

THE LAKE HOUSE

*Panoramic views of Lake Como and contemporary styling make
this restored Italian stone villa the perfect holiday retreat*

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The cerulean waters of Lake Como sparkle beneath this secluded rural villa, which is nestled in a rocky outcrop accessible only on foot. Its view of the historic village of Torno has remained unchanged for centuries. 'I had always dreamed of owning a place that was immersed in nature and the wildness of the landscape,' says homeowner Erika Trojer. By modernising the existing architecture, she has refreshed the property and turned it into the perfect holiday retreat. But as well as restoring the house, she has also expanded it – excavating the rocks beneath to build a basement, using local materials 'so as not to destroy the atmosphere of the old structure'.

As you enter the house, you move gradually from the original building to the new extension. The kitchen has thick stone walls and authentic timber beams, and the interior becomes more modern in the dining area. The new space has been designed to make the most of the beautiful views, with floor-to-ceiling glass doors that open out on to terraces facing the lake. Upstairs, the main bedroom is atmospheric and romantic. There are two more bedrooms on this floor, as well as one in the basement, which also has a sauna with stunning rock walls. 'We thought we would find earth beneath all the rock when we started excavating,' says Erika, 'but we just found more rock the deeper we went!'

On the terraces, Erika and her family can take it easy in the shade of the trees or stretch out in the Italian sun. 'I feel so relaxed when I get here – it's like taking off a coat of worries,' she says. *Villa Torno is available for holiday rentals, head to [airbnb.co.uk](https://www.airbnb.co.uk)*







OLD MEETS NEW IN THE KITCHEN,
WHICH HAS STAINLESS-STEEL UNITS
AND AUTHENTIC TIMBER BEAMS

