



# The Wittgenstein House

*Bernhard Leitner*

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## **The Wittgenstein House** Bernhard Leitner

In 1926 philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein designed and built a house in Vienna for his sister. The only building designed by Wittgenstein, it crystallized his philosophy of architecture—notable for its clarity, precision, and austerity—and served as a foil for his written work.?

This detailed investigation of the house is based on 30 years of extensive research. It examines the formal properties of the structure, including Wittgenstein's attention to proportion, detail, and color. It is also the story of one man's relationship to this extraordinary building: in 1971, author Bernhard Leitner was instrumental in saving the Wittgenstein House from destruction and having it declared a national landmark. In the years since, he has continuously refined his ideas about the house and its architect. The beautifully printed photographs in this volume allow a true appreciation of this icon of modern design. Also included are archival images showing the house as it was originally built, before numerous alterations.

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