

Occhio

Thomas Mann House, L.A.
press release
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100 years of Bauhaus: The perfect interior concept inspired by the Thomas Mann House in L.A. Occhio joins other German design companies to add the finishing touches to the house

Munich, February 2019

Timelessly harmonious and distilled to the essential: Even a century after its inception, the unparalleled Bauhaus style still influences today's architects and designers. This once revolutionary design concept can be newly discovered in the former residence of German writer Thomas Mann in the US city of Los Angeles. After careful restoration, the villa, which now bears the name of its past famous resident, was furnished by German designers, including lighting manufacturer Occhio. It now serves as a model of timeless creativity.

The home was built in Pacific Palisades in 1942 by the German architect Julius Ralph Davidson and later captivated Thomas Mann, who lived there with his family for 10 years. The German government purchased it in 2016, at which point the Thomas Mann House underwent extensive restoration. In keeping with its original style, the villa was furnished by well-known companies representing modern German interior design.

The Bauhaus principle of "form follows function" inspired the concept for updating the home. Classics from various decades of German design were used to create a timeless, welcoming space in the California residence now owned by the German government. The interior concept focused primarily on maintaining the openness of the home and on reflecting the nature and attitude of Mann within the context of the present. In selecting the design and materials for the restoration work, special attention was paid to emphasizing the character of the house.



“We practiced restraint with the interior concept and selected unobtrusive furnishings that establish space to breathe,” explains Ursula Seeba-Hannan, managing partner of the Berlin-based design and construction firm Lenzwerk Holding, which was responsible for the interior design. “We wanted guests to feel at ease and inspired from the moment they enter the Thomas Mann House.”

The characteristic Occhio interplay of timeless design, high-quality surfaces and a carefully crafted lighting concept align the past with the present in the Thomas Mann House. The functional design of the Più R ceiling spotlight creates glare-free ambient lighting for all the rooms and hallways. The signature Occhio beam of light as well as the play of light and shadow on the walls lend the rooms a certain dynamic. Occhio reading luminaires in bronze tones add highlights, harmonizing with the light-colored seating areas in the common rooms and bedrooms and captivating with their warm elegance and superior quality of light. In the hallway, the Sento verticale wall luminaire emphasizes individual elements while the diffuse upward-directed light and defined downward beam work together to create a compelling canvas. The design for the library deliberately incorporates ample wood, thus making it one of the home’s restful, quiet areas. Indirect light reflecting warmly from the honey-colored wood shelving further underscores the comfortable atmosphere of the space.

The Thomas Mann House is the German federal government’s residence for visiting cultural, political, business, media and science intellectuals through the scholarship program overseen by Villa Aurora & Thomas Mann House e.V.



Year realized: 2018

Interior construction and design: Lenzwerk Holding

Lighting design: Lenzwerk Holding

Luminaires: Più R alto matt white, Sento lettura bronze, Sento letto bronze, Sento verticale bronze by Occhio





Thomas_Mann_House

photo: © by Occhio
photographer: Robert Sprang

Occhio – the company

Occhio is one of the most innovative companies in the lighting industry and the market leader in Germany's premium design lighting segment. Founded in 1999 by Axel Meise, Occhio is based on an idea that is as simple as it is revolutionary: Drawing on the belief that quality of light means quality of life, the Munich-based company develops holistic, multifunctional luminaire and spotlight systems. Occhio connects spaces and makes it possible to use light to design entire buildings of the highest quality by offering universal designs and quality light. Headquartered in the heart of Munich, Occhio now has a staff of more than 150. Its European sales are channeled through premium specialized lighting retailers and the company's flagship stores in Munich and Cologne. Outside Europe, Occhio is finding increasing success in international markets such as India, Australia and Russia.

More information on Occhio is available at www.occhio.de.



8_Axel Meise_companyfounder_and_CEO_from_Occhio.jpg

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