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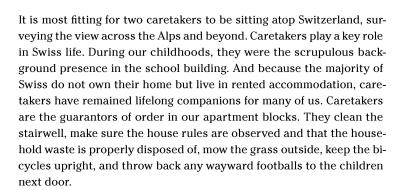
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Title image: Erich Furrer and Daniela Bissig, caretaker couple on the Jungfraujoch. Photo: Franziska Frutiger

The top job

Where is Switzerland's undisputed top job? At a big bank? At a chemical company? In the corridors of political power? No, it is 3,500 metres above sea level at the self-styled "Top of Europe", the Jungfraujoch. It is on this lofty perch that Daniela Bissig and Erich Furrer work all year round. Bissig and Furrer are caretakers at the perennially snow-covered Jungfraujoch high-altitude research station. We paid them a high-flying visit (see



Talking of apartment blocks, it is, incidentally, worth noting that no other European country has such a high proportion of tenants and such a low proportion of homeowners as Switzerland. The fact that most people in Switzerland rent has implications for our towns and cities, our everyday lives, the environment, and political life (see page 4).

We are a land of tenants, but that is not the fault of caretakers, I hasten to add. Indeed, I wish to extend an honourable mention to the best caretaker of them all. She would never refer to herself as a facility manager, and still sprightly at the age of 80 is in charge of looking after our six-apartment building. Endowed with the patience of a saint, she is the glue that binds us together, helping to maintain good karma among neighbours new and old. She still cleans the stairwell and is unfailingly friendly – even when someone has just walked up the squeaky-clean stairs in their muddy running shoes. Hurray for her! Life in our little neighbourhood would be a lot less congenial without our caretaker.

MARC LETTAU, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

