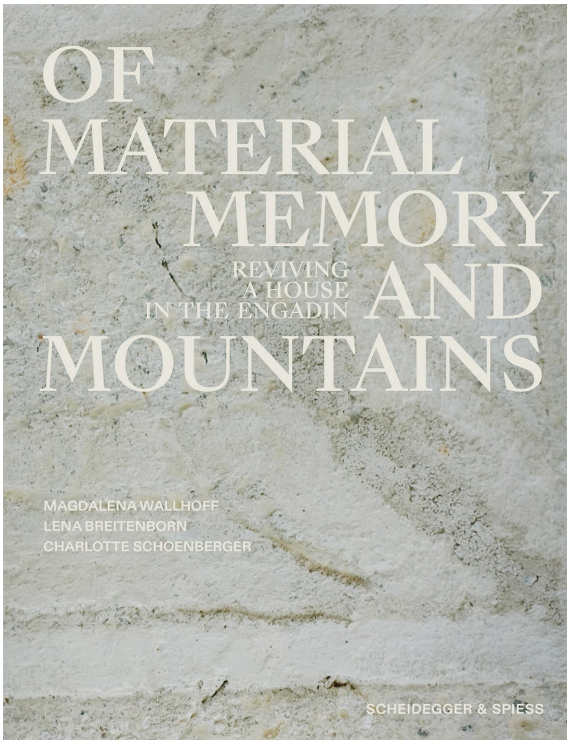
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Of Material, Memory, and Mountains

Reviving a House in the Engadin

Magdalena Wallhoff

Lena Breitenborn

Charlotte Schoenberger

ISBN	9783039422920
Publisher	Scheidegger & Spiess
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Territory	World excluding Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, United States, Canada, and Japan
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Price	£45.00

- An inspiring guide to sustainable building in precious historic fabric
- A manifesto for a holistic concept of sustainability in architecture, minimal intervention, and the use of traditional knowledge and local materials
- Combines personal narratives from the client, architects, and craftspeople with precise specialist knowledge
- The preservation and extension of cultural heritage is topical beyond any local context
- Presents an example of female leadership in the largely male-dominated construction industry and rural regions

Of Material, Memory, and Mountains offers insights into the sensitive reconstruction of Chesa Culaischem, a historic house in the Upper Engadin, in the Swiss canton of Grisons. Built in the 16th century, it remained unused and empty for more than 60 years. Magdalena Wallhoff, who owns the house today, revived it with the support of local craftspeople. Together with architects Lena Breitenborn and Charlotte Schoenberger, she now reflects on the undertaking in this book. Core concerns were to be mindful of the house and its legacy, to observe local building tradition and methods, and to learn from and appreciate each other's work and contributions.

The texts shed light on the entire project from different angles. Newly taken photographs document the house and its surroundings as well as the progress of its reconstruction. Interviews with craftspeople, technical information, drawings, and plans round out this portrait of Chesa Culaischem.

The revived house represents a manifesto for an architecture of minimal intervention that honours local resources and craft, while also demonstrating the chances offered by a contemporary approach to the building culture of the Engadine region. The combination of philosophy and practice can be transferred to other projects, as it responds to broader questions of long-term sustainability in construction.

Magdalena Wallhoff has worked as an entrepreneur in Asia, North America, and Latin America for many years. Since returning to Switzerland in 2021, she has been engaged with several charitable foundations and pursues various reconstruction projects, including her current home Chesa Culaischem in the Upper Engadine. **Lena Breitenborn** and **Charlotte Schoenberger** are German-based architects and jointly run PIONIRA, a platform through which they explore the intersections of architecture, ecology, and craftsmanship.

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