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JULY 2023

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WHAT'S UP

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COMMANDER

MARCI A. HOFFMAN, Lt Col, USAF

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

MANAGER EUROPE

JOHN RODRIGUEZ

PUBLISHING & MEDIA DESIGN,

DIRECTOR

MARIE WOODS

PUBLISHING & MEDIA DESIGN,

MANAGER

CARRIE FARRELL

WRITER-EDITORS

ERICA FOWLER, TAMALA MALERK,

KAT NICKOLA

GRAPHIC ARTISTS

AMANDA DEHART, RYAN JOYE

MARKETING COORDINATOR

AYLA ROBACK

MARKETING ASSISTANT

AL GREEN

MULTIMEDIA ADVERTISING,

MANAGER

DOUG DOUGHERTY

ADVERTISING SALES ASSISTANT

DANNY PADRO

MULTIMEDIA ADVERTISING,

CONSULTANTS

SEAN ADAMS, HEIDI BAYFIELD,

KANDACE BLEVIN, NATE JAMISON,

JEFF TEESELINK

COVER DESIGN BY

RYYAN JOYE

ADVERTISING OFFICE

Unit 29480, APO, AE 09211

Postfach 1980, 67607

Kaiserslautern, Germany

+49(0)631-3615-9000

or email: dougherty.doug@stripes.com

TO ADVERTISE CONTACT:



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July Events

By Tamala Malerk

EDITOR'S PICKS

Summer is here! Celebrate this sunny part of the year with festivals, concerts, cons, monster trucks and more. Always check the event's website before traveling.



Cologne Pride June 26-July 9, Cologne

Celebrate Pride with street festivals, cosplaying day, demonstrations and more. The celebration concludes with a three-day street festival between July 7 and 9. You can find more Pride events in Germany at misterbandb.com.



Wool Festival July 8 and 9, Kassel

Across 4,000 sq. meters, you will find 60 exhibitors presenting knitting accessories, wool and staple fibers. The spinners of "Whirring Wheels" will show off their craft on both days.



Africa Festival Stuttgart July 7-9, Stuttgart

Enjoy three days of children's programs, fairy tales, lectures, workshops, a fashion show, music, food, theater groups and shopping at the bazaar. Music from a variety of African nations will be represented at this event.



P!nk Live in Concert July 12 and 13, Hannover

P!nk has been rocking our world since 2001. Listen to her best hits like "Just Like Fire," "Get the Party Started," "Sober" and "Raise your Glass." More dates and locations can be found at pinkspage.com.

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Street Food & Beach Festival July 13-16, Dortmund

Enjoy four days of sand, sun and fun. There will be culinary treats and live music on Dortmund's Street Beach mile. Cool down under a palm tree and sip on a cocktail.



Board Game Con July 14, Berlin

Come play your favorite board game or learn a new one. This is a con for experienced gamers or those new to the game (pun intended). For more pop culture cons across Germany, check out Con Together: July on europe.stripes.com.



Spielbuden Festival July 21-23, Hamburg

The Corny Littmann Foundation presents the top artists of the street art scene. Following in the centuries-long tradition of street theater, Spielbuden brings that classic fair to the modern era.

©SPIELBUDENPLATZ BETREIBERGESELLSCHAFT MBH



Monster Jam July 22, Frankfurt

Finally returning to Frankfurt after its last show in 2019, make your way to the PitParty and pick your favorite one as these world-famous trucks and vehicles take to the pit. More dates and locations available at monsterjam.com.

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Tell Your Story!

Editor's Pick Call Out:

Did you attend one of our previous Editor's Picks events? We want to hear all about it! Please share something memorable about your experience in about 50-70 words and you could be featured here. Send your submissions to contentteam@stripes.com. ■

July 2023

MWR GO

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Wiesbaden Family
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Get outdoors with MWR during the summer months

Fishing Course

Outdoor Recreation holds a U.S. Forces German Fishing Course July 13-16. Learn what you need to successfully fish while in Germany. Register at the Outdoor Recreation Center on Clay North or call civ (0611) 143-548-9801.

German Classes

Army Community Service's Relocation Readiness Program offers free German Language Classes on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 6-7:30 p.m. Classes will run from July 11 to Aug. 29. Spaces are limited—call civ (0611) 143-548-9201 for registration information.

Book Reading and Launch

The Wiesbaden Library hosts author Kristal Lau who will read from her book, "Thirty Days to a Nurtured Fourth Trimester: A Balance of Traditional Chinese and Modern Postpartum Care" on July 16 from 1-3 p.m. Come to learn how to finish a manuscript as a busy military spouse and other publication tips.

Four-Person Scramble

Make your own four-person team for this scramble event at the Rheinblick Golf Course on July 22 at 9 a.m. Sign up at the Pro Shop or call civ (0611) 143-548-5485 for more information.

Spice Up Your Game

Get more comfortable with the game of golf through a series of beginner friendly lessons. Spice up your long game, chipping, pitching, bunker game and putting. Five sessions will be offered this season (Saturdays from 2-3:30 p.m.): Session 4 — July 1, 8, 15, 29; Session 5 — Aug. 12, 19, 26. Cost is \$25 per person for the 90-minute session. Call civ (0611) 143-548-5485 for more information.

Beach Body Boot Camp

Join the professionals at the Wiesbaden Sports and Fitness Center for a



Don't miss the fireworks on the Fourth at the German American Friendship Fest.

six-week-long Boot Camp that will take you from ground zero to hero. Classes meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-7:15 p.m. July 17 to Aug. 23. Cost is \$179. Sign up at the Fitness Center.

G-A Friendship Fest

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden invites everyone to enjoy the German-American Friendship Festival that continues through July 4. The event, featuring carnival rides, German and American fest food, live entertainment and fireworks on the Fourth, is being held on the Lower Hainerberg (former shopping center) parking lot with access for host nation visitors from the complex gate, located across from the Brita Arena.

Play in the Playground

The New Parent Support Program hosts Play in the Playground on July 12 and 26 at the Pluto Weg Playground in Crestview Housing from 10-11:30 a.m.

Foreign Born Spouses Meet

Get together with fellow spouses to share experiences, stories and good conversation during the monthly Treffpunkt: Foreign Born Spouse Meeting on July 12 at 11:30 a.m. The Treffpunkt: Foreign Born Spouses Meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the ACS Multipurpose Room.

Friday Night Scramble

Unwind after the work week with some friendly competition at the Rheinblick Golf Course. Make your own four-person team for this nine-hole scramble tournament. Upcoming scrambles will be held on July 14 and

28; Aug. 18; Sept. 1 and 15. Call civ (0611) 143-548-5485 for details.

Summer Reading Program

The Wiesbaden Library has extended its "Find Your Voice Summer Reading Program" through July 30. For details visit <https://wiesbaden.armymwr.com/calendar/event/find-your-voice-summer-reading-program/6026777/76990>.

Parts Ordering Class

The Automotive Skills Center offers a class in how to order parts in order to get the correct items the first time on July 19 at 6 p.m.. The class will include both local and stateside resources, online resources, properly identifying both U.S. and European vehicles and plenty of other tips. Learn how to order parts yourself and save money. Cost is \$15. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9817 to register.

Fly the friendly skies

Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation invites adrenaline junkies to take a tandem jump over the friendly skies of Bitburg on Aug. 26. The trip includes round-trip transportation to Bitburg and the tandem jump with a skydiving professional. Cost is \$349 per jump. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9801 for information.



PHOTO of the month

Vianden, Luxembourg has a rich and interesting history. During the Middle Ages, the area was as large as the modern Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. In the late 1800s, French poet Victor Hugo lived in town after his banishment from Belgium. Nowadays, it is a small border town of 2,000 people and has plenty for tourists to do, including visiting Vianden Castle and venturing down the main street.

Photo by Denise Tudor.

For a chance for your photo to be featured, email contentteam@stripes.com.



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A DAY IN

Mannheim

By Tamala Malerk

In April, we featured BUGA23, and since then we have learned that there is so much more to do in Mannheim. Located less than an hour from Kaiserslautern, Mannheim contains royal residences, museums, great eats and more for the entire family.



Learn Something: For curious visitors, Mannheim is filled with history and museums. It is the birthplace of the rocket plane, tractor and the first motor-car, according to www.globeguide.ca. At the Technoseum, you can learn about over 300 years of technical and social change. On Saturdays and Sundays, they demonstrate how coins used to be minted by hand. Until Nov. 12, you can check out their temporary exhibit "The History of Television and Radio." If that isn't enough for you, the Reiss-Engelhorn Museum Complex offers you four different museums to learn all there is to know including museums focused on world cultures, photography and art.



The tractor Lanz Bulldog D7511 (two-stroke, hot bulb engine), manufactured by Heinrich Lanz AG in Mannheim, 1935.

The Friedrichsplatz behind the water tower (Wasserturm) in the old town of Mannheim.



Find Something: If you want to enjoy the museum experience outdoors, check out the Open Urban Art Museum Mannheim. You can download a map from stadt-wand-kunst.de and take the entire family on an adventure of finding all the murals.

See Something: Did you know that Mannheim has one of the largest Baroque palaces in Europe? Schloss Mannheim was built with the intent of being second in size to Versailles and to demonstrate the political power of the Prince-Electors of the Pfalz. You can explore the palace and gardens. See treasures from centuries ago including royal crowns and tapestries and contemporary photography in the outdoor exhibit. There are guided tours offered in German and in English for those who call in advance. After



“
MANNHEIM IS FILLED WITH HISTORY AND MUSEUMS. IT IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE ROCKET PLANE, TRACTOR AND THE FIRST MOTORCAR.

you finish your day at the palace, you can take in a play, opera, musical performance, lecture or dance show at the National Theater Mannheim.

Do Something Outdoors: Take full advantage of the great outdoors this summer at the Käfertal Forest. Hike one of the eight circular trails or challenge yourself with the fitness trail. Play soccer on one of the soccer fields or play a round of golf on the miniature golf course. The kids can enjoy the large playground. Observe deer, wild boar and bison in the game enclosures. And, when you get hungry, there is a barbeque and two restaurants with beer gardens onsite.

Do Something Indoors: For those who think the outdoors aren't so great or for those that like to try new gaming experiences, the VR Lighthouse is for

you. This is something for those with older children: They have age-appropriate gaming experiences for people 10 and older. They have single and multi-player options (for up to six players). Experiences start at 15 euros per person for 30 minutes of gaming and they also have event and group rates on request.

Taste Something: Enjoy a beautiful summer night at the Roof Bar, where you can select from their extensive drinks list (including alcohol-free options) alongside a good meal. They even have live music some nights. For the beer lovers in the group, Taproom Jungbusch offers beer flights so you can taste a variety of craft beers.

No matter what you've got in mind, Mannheim has something for everyone in the family to enjoy. ■



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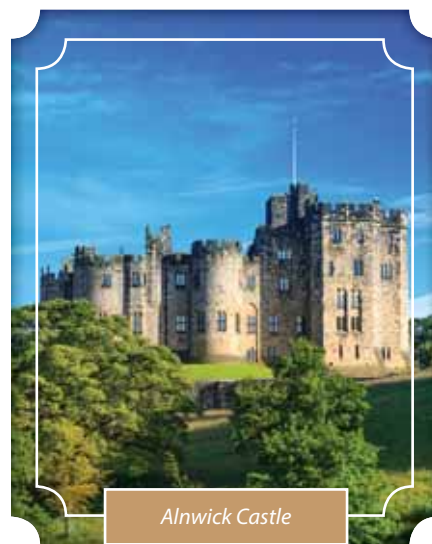
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U.K. CASTLES, CATHEDRALS & GARDENS TO GET LOST IN

By Erica Fowler

In need of some serenity and calm? A vast British garden may just do the trick. At any time of the year, they are lovingly tilled and trimmed, often alongside mammoth structures like castles and cathedrals with stories to tell. I'm a fan of travel escapism. When I come back to daily life, I am regenerated, inspired and life in the modern day is reframed because I took time to understand the past.

Historic gardens, in a particularly fun way, are alive, and yet undying because efforts are made to feature the original owner's favorites as they were centuries ago. When hand-drawn layouts no longer exist, archeologists heave away mounds of earth (using remote sensing equipment or actual shovels) to uncover where original decorative fixtures once stood at the pleasure of the noble residents. Something new is sometimes added to the original layout, like a revived kitchen garden to feed castle visitors with its fresh flavors.



Alnwick Castle

ALNWK CASTLE, NORTHUMBERLAND

The opulent interior of Alnwick was remodeled in the style of the Italian Renaissance, and the rooms are fully outfitted in Carrera marble, chandeliers and collections derived from the interests of previous residents. Ornate woodwork is also evidenced throughout because the Alnwick School of Carving was established by the fourth Duke to focus on the various projects each room called for. For all its majesty, it is not surprising that Alnwick Castle has most recently starred in the 2023 "Dungeons and Dragons" movie, and previously in the first two Harry Potter movies, "Transformers: The Last Knight," "Downton Abbey" and others. You may finish the tour of the castle thinking your eyes have been overindulged with gilded beauty, but you haven't seen the adjacent Alnwick Gardens yet!

ALNWK GARDEN

Capability Brown, a famous British garden architect, began massive work on the landscape for the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland in 1770, going to such lengths as to slow the nearby River Aln's flow by installing cascades so that the castle above could be mirrored on the calmer water. In the present day, the current Duchess led the impressive renovation of the gardens into a 12-acre community pleasure space in the late 1990s. Greeting you at the entrance is the Grand Cascade, a tiered fountain with a mesmerizing light show. Keep a lookout for the world's largest treehouse (with a restaurant inside), which is nestled in a wooded area. The Poison Garden is another unique area, which is home to a collection of toxic plants, such as opium poppies and rhododendrons. Many have cages over them to protect curious hands, and tours are given to explain their characteristics and how humans have used them over the centuries for both wicked and good endeavors. Used in the right amounts, a few of the plants have healing properties and are used in medicines!



The Grand Cascade, Alnwick Garden

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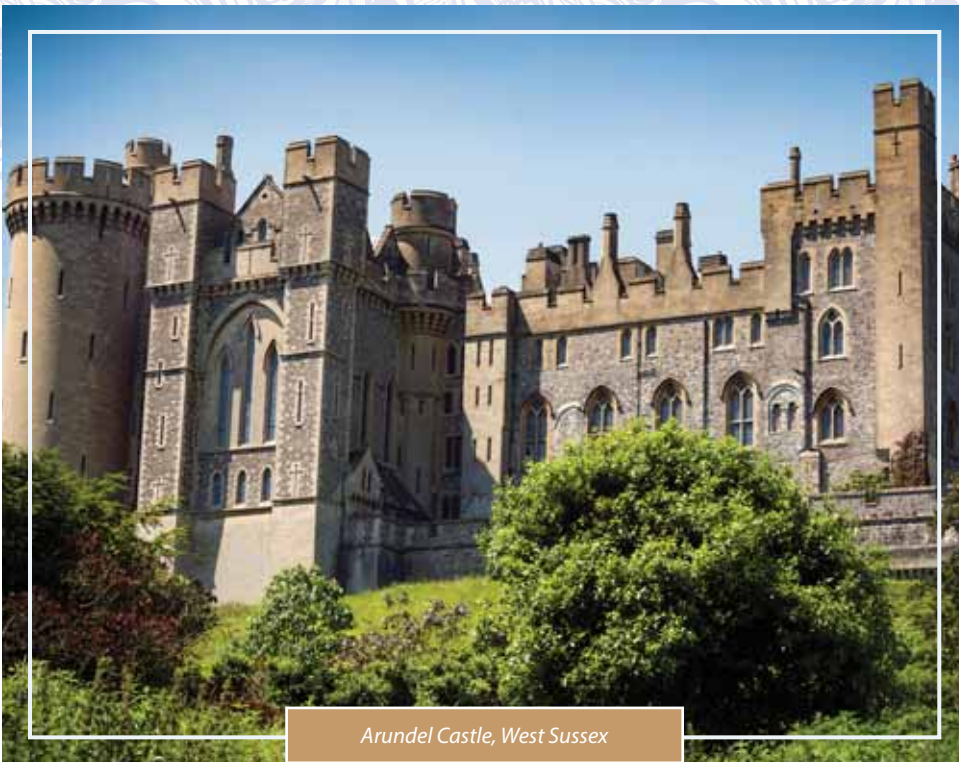
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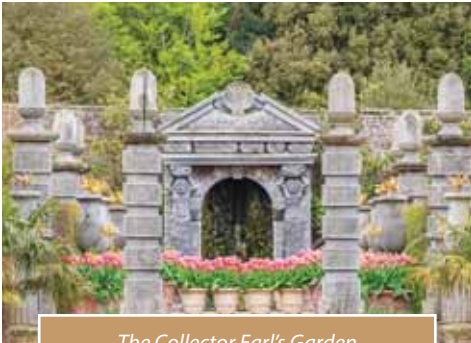


Arundel Castle, West Sussex

ARUNDEL CASTLE, WEST SUSSEX

Arundel Castle is a perfect example of the transformation of purpose that castles had over time. From the stark defensive needs of the 11th-century Normans to the majestic great hall and rich 19th-century library, there is so much to explore. At the highest point, the castle's original motte-and-bailey keep is centered within its expansive walls that cut into the surrounding woods. It is hard to believe that this castle sat in ruins after its third siege for 150 years before being renovated. It has such a diversity of environments that movies like 2017's "Wonder Woman" filmed scenes on location.

Plan to spend most of the day here if you want to get a full tour and stop for a bite afterward at the lakeside Swanbourne Lodge Tearoom a short distance away.



The Collector Earl's Garden

THE COLLECTOR EARL'S GARDEN

Originally part of the castle's kitchen garden, this new outdoor masterpiece was dedicated to the 14th Earl of Arundel in 2008, who loved to collect art. Visiting its pergola, fountains and tropical plants under the romantic shade of trees makes for a captivating stroll.

Did You Know?

Dukes of Norfolk (an English county) have actually been based in Sussex since the Tudor period. Marriage between the Earl of Arundel's daughter, Mary FitzAlan and Thomas Howard, the fourth Duke of Norfolk, determined that Arundel Castle should be the Norfolk county seat.



Octagonal Tower, Ely Cathedral

ELY CATHEDRAL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The original abbey in Ely was built in 672 C.E. by St. Etheldreda, who was an Anglo-Saxon queen and the Abbess of Ely. The designation for this site set a path for this city to remain the home of a magnificent place of worship, even after the first abbey was destroyed by Danish Viking invasions. Rebuilt in 1083, the cathedral has since been refinished many times, with the core remaining mightily Romanesque and later Gothic elements beautifying the vast space. One of the unique Gothic additions that visitors can marvel at today is the octagonal tower. It was created by complete accident when the previous tower collapsed. Such intentionally intricate work went into installing something so beautiful. You will be lost gazing for quite some time.



Ely Cathedral, Cambridgeshire

FELBRIGG HALL, NORFOLK

On the sprawling 500-acre Felbrigg estate, the magnificent gardens make a striking first impression, strewn with cherry blossom trees. Many trails, a lake and wildlife abound to observe in unobstructed nature. Closer to the hall, the high-walled and manicured gardens are lovingly cared for. In the winter, the staff curate much of the maintenance and new planting projects, and they uncommonly have the freedom to cultivate beyond the traditional arrangements. Plant lovers can be inspired with a stroll through it all, and then stop at the cafe, gift shop or secondhand bookshop to cool off.



Felbrigg Hall, Norfolk

YORK MINSTER, YORKSHIRE

When it's the largest Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe, it's bound to be a stop while venturing around. The current building began construction in 1080. Since then, it has undergone centuries straight of expansions. The famous Rose Window in the south transept tells the story of union after the Wars of the Roses. It showcases a pattern of red Lancastrian roses and white York roses united to form the Tudor rose.

The undercroft, or the chambers below the main floor of York Minster, is actually a museum with archeological finds on display. This includes the 1960s discovery of the remains of a Roman barracks and Norman-era church foundation, which you can observe as you float over it on the transparent floor. ■



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The National Trust provides stewardship for many of these properties. If you are in the U.K. for a while and you love frequenting historical sites, it may be worth exploring a paid membership for free entry and parking. Visit [nationaltrust.org.uk](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk) for more details.



Rose Window, York Minster

Why is it “York Minster”?

The honorific “minster” refers to a church's origin in Anglo-Saxon times and the role religious institutions played in ministering to the population.



York Minster, Yorkshire



Volunteering

WITH THE RHEINLAND-PFALZ

Quilt Guild

By Tamala Malerk



Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The Guild supplies volunteers with quilt kits, allowing them to hone their quilting skills while providing a service for their local area.

When asked about the most fulfilling aspects of volunteering, she stated, "Of course, helping the babies. Those projects give me the opportunity to work on my skills, work on my hobby as well as give back to the community."

When asked about dealing with a PCS'ing volunteer base, she noted that "the last year and a half was really hard. I think we lost 30 or so members, and we really haven't gained very many back... maybe like five."

If you want to help boost those numbers in the Guild, Lindsey believes there is a lot that volunteers can get from joining. She thinks volunteers will appreciate "just giving back to the community, feeling a sense of accomplishing something and being able to give it [the quilt] to the NICU." She also believes that volunteering is fun. "You get to try new techniques. You get to work on your hobby... Volunteering in the form of doing your hobby, I don't know what more you would want."

Those who want to volunteer must join the Guild. There is a small annual membership fee of \$30. Membership in the Guild includes participation in events, meetings and free quilting kits to participate in the "Baby Love" program. Apart from the weekly "Stitch and Gab," the Guild meets every third Thursday of the month at the Ramstein Air Base North Chapel Annex beginning at 5:30 p.m. This is a great event to attend to learn more about what the Guild is and what they do. Anyone 12 and older can join the Guild. Those interested in joining can go to one of the monthly Thursday meetings or can email Lindsey and the other Guild board members at inforqq@gmail.com. ■

This month we are featuring the Rheinland-Pfalz Quilt Guild. I had the pleasure of speaking with the current Vice President of the Guild, and upcoming Fall 2023 President, Lindsey Grullen. She has been a member of the Guild since 2020.

According to Lindsey, "The Rheinland-Pfalz Quilt Guild is a group of quilters, sewers, needle artists and crafters that just get together and enjoy the hobby." Whether you are a sewing/crafting expert, or you've never picked up a crochet needle in your life, you can join the Guild. The Guild meets every Friday for "Stitch and Gab" on Kapaun Air Station's Chapel Annex in Kaiserslautern, where they share techniques and new skills with each other. The Guild also hosts events and classes. Lindsey even gave me a quick lesson on "free motion" quilting versus "patchwork" quilting.

While the Guild has several opportunities for people to volunteer, their biggest and most impactful opportunity is their "Baby Love" program which provides handmade quilts to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's Neonatal

Volunteering

can be such a fulfilling activity. This year, we are highlighting a new organization or event for those who are looking to learn more about the services and resources available to them as well as for those who are looking to give back to the community.

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Windows into

EUROPEAN CULTURE

by Kat Nickola

While wandering the streets of Europe you will notice that many homes do not have front yards. Whether in a small village or a large city, buildings are often constructed right next to the sidewalk. There are many reasons for this, but essentially it comes down to economics and history. Most European villages are very old and as they grew it was cheaper to construct buildings attached to each other, eventually cart tracks through farms expanded into roads through towns. The trend has continued in modern times even as buildings are reconstructed. Connecting to utility lines, which often run under the road, is cheaper near the street, and eliminating front yards allows for larger, private back gardens.

This style of housing means that front windows are often quite close to pedestrians on the sidewalk, and at eye level. The way different places treat their front windows is an interesting glimpse into the culture of the area.

Invitations

Walk the streets of Leiden, Rotterdam or Amsterdam and you will be hard-pressed to avoid peering into private spaces. Windows in The Netherlands are known for their lack of curtains. It is quite common in Dutch culture to make thoughtfully simple, artistically designed displays in windows to draw the eye. You may see a symmetrically arranged pair of vases, a series of perfectly spaced dog statues, or three uniformly growing plants. They practically invite you to admire the home.

Where this tradition originates is up for debate. Perhaps using curtains blocks the homeowner from keeping tabs on the street outside. This may be an old custom brought about by the Calvinist view that an honest citizen had nothing to hide. Maybe it's simply pride and aesthetics. Regardless of the origin, artistic curtain-less Dutch windows seem to say, "here we are, come and see," like an invitation to peek inside the open and straightforward nature intrinsic to Dutch culture.

Boundaries

Beautiful exterior floral displays are common throughout Europe in the sunny months. Austria is renowned for the multicolored flower boxes overflowing with geraniums, petunias and ivy on balconies and windows. In Germany, window boxes change with the seasons: Bright red trailing geraniums are very popular in summer. In winter, flowers are exchanged for heathers and evergreen boughs, while spring boxes have tidy daffodils, pansies and grape hyacinths.

In many ways these flowers set a boundary. They are for passersby to see, but they also demarcate the public and private spaces of the home. In contrast to the Dutch invitation to peek inside a window, extravagant flower boxes keep prying eyes outside the home. In addition, the neatness and uniformity of the plants gives us a peep into the structured nature of German culture with everything in its assigned place.

This same boundary-setting can be seen in French window décor where visions of Paris display the iconic use of decorative black iron bars and railings. Popular French windows, which extend to the floor and open like a pair of doors, were first used in grandiose baroque buildings of the 17th century. French culture is not one to shy away from creating art out of the mundane, and so we get to see the practical boundaries to private spaces presented as the most beautiful railings in Europe.

Practicalities

As the inverse to French extravagancies, Scandinavian windows are often used for their obviously utilitarian purpose to allow light and fresh air to enter the home. The well-known minimalist style of Scandinavian design is expressed with simple boxes of succulents and herbs being popular windowsill décor. The mindset here is that windows are for plants because that is (obviously) where the sun comes in. For this reason, curtains are also obsolete in Norway and Sweden. Unlike their Dutch neighbors to the south, however, lack of curtains is not an invitation to look in – how rude! – but simply a good usage of natural light.

In another contrast, windows of Mediterranean countries will completely shutter their windows during the afternoon with wooden or rolling blinds. In Spain, specifically, you wouldn't be amiss to wonder if the small town you've entered at lunchtime is completely derelict, but they are simply closed to keep the afternoon heat outside. In addition to the practical aspects, Spanish window shuttering traditions may have originated with Arabic influences on privacy and homelife during Spain's tenure as Al-Andalus. If you return to that small town after dark, all the windows will be open and people will be out enjoying the cool night air. ■

Ever wonder what it's like on the other side of the window?

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