



A GRAND DESIGN

Once the German HQ of the British Royal Air Force, this Hanseatic mansion now houses full-service purveyors of high-end visual effects, music production and great hospitality. Co-CEO *Michael Vitzthum* leads a guided tour of the Hamburg home of nhb (never heard before)



When we saw 'our house' for the first time we were stunned by its representative beauty and its impressive past. What fun it would be to turn this old and solemn place into a location full of creativity, inspired people and beautiful work! It was love at first sight.

The house was built in 1868 outside the old town gates of Hamburg by prosperous Hanseatic merchants. Constructed like a fortress, with a slight Spanish touch to the interior, the building overlooks the Außenalster – the huge lake that's now at the heart of the city. For 80 years the Berenberg family [a leading banking dynasty] used it as their town residence. After World War II it became the headquarters of the RAF's occupational forces.

Now it works well for us and for our clients and although we only rent the place, it really feels like our house and we love to flood it with music, art and people we feel close to. That's why we have events like Gig on the Stairs,

where up-and-coming bands get to play in front of an enthusiastic audience of ad people, who watch from our huge staircase. The bands play in our inviting bar, where work and life can be discussed until late.

The house is huge and everywhere you find precious details and relics of the 19th century: stuccoed ceilings, a dumbwaiter, ancient tapestries, a cosy fireplace that makes you feel instantly at home in winter and, of course, there's plenty of room to work in. Our Telecine suite has the charm of an old movie theatre, while the art department, 3D, Flame and edit suites, as well as four audio studios, offer plenty of room for big ideas and creativity everywhere.

It's a nice contrast to our other offices in Düsseldorf and Berlin, the latter being situated in the old Eastern part of the city in a huge loft with its own interesting, but much less bourgeois, background. Although that's another story...

