

**The Perfect Holiday Homes**  
**MOUNTAIN VIEW**



# MOUNTAIN

The Perfect Holiday Homes

# VIEW

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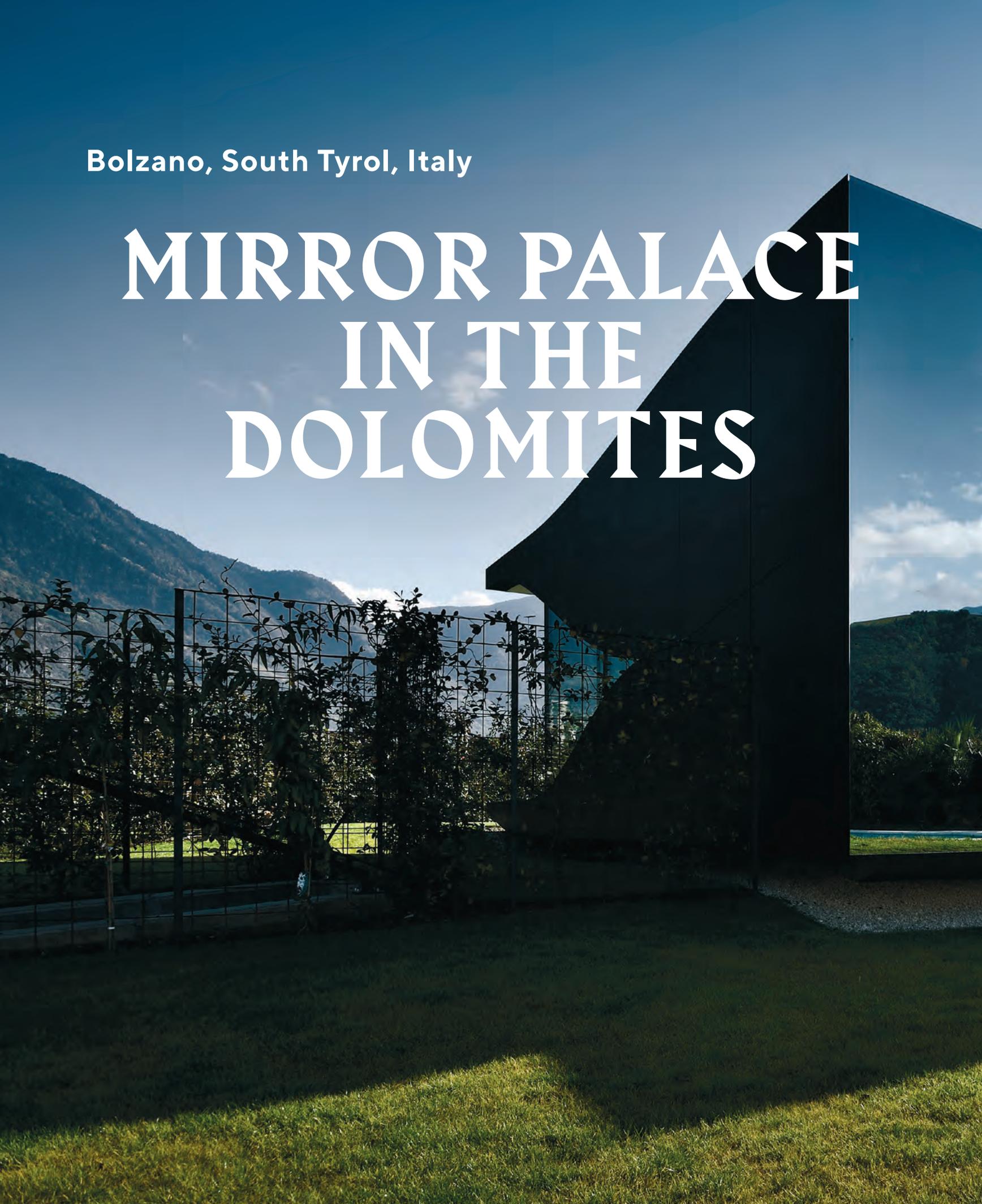
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€	Affordable holiday homes
€€	Sophisticated holiday homes
€€€	Exclusive holiday homes

Bolzano, South Tyrol, Italy

# MIRROR PALACE IN THE DOLOMITES





name **MIRROR HOUSES**

🏠 2-4 people per house

€€€

TO DO breathtaking view of the Dolomites; beautiful lakes and authentic cities; 51,000 kilometres of vineyards; 30 ski areas; 380 kilometres of bicycle paths and 350 mountaintops

➔ [welcomebeyond.com](http://welcomebeyond.com) or [mirror-houses.com](http://mirror-houses.com)

+ swimming pool; private garden; remarkable architecture

architect Peter Pickler

✂ Flughafen Innsbruck-Kranebitten (INN)

*Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all? We can't say for sure, but the two Mirror Houses in Bolzano, Italy, are truly magnificent. These unique holiday homes reflect the breathtaking view of the Dolomites and immerse their guests in peacefulness, relaxation, luxury and architectural expertise.*

It is quite a sight, just outside Bolzano, the capital city of the province of South Tyrol. Six gigantic mirrors combined together create the exceptionally interesting back of the Mirror Houses, two holiday homes, each 35 square metres between the mountaintops of the Dolomites, with a swimming pool, outdoor bar and a fantastic view of the eco-friendly environment. Even residents of South Tyrol are still mesmerized when they lay eyes on this modern architectural beauty. It was the hostess' mother, a former interior designer, who suggested giving young architect Peter Pickler (not coincidentally also born in Bolzano) all the creative freedom he needed. "We wanted to build something special," says Victoria, the hostess of the Mirror Houses. "Nowadays, many tourists prefer a holiday home or apartment to a hotel. Our idea was to create a special type of holiday home. You could say we succeeded in doing this." Definitely!

The inside of the Mirror Houses is as easy on the eyes as the outside. Both homes—each other's mirror images, of course—have a bedroom, bathroom, and living room with a fully-equipped kitchen that leads to the balcony and garden. The interior design is smooth, modern and light, with warm wooden accents that are also used in the walls and chairs. The glass façade can be completely opened to let in the unique environment. A nice extra: a skylight above the bed gives guests the feeling that they're sleeping in the open air, completely immersed in nature (but protected from the mosquitoes). The swimming pool is at the back of the Mirror Houses, on the side of the mirrors. Here, if you like, you can take yoga classes.

The magnificent environment in which the Mirror Houses shine cannot be emphasised enough. Bolzano is practically the only access point to the fabulous Dolomites, which are of course on UNESCO's World Heritage Sites list. The centre of the city is car-free and known for its churches, frescos, and 5,300-year-old mummy of a man, nicknamed Ötzi. It is the oldest mummy found in Europe and has been in the South Tyrol Archaeology Museum since 1998.

South Tyrol is a paradise for nature lovers (bikers, hikers, and rock climbers), connoisseurs (alpine and Mediterranean influences) and wellness fanatics (Roman baths and water worlds). 'South Tyrol—the other Italy' is the slogan of the local tourist offices. That is certainly true for anyone who stays at the Mirror Houses.





Even residents  
of South Tyrol  
are still mesmerized  
when they lay eyes  
on this modern  
architectural beauty.



Cretas, Spain

# CONCRETE BEAUTY



# IN THE SPANISH MOUNTAINS

name <b>SOLO HOUSES</b>		€€
🏠 5 people	✖ Barcelona Airport - El Prat (BCN)	
architect Pezo Von Ellrichshausen (Casa Solo Pezo) and OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen (Solo Office)		
TO DO	an incredible view of the Puertos de Beceite natural park; both Solo Houses are near the border of Catalonia and Valencia; the Mediterranean Sea is an hour's drive away; a picturesque village called Horta de Sant Joan is 12 kilometres away; wild animals (Spanish ibex, griffon vulture, deer, and various felids) in the vicinity	... The Solo Houses are the first of the 17 dream houses, designed by top architects in the Spanish region Matarraña, that is off-the-grid and runs on solar energy. Private chef and catering are available.
+	architectural tour de force; sustainable materials; in the middle of nature; privacy; swimming pool	
→ <a href="http://boutique-homes.com">boutique-homes.com</a> and <a href="http://solo-projects.com">solo-projects.com</a>		

*What happens when you give 17 world-famous architects a free hand to erect a dream house in a rural and mountainous area of Spain?*

It seemed like an insane idea by Parisian developer Christian Bourdais to erect 17 architectural concept homes in the north east of Spain, resembling something like a huge sculpture park. Slowly but surely, his dream is turning into a wonderful reality that has already resulted in two finished projects: Solo Office, by Belgian OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen, and Solo Pezo. The latter, the older one, was built in 2014, and sets the tone for the project. Solo Office was constructed in 2017. Recently, Bourdais changed his intention for the Solo Houses: the architectural tours de force will no longer be sold but rather used as resorts filled with habitable artworks on a mountainous rural estate of about 100 hectares in the Matarraña region that was until recently a hunting area but is slowly turning into a Mecca for architectural pilgrims.

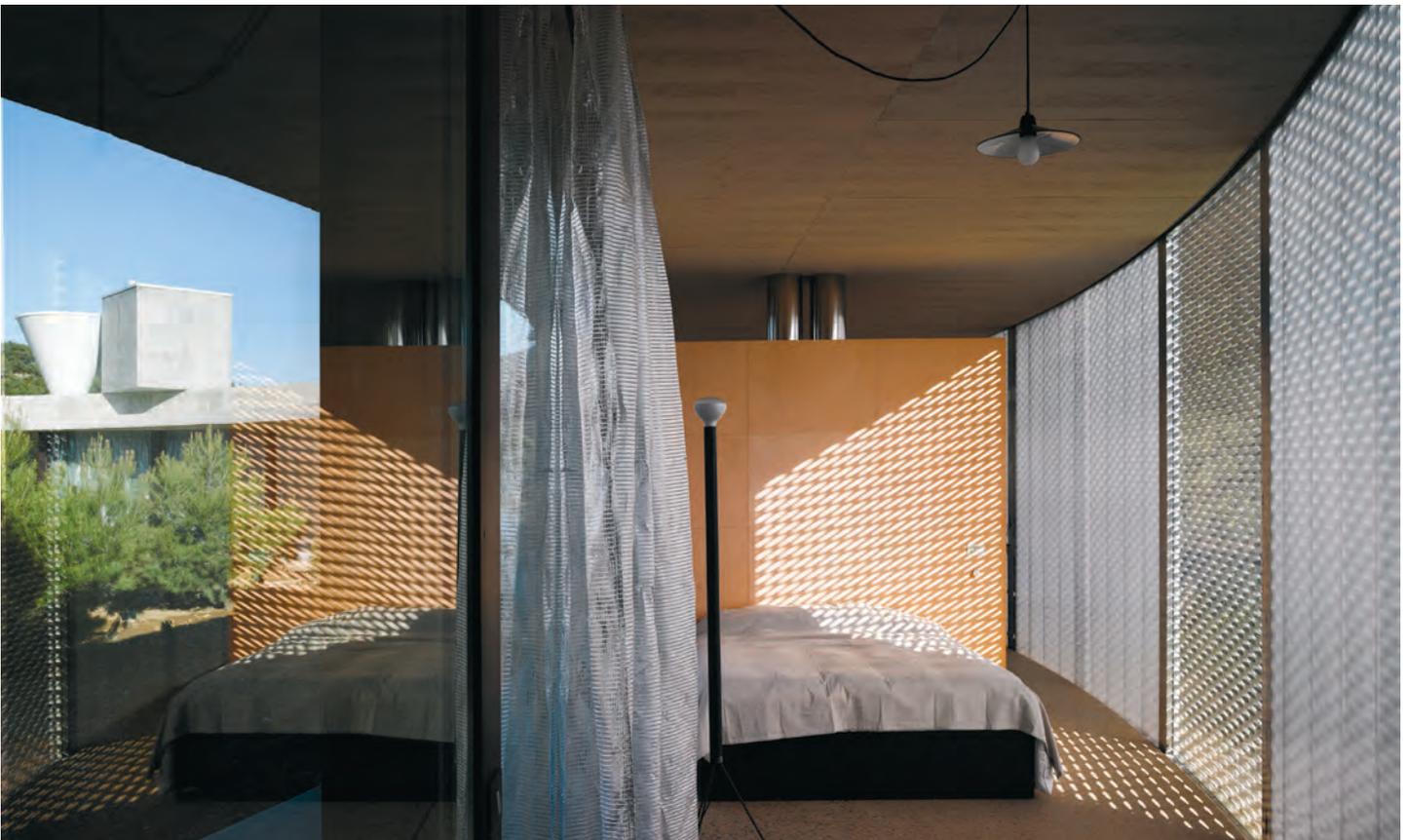
Both Solo Houses hold a dominant position in the landscape. Solo Office frames the top of a plateau, overlooking the surrounding forests and dramatical landscape. “Since the scenery is so impressive, we felt architecture should be invisible, merely emphasizing the natural qualities of the surroundings,” say architects Kersten Geers and David Van Severen. A simple circular roof with a diameter of 45 meters underlines the qualities of both the plateau and its edge. The roof functions as a shelter, and forms the perimeter of the inhabited surface. It is supported by four straight rows of eight columns, which cut chords from the circular base shape. Only these four areas are inhabited, with variable levels of protection. Large stretches of curtain facade slide on the outer edge of the circle, allowing the living areas to fully open, and providing a maximum relationship between the dweller and the surrounding nature. The same dominant position counts for Solo Pezo. “The house is shaped horizontally, floating above the ground. A sculptural structure, unitary and monolithic, supported by an invisible base,” say Chilean architects Mauricio Pezo and Sofia Von Ellrichshausen. It sounds like architecture jargon, but the pictures immediately clarify what they are talking about: a brutal concrete block that seems to rise from the green slope against which it rests. An impressively symmetric building in a rural landscape filled with vineyards and olive trees, mountaintops and medieval villages. The construction—mainly consisting of concrete and glass—has a surface of 313 square metres and offers a panoramic view of the surroundings from every corner of the house. Each of the four corners has a covered terrace, while the only enclosed area—right in the middle of the construction—does not have a roof. This is where the swimming pool is located, surrounded by bedrooms, the living room, and dining room.

There is no Wi-Fi or home entertainment, because these are off-the-grid homes that run on solar energy. Even mobile reception is not guaranteed. But who needs all that technology when all the windows and terraces face such beautiful scenery? The Matarraña region in Aragón is one of the least populated and most remote areas of Spain and is often referred to as the Spanish Tuscany.









The Solo Houses will be used as resorts filled with habitable artworks on a mountainous rural estate of about 100 hectares in the Matarraña region.





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**Curated and written by** Sebastiaan Bedaux

**Translation:** Natalie de Man

**Editing:** Melanie Shapiro

**Graphic design:** Joke Gossé

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