

URUGUAY⁹

ARGENTINA²⁹

CHINA⁵⁹

MEXICO⁷⁹

TAIWAN¹²⁷

USA¹⁷⁵

COLOMBIA²⁰⁵

ITALY²⁴¹

WHO?

The region around Manzanares is Argentina's polo capital. The village itself is home to a polo academy, where Alberto and Fabian met a long time ago. They remember being astonished that there were no good bars in the town for a drink or a bite to eat at the end of a long day. So they hatched a plan to open their own, in jest. A few years later, when Argentina was in the throes of an economic crisis, Fabian was suddenly forced to reconsider his future in marketing. He got in touch with Alberto, who worked in the hospitality industry, and suddenly an originally vague plan took shape astonishingly quickly.

Manzanares is a dusty hamlet along a main road, 45 minutes outside of Buenos Aires. Now and then a train stops at the station, which would not look out of place in the English countryside. Cows graze complacently among the rails that are overgrown with pampa grass. Fabian

and Alberto soon settled on the village store, which had closed its doors twenty years ago, for their bar, restaurant and butcher's. They called it El Mensual.

WHERE?

While El Mensual looks as if it has been there forever, nothing could be further from the truth. After ten months of running their business, Alberto and Fabian are already mulling the next steps: a bakery, a small supermarket that only sells fresh, natural products, a fish pond and a cottage garden where they can grow their own vegetables.

The building was quite rundown and will require years of restoration. Because Alberto and Fabian only have a limited budget, they did a lot themselves, buying a lot of building materials and furniture second-hand from locals. Fabian proved surprisingly skilful as a builder while Alberto goes over the materials, the colours and the details.

They repainted the façade in the original, old off-pink colour. In the old days, they used to mix oxblood with white chalk for this. They also added a small terrace at the front, where you can sit in the shadow of an old oak tree.







To the east of the main house, a long narrow building is used as an exhibition gallery, which hosts annual exhibitions of works by some of the most important contemporary artists. Another pavilion actually has several interconnected open studios to promote exchange and dialogue between the artists. The openness and exposure to the elements is accentuated even more by the complete lack of windows or doors anywhere in the building.

Upon their arrival at this creative refuge, artists are told to settle in and then think about ways of working with the locals instead of starting by developing their own work. The result is an endless, lively and creative dialogue in line with Bosco Sodi's desire to educate the local communities. The foundation hosts film screenings and workshops for children and adults. In past years, Casa Wabi added a kiln to its grounds, organising pottery workshops for the locals to preserve their heritage.



TAIWAN





WHERE?

Drive a few kilometres outside of Santa Fe, New Mexico and you will immediately understand why so many artists consider the rugged beauty of the landscape so inspiring. This really is big sky country. Step out of your car and you will feel small, humbled even. The blistering sun and hot arid wind in this extreme prairie climate will colour your cheeks rosy by the end of the day.

It is here that Joost and Erica found their sanctuary, retreating to their earthship when night falls and their work has ended. These simple homes are made of recycled tyres, that are usually stuffed with dirt and are stacked in a U-shaped pattern. What many people consider waste, is a valuable commodity here, like Coke cans or bottles that are often used to model inside walls. This is sustainable living at its best.



Joost Lammers grew up in the Netherlands but his passion for horses led him to the United States where he went to work with the horse whisperer Dave Claus. He met Erica Hess at a horse clinic and they soon realised that they shared the same dream, to create a sanctuary for horses and people, where they can learn from each other, For the Heart of the Horse Ranch. While Joost specialises in dressage training, Erica prefers a freer approach, at liberty with the horse. Clearly a match made in heaven.

WHO?

