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7 and 8 Luca's Bakery in London's Lordship Lane, with interiors created by Ivanov Versteeg Architecture

LUCA'S BAKERY
 EAST DULWICH, LONDON
*Founded by Andreas Bajohra.
 Interiors by Ivanov Versteeg Architecture.*

Andreas Bajohra came to the UK 20 years ago from Germany, and has a background in photography and film-making. He'd noticed the dearth of good, simple, village-style bakeries, and last year decided to 'give it a go'.

The site he found, on East Dulwich's busy and increasingly foodie Lordship Lane, lent itself to a café as well as a bakery.

He commissioned Dutch architect Anna Versteeg, (who is based on a boat on the Thames) to create a grown-up, clean space. So, while the length of the left-hand wall is painted as a blackboard, and the floor is off-black oak, much of the rest is solid ash, including the geometric ceiling feature, communal café tables, counter and shelving. Bajohra's father came over from Germany to handle all the woodwork.

Luca's Bakery opened in late November 2008. 'By the time [the downturn] got worse and worse it was too late (to change plans),' Bajohra says. 'However, the biggest problem we have is the café.' The number of regular – and mostly local – customers means it could easily be three times the size, he claims.

Bajohra is already talking about a second outlet, and can see a time when there may be a chain of Luca's. ●