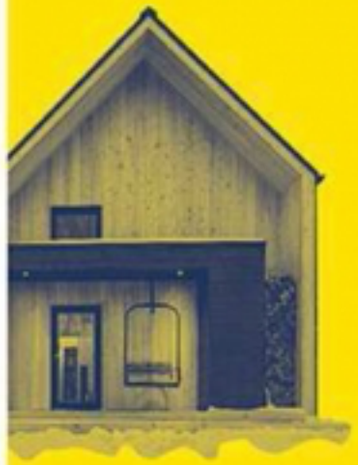
The interactive book presents a curated collection of more than 60 uniquely designed boutique homes, presented by the founders and authors of the eponymous brand.

The composition of excellent architecture and design staged with stunning photography showcases an international "best of the best" selection, divided in the chapters: Seaside, Country Living, Cabins, Extra Large and Urban.

The book and complementary app with in-built augmented reality function is not only an exciting and glamorous source of inspiration; each of the houses and apartments shown is also available for rent and can be experienced in all its glory.



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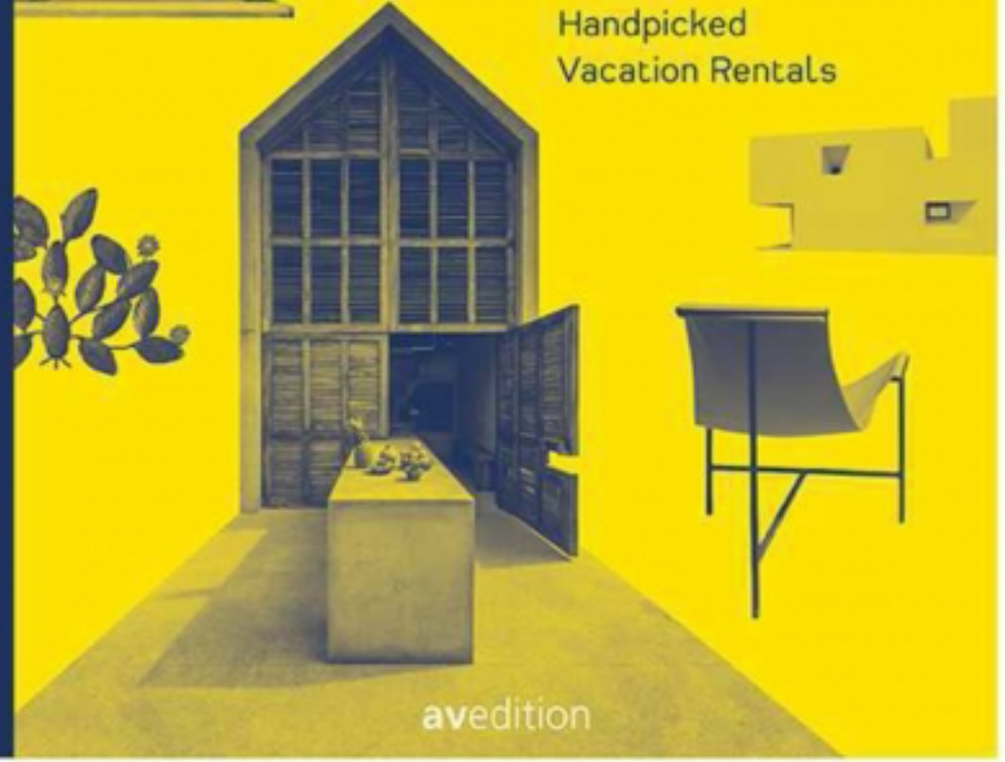

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UNPLUGGED IN NATURE

As a child, I loved fairy tales set in farmlands or bucolic villages. For me, there is magic and enchantment in the countryside, where the air is fresher, nature is all around, the old ways still hold, and modernity is on pause.

Living in Hong Kong, one of the mostly densely packed urban capitals in the world, I sometimes find myself overwhelmed, and sometimes exhausted by crowded public places, non-stop electronic communication and socializing. There is a spirit of vibrancy and urgency in cities—so much to see, so much to do, so many ways to spend your money, which though exciting at times, can take its toll, leaving me grouchy and drained.

Whenever I get the chance, I like to escape to the countryside. Pastoral environments seem to lower my stress levels, while increasing my energy, focus and creativity. When I return from a country getaway, my mind is clearer and I am better able to interact with challenging people, find solutions to previously unsolvable problems, and react more calmly to situations like jam-packed subways or long queues at the supermarket.

As a full-time journalist and copywriter, rural destinations help me unplug from work and turn to my own creative projects, like writing short fiction. Being in the country inspires me to look inward and make the space needed for the renewal of body, mind and soul.

Moving at a slower pace, I rediscover the things that make for a good, peaceful and beautiful life—long leisurely walks, landscapes from a Maxfield Parrish painting, dinners that last for more than an hour, the trill of birdsong at dawn, a warm fireplace in the evening, the smell of wildflowers or pine, the taste of freshly baked bread or vegetables from a nearby farm, spotting a hare or a fox in the field, gazing at stars.

I think time in the countryside is particularly important for artists, or anyone who wishes to bring passion into whatever they do. Country living, with its quietude, privacy and wide open green spaces, affords the artist—and shouldn't we all be allowed to be artists?—time to idle and daydream, processes which hectic city life has made almost impossible. This "downtime" I believe, is essential for gaining insight into how to best approach one's work, as it is often during such restful sojourns the muses are awakened.

— Michele Koh Morollo

Michele Koh Morollo is a Singaporean journalist living in Hong Kong. She writes about design and travel for publications like Dwell, Design Anthology and AFAR. She enjoys solo vacations, writing short fiction, yoga, meditation, staying at beautiful properties in peaceful, rural destinations, eating well, and nesting with a pile of good books.

photo by Andrew Morollo