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«The Art of Dwelling»

The ability to combine the advantages of a private house with those of a town apartment is really a true "art of dwelling". And a difficult art to master it is, too, for rare are the opportunities offered by existing facilities in our country for this type of residence.

There is, however, a part of the population that has grown accustomed to a greater degree of comfort as this century draws to a close, that whole segment of our society known as middle-aged. These are people who have just tipped the 50-mark, whose children have flown the nest, who have a solid financial basis and a certain taste for sports and leisure activities.

That is what is meant by "middle-aged". It is a time of life when one suddenly realises that with the children gone, those left at home seem to "rattle around" the house. Mowing the lawn and worrying about home repairs begin to seem a drag and to take up time one would much rather spend on other social and cultural activities which are developing fast in Switzerland. Solitude begins to weigh, and even security questions arise. Still, the idea of moving into a town apartment is just not appealing. The closeness of commonplace apartments connotes a lack of liberty weighing heavily on the balance of decision-making.

The same questions also arise for the expatriate Swiss returning home after many years abroad or for those who live only a part of the year in Switzerland and who want to spend the rest of the year elsewhere, leaving the key under the mat, so to speak. If, on top of all this we consider the housing crisis, there is really no place for

such people in urban developments as currently designed. So SCHINDELHOLZ & DENERIAZ SA, in a way, took up the challenge when it launched the innovative and elegant idea of the *art of dwelling*.

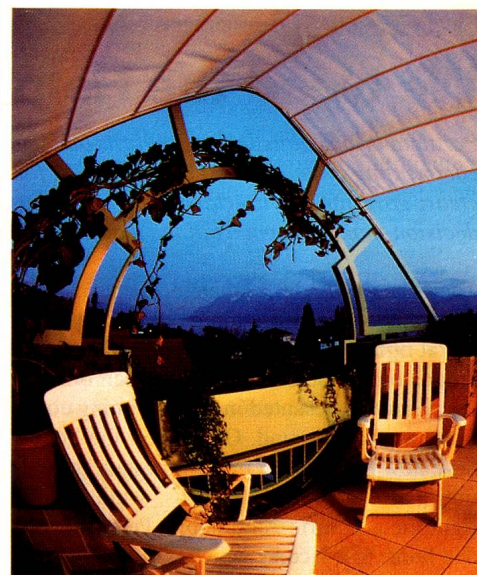
Collective individuality

The first such development has taken shape at Lutry, between the vineyards and the lake - almost in the country. The idea is absolutely unique in Switzerland. "Residences Prince Amédée" is a collection of individual living units - neither apartment nor house but independent, individual properties - which, by virtue of the fact that each unit is uniquely designed, is exactly what is required to meet the acute housing crisis. Less land is required because the concept of plot and boundary fence has been done away with in favour of an intimate integration of an exceptional site and the expression of a life style.

The living areas are light and well laid out, the reception rooms open onto a winter garden adorned with live vegetation which leads onto the terraces. All accesses, whether via the front door, the garden, the courtyard or the garage are easy and welcoming. Wherever you look, there are conifers and bushes draped from tubs which provide a delightful woodland atmosphere right outside the door. This is a sort of protected intimacy which confers a sense of security in a neighbourly closeness which is never perceived as overbearing.

Functionality

The Résidences Prince Amédée are aimed at meeting the living conditions specific to each owner of a private house. This sizable objective has been fully attained. Not only in relation to the environment but also in terms of functionality. Conceived as a series of two or three-story maisonnettes with large picture windows open to natural surroundings, just as in a private house, this type of dwelling offers countless possibilities for interior decorating, from the contemporary to the classical. Mirrors galore,



View of Lake Léman and the Alps

walls covered with "alcantara", spotlights or even strip-lighting set into the ceiling and a few private places such as the solarium or roof-garden: all are integrated. Everything is different, original and functional. On the stone-slabs of the terraces and gardens, the flower pots are watered automatically.

Many services are equally included in the concept. For example, if the owner is away, services are available to answer the phone, take in the mail and care for plants or household pets. In short, Résidences Prince Amédée not only meet this new need for the art of dwelling but also offer almost hotel-type services.

The SCHINDELHOLZ & DENERIAZ Group, the designer and instigator of this ambitious project, is one of the leading engineering firms in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. The art of dwelling was the brain child of its Managing director, Mr. Jean-Pierre Schindelholz. It is a luxury development for a well-to-do clientele. Other similar - or considerably less sophisticated - schemes will soon be launched in various parts of Switzerland.

Information and documentation can be obtained from:

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Résidences Prince Amédée

