

WHERE
BERLIN
GERMANY

WHO
ANNA, FLORIAN, LEO,
CARLO, ROSIE

WHAT
OPEN PLAN
APARTMENT

A calm family nest in the heart of bustling Berlin

German photographer Anna Cor, husband Florian, their three children, Leo (14), Carlo (12), and Rosie (7), and dog Mimi live in a beautiful 170 m² (1,830 ft²) apartment in the heart of Mitte, the lively creative neighborhood in central Berlin, Germany. The family moved here in 2008, jumping at the opportunity of a bigger space that could accommodate their growing numbers in a popular area close to their former flat where large apartments are scarce. Then in 2013, their dream scenario came true: as the people next door moved out, they were able to join the two residences, transforming the whole layout, knocking walls down, and creating a small yet clever open kitchen.

Located on the fourth floor, the apartment is now bright and spacious enough for each child to have their own room and Anna her own work space. Another modular and multipurpose room also acts as a passageway that can be closed off by a sliding door and a metal door. "Most of the space really is open plan as we have no hallway, which is very unusual in Germany," explains Anna.

"I love that because it reminds me of New York dwellings and a summer I spent there. There's this main kitchen-dining-lounge area where we hang out, enjoy quality time together, and receive our friends, so that's a perfect volume and yet each one of us has our own space that we can retreat to when in need of a moment of peace and quiet."

The interior design favors sober, subdued hues that create a calm and comfortable cocoon—living in an effervescent city like Berlin for more than 20 years has taught Anna that she needs a tranquil, clean space for her family to unwind in. The furniture is a mix of contemporary and vintage pieces made out of long-lasting, natural materials that will age over time. "People grow up and age and our home should be able to do so, too," she says. "The time we have spent here is visible: the floor is scratched, the marble tabletop is stained, and the ceramics are cracking—I really like that. I don't want to buy a new dining-room table every five years, I want one that has lived through hundreds of family dinners and inebriated evenings with friends."

