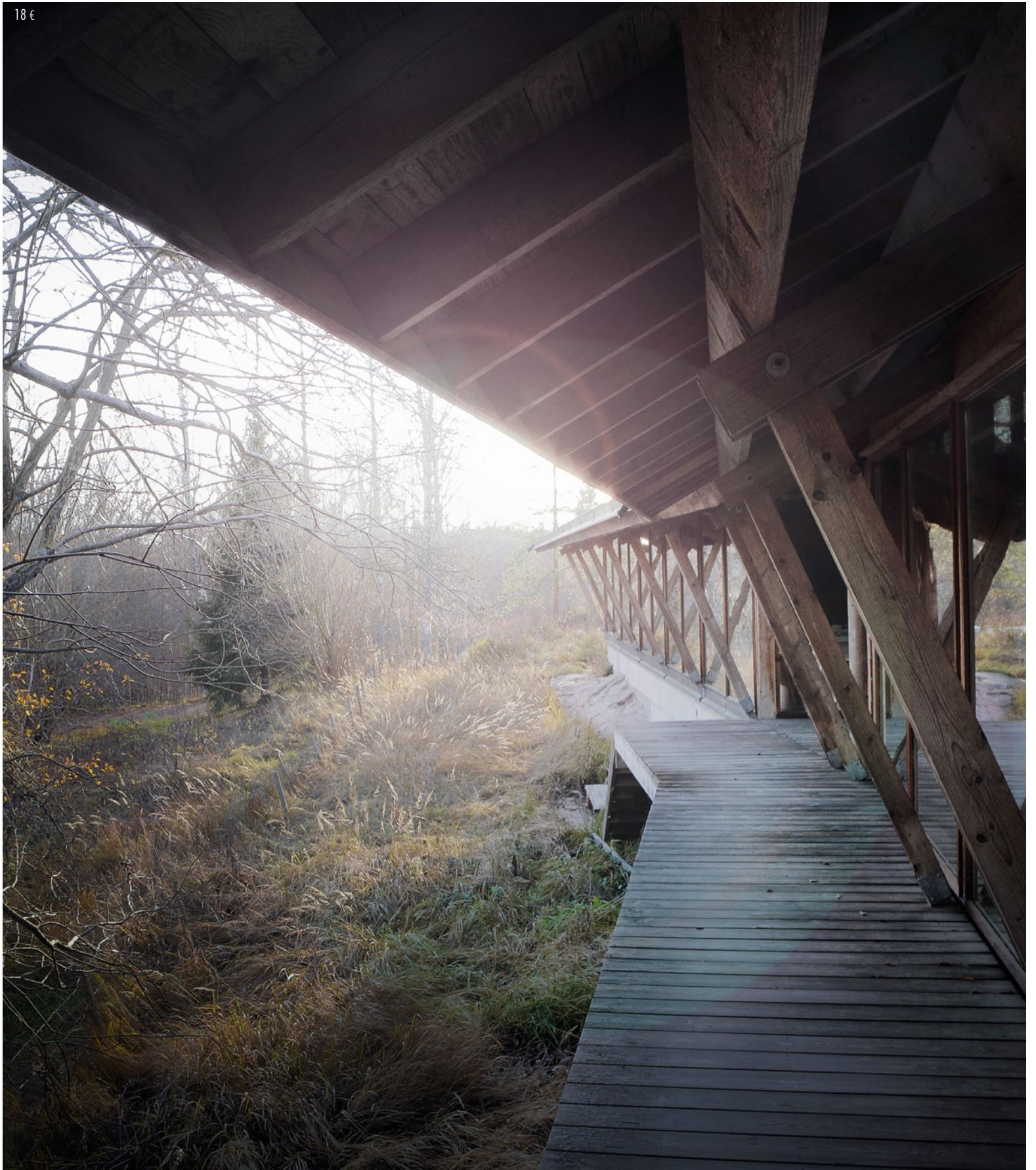


ASUN HOMES



The wide armrests are perfect for putting down a cup of coffee or book, the Spanish Chair by Fredericia. The Pon side tables in oak by Fredericia were designed by Jasper Morrison.

WRITER'S CHAMBER

'Colour doesn't matter, as long as it's black!' interior architect **Petra Majantie** recalls saying when outlining the new, timber-framed building together with architect **Anssi Lassila**.

Four years later, a black building clad with tarred shingles stands on the highest point of a steep hillside plot. It was built on top of an old stone cellar, the size of its plinth determining the interior floor area (approximately 40 square metres) of the building above.

Two other newcomers on the plot adhere to the same architectural style: a coastal sauna with a summer kitchen as well as a carport. In addition to the modern buildings, there's something totally different on the same plot of land: a white brick house called Villa Koivikko and its separate side buildings designed by renowned Finnish architect **Aarne Ervi** in the 1950s. They, too, were restored to the glory they deserve.

Majantie aimed for a dialogue between the existing and new buildings. She wanted them to serve as visual opposites, so the new buildings would remain dark, simple blocks behind the existing ones. 'Instead of making a spectacle of themselves, the

new constructions allow the original "Ervi houses" to shine white and bright', Majantie explains.

The new building is known as the 'writer's chamber'. It is designed as a place for writing, a spot of alone time and small-scale meetings.

From the outside, Majantie thinks the building reminds of a scaly anteater, but when you step inside, the warm, pale spruce interior is reminiscent of a sheltering bird's nest.

Majantie took care of the interior right down to the architectural details, with Punavuoren Puuhevonen in charge of carpentry work.

A monumental table stands in the middle of the room, which Majantie describes as a multifunctional piece: a record player, sink, fridge and tiny dishwasher are concealed under the lid on its wide end.

The table also serves as a room divider in the open space, separating the opposite ends. A cosy area for gathering around the fireplace reminds of a campfire, while two loungers on the opposite side form a rest area.

Fixed bookshelves dominate the closed walls. Lampe Gras lamps attached to the shelves create black,

vertical accents in the wood-coloured space, while the direction of light highlights the visual significance of books. The space has no other general lighting.

All the chairs, side tables and lamps represent European and Japanese top design. The Spanish Chair and small chairs in the same range, Wink lounge chairs and Akari paper lamp had all been on Petra's wish list for a long time and among her personal favourites.

The writer's chamber exudes an atmosphere of safety and tranquillity. The shoulders relax, pulse slows down and eyes find rest while gazing at the beautiful landscape that opens up from the end windows.

And all of a sudden, the mind takes flight. ■

ANNA VARAKAS PHOTOGRAPHY SAMELI RANTANEN





The new building has an elegant dark structured topped with a traditional tarred shingle roof. The dark matte steel on the doorway complemented the wooden structure.



The table doubles as a storage piece and room divider. The height takes ergonomics into account. The sculptural classic lamp by Isamu Noguchi provides a soft light source that sets the mood. The sculptures are by artist Aimo Katajamäki. The roughly 40-square-metre open space has a rectangular layout. Indirect lighting was chosen for the space.



Petra Majantie designed the bespoke open fireplace, inspired by creating an atmosphere reminiscent of a campfire. The fireplace was made-to-measure by Piros. The Spanish Chair by Fredericia is in soap-treated oak.

The interior was built entirely from spruce. Petra didn't want to mix different types of wood with the exception of oak furnishings. Fixed bookshelves built by Punavuoren Puuhevonen dominate the closed walls. The bookshelves are illuminated by black French classic Lampe Gras lamps.

The floor-to-ceiling windows bring the outside in. The balcony doors have pin hinges. The Wink loungers by Cassina can also be used as armchairs. Designed by Toshiyuki Kita, they are comfortable enough for a nap.





The Writer's studio is built on top of an old stone cellar.



The end windows offer spacious natural views across parklands and towards a lake.