

A portrait of a middle-aged man with a beard and short hair, smiling warmly. He is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and has his arms crossed. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with greenery and a bright sky.

ŽIVIMO NA ENEM OD NAJBOLJ POPOLNIH KOŠČKOV SVETA

Odločen, jasen, na trenutke hudomušen, a hkrati dostopen in z energijo, ki izžareva strast do pisane besede in komunikacije. Dušan Waldhütter.

pogovarjala se je/ interview by: Liljana Vogrinec/ foto/ photo: osebni arhiv

Skoraj petnajst let je kot odgovorni urednik revije Večerove revije NAŠ DOM in Kvadrator, tedenske priloge časnika Večer, skrbel za to, da sta bili ediciji uvrščeni med najbolj brane tiskane izdaje na slovenskem trgu.

Ne samo, da so Kvadrati bili najbolj dobičkonosna priloga Večera v več kot 70-letni zgodovini tega časopisnega podjetja, bil je idejni vodja zasnove te priloge.

PRED POL LETA STE UREDNIŠKO TAKTIRKO PREDALI NAPREJ. KAKŠNI SO OBČUTKI OB POGLEDU NAZAJ?

»Navdajajo me z izjemnim zadovoljstvom, predvsem zato, ker čutim, da sem s svojim delom pustil sled. Na začetku sem se želel dokazati, sebi, tistim, ki so mi zaupali funkcijo, in sodelavcem. Ko je to minilo, ko mi to ni bilo več treba, sem začel v svoje delo vlagati sam sebe, predvsem zato, ker sem v tem videl višje cilje. Ne nazadnje sem to počel tudi zaradi ekipe; imel sem namreč srečo, da sem imel vrhunski tim. Potem pa je tu še eno zadovoljstvo, ki ima precej globlje ozadje. Na Naš dom so bili naročeni že moji starši, ko sem bil še otrok. Še danes vem, v katerem regalu starega stanovanja v bloku na Dvorakovi ulici v Mariboru, smo imeli hranjene te revije. Tudi zato sem jemal urednikovanje te revije, ki šteje že več kot pol stoletja, kot poslanstvo. In to poslanstvo je tudi mene vsa leta bogatilo.«

OD PRVIH DNI UREDNIKOVANJA PA DO DANES JE REVIJALNI TISK DOŽIVEL KAR NEKAJ TRANSFORMACIJ. KAKO DOJEMATE TE PREOBRAZBE?

»Tisk je šel skozi izjemno transakcijsko obdobje, ki ga seveda še ni konec. Ko sem začel svojo novinarsko in uredniško pot, si najbrž nihče ni mislil, kako zelo se

bo spremenila branža tiskanih medijev. Prvo prelomnico je prinesla naraščajoča popularnost rumenih časopisov, ki je dala jasno sporočilo, česa si Slovenci kot narod očitno najbolj želimo, ko gre za tiskane medije. To je bil seveda šok za marsikoga, po svoje tudi zame. Nato so se začeli odstotki oglaševalskega denarja iz tiska intenzivno seliti na televizijo. Po razmerju, ki smo ga imeli, smo bili tipična država tretjega sveta. Samo tam je še tako velik kos oglaševalskega denarja v primerjavi s tiskom pobrala televizija. In potem je dejstvo, da Slovenci spadamo med narode, ki že tako ne berejo veliko, še poslabšalo izjemen razvoj elektronskih medijev. Ti so medijsko sceno spremenili za vedno. Nikoli več ne bo niti blizu tega, kar je bilo še pred dvema desetletjema videti večno. Nič na svetu ni tako téčno, da bi bilo večno.«

MAJA 2019 STE PODPISALI ZALOŽNIŠKO POGODBO S KANADSKO ZALOŽBO THE RAYMOND AARON GROUP ZA KNJIGO THE BUSINESS OF STORYTELLING – FINDING YOUR STORY TO OPEN HEARTS AND WALLETS (DONOSNO ZGODBARJENJE – POIŠČITE SVOJO ZGODBO, KI BO SEGLA DO SRC IN DENARNIC). KNJIGA JE V ANGLEŠKEM JEZIKU PRAVKAR IZŠLA, SLOVENSKA IZDAJA JE NA POTI. KAJ VAS JE NAVDIHNILO ZA KREIRANJE LASTNE KNJIGE?

»V minulih dvajsetih letih sem imel možnost ustvarjati na zelo različnih področjih, denimo na glasbenem področju

Kako v poslu uporabiti zgodbe, da dosežete hitreje in z manj truda svoje cilje, je rdeča nit njegove knjige z naslovom Donosno zgodbarjenje.





– s Frajkinclarji smo izdali štiri albume, za katere sem napisal večino besedil. S KUD Študent sem pred tem obhodil kar nekaj celin, več kot tri desetletja sem ustvarjal na folklornem področju in vse to pravzaprav počnem še danes. Če povzamem – življenje me je obdarilo z veliko priložnostmi, da sem zraven, ko se pišejo uspešne zgodbe. Od tod je prišlo znanje zgodbarjenja. To, da lahko načrtna uporaba zgodb pripomore v poslu, pa sem se najbolj naučil pri delu v medijih. Zgodbe imajo že od nekdaj moč, da spreminjajo svetove. Danes ni nič drugače, besede so mogočno orodje, s katerim lahko silovito gradite ali mahoma rušite.«

VSI USTVARJALCI SE SREČUJEJO Z BLOKADO IN POMANJKANJEM INSPIRACIJE. SE VAM JE KDAJ TO ZGODILO IN KAKO UKREPATE OB TAKŠNIH TRENUTKIH?

»Načeloma ne doživljam tega. So le dobri in manj dobri dnevi za pisanje. Včasih gre pisanje bolj težko, človek nima prave inspiracije, gre sicer, a ne steče. Potem je bolje pustiti in se lotiti česa drugega. Človek mora biti zares pri stvari, sicer je vse skupaj bolj jalovo. Ker sem vedno ustvarjal za druge – ker je novinarstvo in urednikovanje pač nekaj, kar je namenjeno drugim – lahko rezultate tvojega dela seveda spremljajo vsi. Že zato se moraš potruditi. To je drobna radost in včasih prekletstvo tega poklica.«

»Najboljša hišna oprema je knjiga, ki mora biti tudi na otip kot knjiga, z listi in platnicami iz papirja in kartona, in mora dišati po tisku.«

STE POROČEN, OČE
ŠTUDENTKE IN
SREDNJEŠOLCA, PRI VAS
DOMA PA VAM DNEVE LEPSATA
MEHKODLAKI PŠENIČNI
TERIER IN MAČEK. KAKO BI
OPISALI VAŠE DRUŽINSKO
ŽIVLJENJE?

»Mislim, da sem blizu idile, ki se skrivata za besedama dom in družina, no, vsaj v slovenskem okolju. Imamo vse pomembno; imamo se radi, smo zdravi, ustvarjalni, povezani in precej zadovoljni s tem, kar imamo. Lahko si privoščimo hobije in imamo ravno prav denarja, da ga nikoli ni in ga ne bo dovolj za vse cilje. Imam krasne otroke in zakon, do katerega mi je gotovo pomagala višja sila. Ne glede na to, kako dobro nam gre, pa smo lahko zmeraj še malo bližje idili, a si tega po svoje niti ne želim. Star pregovor namreč pravi, da ko citre najlepše igrajo, počí struna. Zelo sem zadovoljen s tem, kar mi je dano in da so nekateri cilji nedoseženi.«

NEKATERI SVOJ DOM
DOŽIVLJAJO KOT OAZO
MIRU, DRUGI KOT SREDIŠČE
DRUŽABNEGA ŽIVLJENJA,
MORDA KDO KOT PROSTOR,
KJER LE PRESPI, ŽIVLJENJE PA
SE MU DOGAJA DRUGJE – NA
POTOVANJIH, V DRUŽBI. SE
NAJDETE V KATEREM OD TEH
OPISOV?

»Ko sva z ženo pred dvema desetletjema ustvarjala družino, nama je beseda dom zagotovo pomenila nekaj drugega kot danes, ko oba otoka že sama vozita in ti odleže vsakič, ko slišiš, da je avto varno parkiran v garaži. Ta družinski mikrokozmos se je spremenil in nadgradil, a še vedno stoji na istih vrednotah. Ko leta tečejo, se spreminja tudi naše doživetje življenja in tega, kaj nam pomeni dom. Ko se bližam petdesetim, si vedno bolj želim, da bi se najbolj prvinske stvari čim manj spreminjale. Hkrati pa se seveda zavedam, da sem v obdobju, ko se stvari spreminjajo najhitreje. Deset let sem

po malem špekuliral, da bi otroci nekoč morda delali v tujini, kjer bo njihovo delo v denarju bolje nagrajeno, danes pa si sploh ne želim, da kdo kam odide. Ker res ni vse v denarju in dejansko živimo na enem izmed najbolj popolnih koščkov sveta, čeprav imamo sami veliko težavo to videti in prepoznati. Ni idealno, je pa veliko bolje kot tam, kjer se nam od daleč morda zdi idila. Moj dom so tudi moje štiri stene, ampak tudi drugih sten se bi lahko navadil. Najbolj pomembni in najbolj dragoceni so ljudje, ki so med temi stenami.«

STE ZAGOVORNIK REDA,
DISCIPLINE PRI VAS DOMA, V
ŽIVLJENJU NA SPLOŠNO?

Raven redoljubja pri moji ženi in meni je k sreči približno enaka – to se mi zdi srečno naključje, ki pa je precej pomembno. Če ima en visoko, drugi pa nizko, je to lahko v zakonu kar problem. Pri nama je verjetno kar visoka, se mi zdi. Vsaj ko gre za pospravljanje. Ko gre za disciplino, mi je toplo pri srcu, ker lahko ugotovim, da nismo pri vzgoji

otrok naredili nobene večje napake. Ko pogledam nazaj, ne bi spremenil ničesar in to se mi zdi blagoslov. Da imam vseeno težave z uvajanjem discipline, pa je dokazala trenerka psov, ki nas je nedavno obiskala. Naš terier Oskar in naš mačkonar Maks sta carja, zlasti prvi zna prefinjeno terorizirati celo družino. In začelo se je menda tako, da je kosmatince nekdo hranil kar od naše mize, je rekla trenerka. In ker so se vsi pogledi od trenerke takrat obrnili proti meni ..., pustimo raje to temo za kdaj prihodnjč.«

SE VAM MISLI BISTRIFO
ZJUTRAJ, KO VSTANETE, ALI SO
VAM ZA RAZMISLEKE LJUBŠI
VEČERI?

»Imam srečo, da sem tako jutranji kot večerni tip. Lahko delam pozno v noč, česar sicer ne počnem rad, ker vem, da ni zdravo izpuščati spanca pred polnočjo, lahko pa tudi zelo zgodaj vstanem in sedem za tipkovnico. Tako v prvem kot drugem primeru se mi misli bistrijo ob turški kavi.«



»Ko leta tečejo, se spreminja tudi naše doživetje življenja in tega, kaj nam pomeni dom. Ko se bližam petdesetim, si vedno bolj želim, da bi se najbolj prvinske stvari čim manj spreminjale.«

KJE NAJDETE SVOJ MIR? IMATE KAKŠEN RITUAL, NAČIN ZA SPROSTITEV? JE V VAŠEM DOMU KAKŠEN POSVEČEN PROSTOR, KJER DNEVI DOBIJO SVOJ EPILOG?

»Moje svetišče je moja pisarna. Ko moram ustvarjati, se zaprem vanjo in pustim mislim in prstom prosti tok. Tu je vse tako, da ustreza meni, tu so stvari, ki me navdihujejo. Nekatere so povezane z družino, druge z glasbo, pa folkloro, lovstvom in strelstvom. Ne morem pisati in razmišljati med kupi navlake. Potrebujem red in okoli mene je lahko le tisto, kar potrebujem, da opravim nalogo, ki sem si jo zastavil. Če že, potem je to delovni nered, vezan na konkretni projekt. V pisarni imam od nekaj tudi slike svojega očeta, slikarja Ivana Waldhütterja. Na vseh so motivi iz narave, saj mi narava ponuja neizčrpen navdih ne glede na to, kaj ustvarjam.«

PRED DESETLETJEM STE NA PODEŽELJU KUPILI STARO ZAPUŠČENO KMETIJO IN NA NJEJ POSTAVILI NOVO HIŠO, KAMOR STE SE Z DRUŽINO VSELILI NEKAJ LET POZNEJE. KOLIKO JE NA UREDITEV DOMA VPLIVALO DEJSTVO, DA STE BILI UREDNIK REVIIJE, KI JE GOVORILA PRAV O TEM – O UREDITVI, GRADNJI, OBNOVI DOMA?

»Delno je vsekakor vplivalo. Ampak, gradili smo pravzaprav, preden sem dodobra spoznal to področje. Zato pa sem v letih, ki so sledila, zlahka prepoznal nekatere napake – ko je bilo že prepozno, seveda. Tako je, če govorimo o Kvadratih, ki so gradbena priloga. Če pa pogledamo Naš dom, katerega tema je od nekaj kakovost bivanja, potem pa ni za nič prepozno. Na kakovost bivanja lahko vedno vplivaš in to na več načinov, ne glede na to, iz česa so zidovi tvoje hiše in kaj je energent, ki ga uporabljaš. Zanimivo mi je bilo, da so me ves čas mojega urednikovanja znanci prosili, da jim



predlagam mojstre za različna dela. Vse po vrsti sem glede tega najbrž razočaral. Med urednikovanjem take revije in poznavanjem praktične vrednosti konkretnih mojstrov ni skoraj nobene povezave. Poleg tega pa tudi vem, da če je bil nekdo dovolj dober za neko delo pri nas doma, še niti slučajno ni nujno, da bodo z njim zadovoljni tudi drugi. Vsake oči imajo svojega malarja.«

KOLIKO STE PRI GRADNJI HIŠE UPOŠTEVALI ENERGETSKE SMERNICE ZA VARČNOST GRADNJE IN BIVANJA?

»Upoštevali smo jih po najboljših možnostih, tako glede znanja kot denarja. Žal se je to v dveh desetletjih zelo spremenilo. Naša hiša je bila za takratne razmere zelo dobra. A, čeprav ni stara, danes delajo neprimerno boljše. Nič ne moreš glede tega. Morda pa bo čez leta v njej ostal kateri od otrok, z ženo pa se bova preselila v kaj manjšega. Pa jo bo takrat dodobra prenovil.«

“Narava mi ponuja neizčrpen navdih, ne glede na to, kaj ustvarjam. Ko pišem, je navdih stvar trenutka. Tudi tišina poraja vsebine.”



MENITE, DA JE SMISEL ZA UREDITEV DOMA PRIROJENA DANOST ALI SE JE LAHKO PRIUČIMO?

»Lahko se priučimo skoraj vsega. Opažam pa, da imajo številni s tem težave, predvsem zato, ker: ali si tega ne želijo, ali jim je vseeno, ali pa sami sebe prepričajo, da niso za takšne stvari in potem je seveda res tako. Mislim, da lahko vsak ogromno naredi za to, da biva na lepšem, če seveda jemljemo, da je lepo tisto, kar je estetsko. A so pa tudi najbolj estetske rešitve stvar okusa. Za nekatere so estetska Pirnarjeva vrata, za druge pa pelargonije na oknih. In oboji imajo lahko prav, ali pa tudi ne.

Dejstvo je, da vsaka lepa hiša še ni tempelj. Še kaj drugega je treba, če želimo živeti v bolj zdravem in bolj ustvarjalnem in bolj srečnem okolju.«

KOGA OD ZNANIH POSAMEZNIKOV BI POVABILI K SEBI DOMOV NA KOSILO?

»Za domačo mizo najraje vidim samo družinske prijatelje. Za druge imamo na Štajerskem zelo dobre restavracije.«

KNJIŽNA POLICA ALI BOLJE REČENO - KNJIŽNICA ZASEDA POMEMBEN PROSTOR V VAŠEM DOMU. KATERE KNJIGE SO VAS OBELEŽILE, KAKO, KDAJ, ZARADI ČESA?

»Moja žena je po izobrazbi sicer univerzitetna diplomirana inženirka kemijske tehnologije, je pa tudi učiteljica in knjižničarka. Ker dejansko ne mine dan, da ne bi brala kakšne knjige, skorajda živimo v slogu: najboljša hišna oprema je knjiga. Morda zato, ker je kemičarka, zna na njih pogledati tudi čisto materialno: knjiga mora biti tudi na otip kot knjiga, z listi in platnicami iz papirja in kartona, in mora dišati po knjigi. Vem, da ni edina, ki tako misli in zato elektronske knjige najbrž nikdar ne bodo v celoti izrinile običajnih knjig. Če pa bodo, bomo vsi na izgubi.

Meni so ljubezen do knjig privzgojili starši. Z bratom sva za darilo v mladosti velikokrat dobila kakšno dobro knjigo, z lepim posvetilom, seveda. Zdaj prihajam v leta, ko vedno bolj cenim te zapisane vrstice. Sicer pa nimam nobene knjige, ki bi me življenjsko zaznamovala. V mladih letih sem zelo užival ob potopisih, nato zlasti ob poletnih večerih ob kriminalkah. Danes berem skoraj izključno izobraževalno in strokovno literaturo, a po tihem čakam, da se vrnejo časi z več miru ob večerih in manj poslovnih izzivov. Vem, da se bodo.«

ŠTEVILNI IMAJO TELEVIZOR DOMA PRIŽGAN VES ČAS KOT ZVOČNO KULISO. KAKO JE PRI VAS?

»Včasih je res tako, celo psu pustimo včasih prižgano televizijo, ko gremo od doma, da mu ostane prijeten ambient.

So pa trenutki, ko zelo cenimo mir. Ko pišem in ustvarjam, je navdih stvar trenutka, zato je enako z zvočno kuliso. Nekdaj sem pisal ob izključno country popu, nato le ob klasikah, predvsem Straussu, zadnje čase mi za delo popolnoma ustrezata smooth jazz in deep house. Ko moram nečemu dati piko na i, pa zmeraj potrebujem tišino, da lahko slišim svoje misli. Tišina mi pove tisto, kar mi v danem trenutku najbolj koristi.«


KAJ VAS POGANJA NAPREJ, NAVDIHUJE V ŽIVLJENJU?

»Moja motivacija so družina, glasba, prijatelji. V tem iščem smisel. Seveda so delovni uspehi super in zelo nujni in dejansko gre največ časa prav zanje. Vendar pa zares vredne stvari ne izhajajo iz tega. Še nihče ni na smrtni postelji izjavil, da mu je žal, ker ni več časa v življenju prebil v službi. V trenutkih, ko se bom poslavljaj od tega sveta, če bom imel to možnost, okoli mene zagotovo ne bo nekdanih direktorjev in poslovnih partnerjev. Želim si bližine mojih domačih. Vsem drugim bo že naslednji dan, ko me ne bo, življenje teklo naprej popolnoma enako. Rad bi pustil lepo sled pri vseh, ampak zares bo štela samo pri nekaterih.«

ČE BI BILO NEBO MEJA, DO KOD BI POLETELI?

»Zadnje čase sem v bistvu raje bolj pri tleh. Tu in tam skočim s padalom, da preverim, kaj zmorem in če si še upam in da požnem adrenalin po žilah – dejansko in v prenesenem pomenu. Sicer pa začnjam vedno bolj ceniti drobne stvari in drobne užitke. Iz njih je sestavljeno skoraj vso naše trajno zadovoljstvo.«

ŽIVLJENJA SI NE PREDSTAVLJATE BREZ:

»Prijazne besede. Ni se ti treba ravno ukvarjati s kulturo, da bi bil kulturn. 'Prosim' in 'hvala' in nasmeh na obrazu delajo čudeže in ustvarjajo najboljše zgodbe.« 

WE LIVE IN ONE OF THE PERFECT PLACES IN THE WORLD

Determined, objective, at times witty, yet approachable and full of energy that radiates a passion for written word and communication.
Dušan Waldhütter.

For almost fifteen years, as editor-in-chief of the magazine NAŠ DOM (bi-monthly magazine of Večer publishing house, op.a.) and Kvadrati (weekly supplements of Večer newspaper, op.a.) he took care that both of them became the most read editions on Slovenian market. In addition to that, Kvadrati became the most successful supplements to Večer newspaper in the history of this more than 70 years old newspaper company, and he was the conceptual leader behind the design of this supplement.

HALF A YEAR AGO, YOU HANDED OVER YOUR EDITORIAL BATON. HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN YOU LOOK BACK?

"The years give me great pleasure, especially because I feel that I have left a mark with my work. In the beginning, I wanted to prove to myself, to those who entrusted me with this function, and my colleagues. When that passed, when I no longer needed to do that, I started investing in my work mainly because I saw higher goals in it. Last but not least, I did it because of the team; I'm lucky to have a top-notch team. Then there is another pleasurable reason that has a much deeper background. My parents were subscribers to Naš dom magazine even when I was a kid. I still to this day remember on which shelf of an old apartment block on Dvorak Street in Maribor we kept these magazines. That is also why I took the editorship of this magazine, which is over half a century old, as my mission. And this mission has enriched all my years."

FROM THE EARLY DAYS OF EDITING TO THE PRESENT DAY, THE MAGAZINE PRESS HAS UNDERGONE SEVERAL TRANSFORMATIONS. HOW DO YOU PERCEIVE THESE TRANSFORMATIONS?

"The press has gone through a remarkable transition period, which of course is not over yet. When I started my journalistic and editorial career, probably no one thought how much the printed media industry

would change. The first turning point was the growing popularity of the yellow press, which gave a clear message of what Slovenes as a nation wanted most when it comes to printed media. Of course, this was a shock to many, even to me. Then the percentages of advertising money from the press began to migrate to television intensively. According to the relationship we had, we were a typical Third World country. Only in those countries, such a large chunk of advertising money was picked up by the television. And then the fact that Slovenes are among the nations that are not reading much was exacerbated by the remarkable development of electronic media. The latter changed media scene forever. It will never again be close to what looked like forever, two decades ago. There is nothing in the world so eternal to last forever."

IN MAY 2019, YOU SIGNED A PUBLISHING DEAL WITH CANADIAN PUBLISHER THE RAYMOND AARON GROUP FOR THE BOOK THE BUSINESS OF STORYTELLING – FINDING YOUR STORY TO OPEN HEARTS AND WALLETS – (DONOSNO ZGODBARJENJE – POIŠČITE SVOJO ZGODBO, KI BO SEGLA DO SRC IN DENARNIC). THE BOOK WAS JUST PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH, AND THE SLOVENIAN EDITION IS ON THE WAY. WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CREATE YOUR BOOK?

"In the last twenty years, I have had the opportunity to create in many different fields, such as the music field – we have released four albums with Frajkinclari, for which I wrote most of the lyrics. I have toured quite a few continents with KUD Študent, I have been working in the folklore field for more than three decades, and I am still doing it today. In summary, – life had endowed me with many opportunities to be present when quite a few success stories took place. From there came the knowledge of storytelling. However, I learned the most from the planned use of stories in business when working in the media business. Stories

have always had the power to change worlds. Today is no different; words are a powerful tool with which you can forcefully build or tear down anything."

ALL CREATORS SOMETIMES FACE BLOCKADE AND LACK OF INSPIRATION. HAS THIS EVER HAPPENED TO YOU, AND HOW DO YOU ACT AT SUCH TIMES?

"In principle, I do not experience this. There are just good and less good days to write. Sometimes writing is more difficult; one does not have the right inspiration; then it's better to let go and start something else. One has to concentrate on the things; otherwise, everything is futile. Since I have always created for others – as journalism and editing are something intended for others – the results of my work can, of course, be monitored by everyone. That's why you have to do your best. It's a tiny joy and sometimes a curse in this profession."

YOU ARE MARRIED, THE FATHER OF A COLLEGE STUDENT AND A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, AND AT HOME, A SOFT-COATED WHEATEN TERRIER AND A CAT BRIGHTEN YOUR DAYS. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR FAMILY LIFE?

"I think I'm close to the idyll, hiding behind the words home and family, well, at least in the Slovenian environment. We have everything important; we love each other, we are healthy, creative, connected and quite content with what we have. We can afford hobbies, and we have just the right amount of money never to have left-overs and never enough for all the goals. No matter how well we are doing, we could still get a little closer to the idyll, but I do not want to do it myself. The old saying goes that when the zither plays the most beautifully, the string breaks. I am very pleased with what I have been given and that some goals have not been achieved."

SOME PERCEIVE THEIR HOME AS AN OASIS OF PEACE, OTHERS AS THE CENTRE OF SOCIAL LIFE, PERHAPS SOMEONE AS A PLACE TO SLEEP, AND LIVING HAPPENS ELSEWHERE – ON TRIPS, IN SOCIETY. DO YOU FIND YOURSELF IN ANY OF THESE DESCRIPTIONS?

"When my wife and I started a family two decades ago, the word home meant something different to us than it is today when both children are already driving, and you feel relieved every time you hear

the car parking in the garage. This family microcosm has changed and upgraded but still stands on the same values. As the years go by, so does our perception of life and what our home means to us. As I approach the fifties, I increasingly want the most elemental things to change as little as possible. At the same time, of course, I am aware that I am in a period where things are changing the fastest. Ten years before, I speculated that children might once work abroad, where their work in money would be better rewarded, but today I do not even want anyone to go anywhere. Because it's not all about the money and we're living in one of the perfect places in the world, though we have great difficulty seeing and recognising it. It's not ideal, but it's a much better place, than that where other people see it as idyllic from afar. My home is also my four walls, but I could get used to other walls as well. The people who are among these walls are the most important and the most valuable. "

ARE YOU AN ADVOCATE OF ORDER, DISCIPLINE IN YOUR HOME, IN LIFE IN GENERAL?

The level of tidiness in my wife and me is thankfully about the same – this seems like a happy coincidence, but it is quite essential. If one has a high level and the other a low one, this can be quite a problem in marriage. It is probably quite high with both of us, I think. At least when it comes to tidying up. When it comes to discipline, it warms my heart that I can say that we didn't make any significant mistakes in raising our children. When I look back, I wouldn't change a thing, and that seems like a blessing. However, we have problems with the discipline, as evidenced by the dog trainer who recently visited us. Our terrier Oskar and our cat Maks both rules, especially the former, can subtly terrorize the whole family. And it began, apparently, by someone feeding them just under the table while having meals, said the trainer. And since everybody looked at me at the time – let's just leave this topic for next time."

DO YOU HAVE A CLEAR MIND IN THE MORNING WHEN YOU GET UP OR DO YOU PREFER TO THINK ABOUT THINGS IN THE EVENING?

"I'm lucky to be both a morning and an evening type. I can work late into the night, which I don't like doing, because I know it's not healthy to go to sleep too late after midnight, but I can get up very early and start working as well. In both the first



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and second case, I have a clear mind after having a cup of Turkish coffee."

WHERE DO YOU FIND YOUR PEACE? DO YOU HAVE ANY RITUAL, A WAY TO RELAX? IS THERE A DEDICATED SPACE IN YOUR HOME WHERE THE DAYS GET THEIR EPILOGUE?

"My shrine is my office. When I have to create, I close myself in and leave my thoughts and fingers free to flow. Everything there is to suit me, things that inspire me. Some are family-related, while others are music-, folklore-, hunting- and shooting-related. I can't write and think between piles of rubbish. I need order, and around me, it can be just what I need to accomplish the task I set myself. If there is a disorder, then it's a work-related mess linked to a specific project. I always have paintings of my father Ivan Waldhütter, in the office. All of them have motifs of nature because nature offers me inexhaustible inspiration no matter what I create. "

A DECADE AGO, YOU BOUGHT AN OLD ABANDONED FARM IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND BUILT A NEW HOUSE ON IT, WHERE YOU MOVED

IN WITH YOUR FAMILY A FEW YEARS LATER. HOW MUCH DID THE HOME ARRANGEMENT HAVE TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT YOU WERE THE EDITOR OF THE MAGAZINE THAT TALKED ABOUT IT - THE ARRANGEMENT, CONSTRUCTION, HOME RENOVATION?

"It was partially influential. But, we started building before I fully understood the field. Therefore, in the years that followed, I quickly recognized some mistakes – when it was too late, of course. That's true when we talk about Kvadrati, which are a building supplement to the newspaper. However, if we look at Naš dom, whose theme has always been the quality of living, then it is not too late. You still have an influence on the quality of your life in many ways, no matter what the walls of your house are and what the energy you use is. It was interesting to me that throughout my editing, acquaintances asked me to suggest to them professionals for various works. All in all, I was probably a big disappointment for them in that. There is almost no connection between editing such a magazine and knowing the practical value of specific professionals. Besides, I know that

if someone was good enough to work for us, it might not be the same for others. Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. “

HOW MUCH DID YOU FOLLOW THE ENERGY GUIDELINES FOR BUILDING AND LIVING SAVINGS WHEN BUILDING A HOUSE?

“We considered them to the best of our knowledge and budget. Unfortunately, this has changed a lot in two decades. Our house was very good at the time. But while not old, they are doing far better today. There’s nothing we can do about it. Maybe in the next few years, one of the children will stay in it, and my wife and I will move to something smaller. Then perhaps she or he will completely renovate it. “

DO YOU THINK THAT A SENSE OF HOME ARRANGEMENT IS AN INNATE REALITY, OR CAN IT BE LEARNED?

“We can learn just about anything. But I notice that many have problems with this, mainly because they either don’t want it, don’t care, or they convince themselves that they are not for such things, and then, of course, it becomes true. I think that everyone can do a lot to live nicer, if, of course, we take that aesthetic is beautiful. But even the most aesthetic solutions are a matter of taste. For some, the aesthetic is Pirnar’s door, and for others the pelargonium on the windows. And they may or may not be right. In fact, every beautiful house is not yet a temple. We need something extra to live in a healthier, more creative and happier environment.”

WHICH OF THE FAMOUS INDIVIDUALS WOULD YOU INVITE HOME FOR LUNCH?

“I prefer to see only family friends at my home table. We have excellent restaurants for the others in Styria. “

BOOKSHELF OR RATHER – THE LIBRARY OCCUPIES AN ESSENTIAL SPACE IN YOUR HOME. WHAT BOOKS MARKED YOU, HOW, WHEN, WHY?

“My wife is a graduate in chemical technology, but she is also a teacher and librarian. As a day doesn’t go by without reading a book for her, we almost live in style: the best house furnishing is a book. Perhaps because she is a chemist, she can look at them purely as a material: the book must also be palpable as a book, with sheets and covers of paper and cardboard, and it

must smell like a book. I know that she is not the only one who thinks so, and that is why e-books will probably never completely replace ordinary books. But if they do, we will all be at a loss.

My parents cultivated my love for books. My brother and I often got a good book for a gift at a young age, with a lovely dedication, of course. Now when I am older, I increasingly appreciate those written lines. Otherwise, I do not have any book that is of vital importance to me. At a young age, I enjoyed travelogues extensively, and especially on summer nights crime novels. Today, I read almost exclusively educational and professional literature. Still, I am waiting for times to return with more peace in the evenings and fewer business challenges, when I will be able to read something else as well. I know those times will come.”

MANY HAVE THE TV ON AT ALL TIMES AS BACKGROUND NOISE. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

“Sometimes, that is true, and we even let the television on at times when we leave home for the dog to keep him comfortable. But there are times when we value peace very much. As I write and create, inspiration is a matter of the moment, so it is the same in the case of the background noise. I used to write while listening exclusively to the country-pop, then only to the classics, especially Strauss, lately I have been perfectly suited to smooth jazz and deep-house. When I have to finish something with the last touches, I always need silence so I can hear my thoughts. Silence tells me what benefits me most at the moment.”

WHAT DRIVES YOU FORWARD, INSPIRES YOU IN LIFE?

“My motivation is family, music, friends. That’s what I’m looking. Of course, work successes are great and very necessary, and the most time goes to them. However, worthwhile things do not come from this. No one has ever stated on his deathbed that he is sorry for not spending more time at work. There will be no ex-directors and business partners around me when I leave this world. At that time, I want the closest ones next to me. To the other people, even the next day, when I am gone, life will go on the same. I would like to leave a beautiful mark on everyone, but it will only count for some. “

IF THE SKY WERE THE LIMIT, WHERE WOULD YOU FLY TO?

“Lately, I prefer to be grounded. From time to time I jump with the parachute to check what I can do and if I dare to do it or in other words to indulge my adrenaline rush – literally and metaphorically speaking. Otherwise, I’m beginning to appreciate the small things and small pleasures. Out of them, almost all of our lasting satisfaction is made.”

YOU CAN’T IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT:

“Kind words. You don’t have to deal with civilization exactly to be civilized. ‘Please’ and ‘thank you’, and the smile on your face work wonders and create the best stories.”



“The best house furnishing is a book, which must be palpable as a book, with sheets and covers of paper and cardboard, and it must smell like a book.”