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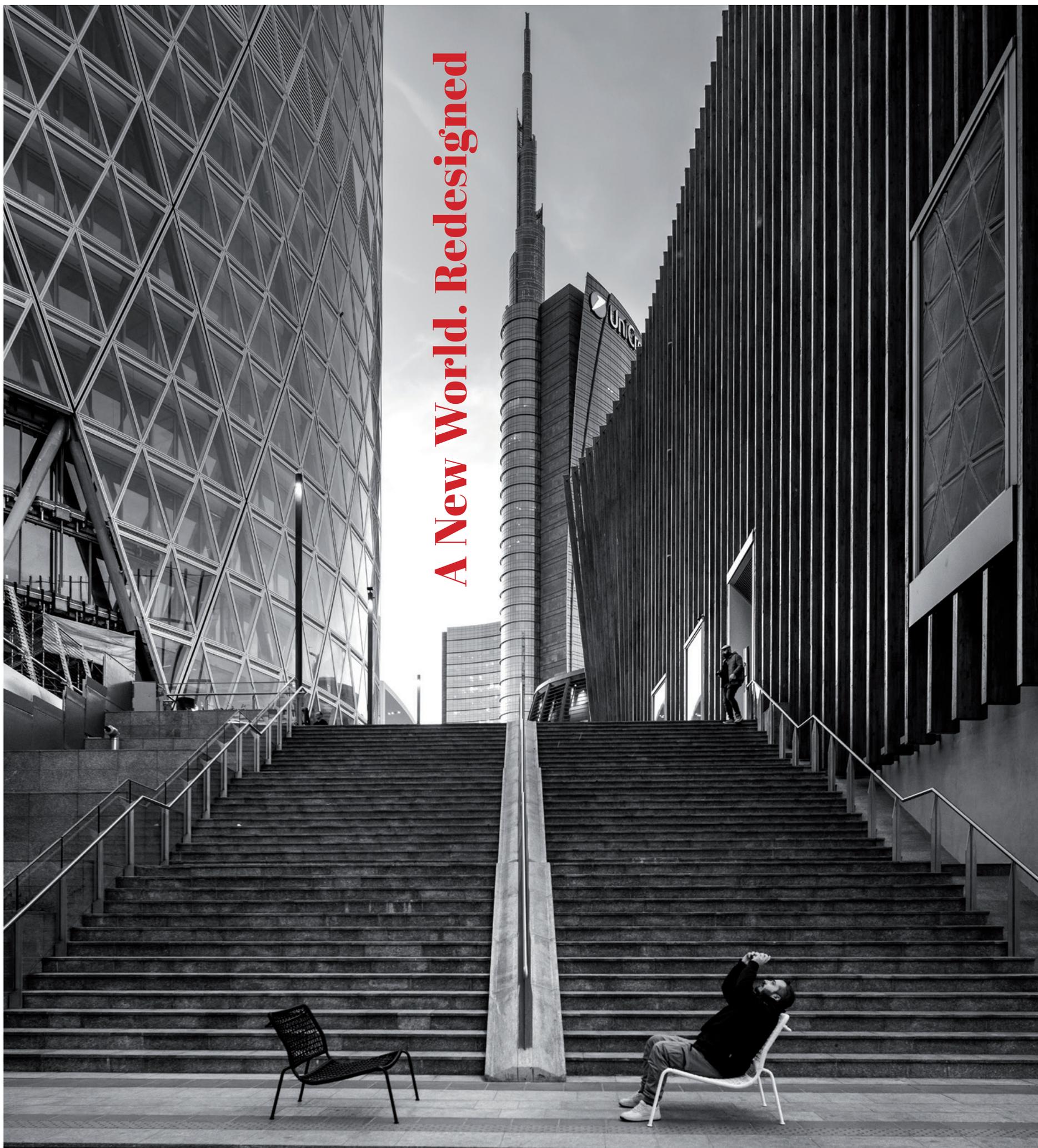
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*A New World. Redesigned*



# URBAN SCALE

by Alessandra Bergamini

A survey of dwellings custom-made for their inhabitants and for their rhythms of life. From the semi-urban farmstead to the newly built residential tower, from the renovated palace in the historical center, to row housing and its variations. Different typologies that share a desire to fit into the fabric of the city and the community, to experience urban pace and scale with all the intrinsic opportunities and limitations, in a project of architecture and of life. Everyday rhythms in relationships between space and function, family and social contact, subdivision of time for work and for oneself, for sharing in an indoor-outdoor, private-public balance. The rhythm of life that influences the design of the home, narrated herein with many different interpretations and results.



## Maisonette Sixty-Nine

Two paintings face each other in the living room, giving rise to the concept for this small flat in one of the liveliest zones of Prague: Žižkov. Both placed at the center of their respective walls, their 'influence' spreads out into the surrounding space. In the work titled 69 by Vladimír Houdek, white and pale blue alternate neatly with a cotton-candy pink that becomes a 'reagent' to color the kitchen, the dining area and the cabinets in the corridor, while the jagged edge of the artwork is duplicated in the irregular border of the doors of the hanging kitchen cabinets. The number 69 is multiplied and etched on the brash radiator cover on the opposite wall, where the second painting hangs, a work by Josef Bolf with a more melancholy chiaroscuro aura. The wall is in pale gray, which links to the large mural visible from the terrace and made by Patrik Hábl on the façade of a nearby residential building. Beyond this level of connotation, the design approach has totally transformed the flat into a clear, simple and functional space, organized on two levels and featuring

large white zones and the warmth of oak on the floors, walls and steps, as well as the door frames, the bookcase and the top of the dining table. While the wardrobes and furnishings have been designed by the architects, the dewdrop lamps have been selected precisely because they suggest the idea of tears, in tune with the melancholy atmosphere of the painting by Bolf.

**Location:** Prague

**Architects:** No Architects

**Contractor:** CZ interiery

**Furnishings, lighting and fittings:**

custom-made by Ton, M&T, NEXT

**Photos:** Studio Flusser



## Lake Lantern

“Whether mansion, villa or apartment, the first step of our design is to open the space, removing redundant wall and doors, realizing the embrace of light and circulation of breeze”. Light and pure white, as they pervade throughout the flat, become the backdrop for family interactions, for the different functions of living in the day/night rhythm in a living “landscape” that gives shape to the concept of spatial fluidity as interpreted by the architect. In its minimalism, the white of the horizontal and vertical surfaces, of the cupboards, of the doors, of the table, makes it possible to minimize the distances between people, achieving greater simplicity and pure space. White is also perfect for becoming the canvas on which to experiment, particularly with brightly coloured artworks with ironic content, or elements with saturated contrasting colours: the lemon yellow of the bookcase, or the red stripes of the *Up* armchair by Gaetano Pesce. White becomes a habitable landscape, particularly in the living area and bedrooms, made up of low support bases and upholstered elements

of different shapes, colours and sizes that contribute to a “spontaneous interaction” and to creating a poetic and interior space. “Exact proportion, abundant light, suitable material, pure colour and unique style constitute the main elements of this project”.

**Location:** Foshan, China  
**Design Company:** Evans Lee Designers  
**Furnishings:** Yipin-Guoji, Hermand Haus, Domino, LAK, B&B Italia, Ligne Roset  
**Photos:** Jack Qin

## House BSP20

Harmonious and elegant, the narrow façade of this small building from the late 1800s has been restored in keeping with strict architectural heritage requirements. The sole concession is an entrance that reproduces the design of the classic diamond and triangle shapes, but in aluminium. The four-story residence (only 20 square meters per floor) has been completely reconstructed, sparing only the façades – main and back – the partitions and the attic. “Once all the floors slabs had been demolished and the building appeared as a slender, tall prism formed by walls of all kinds of bricks and stones, the idea of leaving all them exposed became conceptual: these walls, over 15 meters high, are a museum of the building’s history, where any traces of its construction and of its use are exposed in all their crudeness.” From bottom to top, the sequence of domestic spaces develops as follows: entrance-kitchen-dining, living area, bathroom-closet, and – at roof level – bedroom and terrace. Along the same vertical path, 7 steel cylinders conceal the conduits

for the electrical system, ventilation, air conditioning and telecommunications. The free-standing staircase also has a cylindrical form, connecting all the levels without touching the masonry structure, and reaching a large skylight at the summit. To form contrast with the rugged quality of the structure, the materials and furnishings are extremely refined. For the kitchen, brushed brass and white marble; in the bathroom wood lacquered in a cream color, with details in brass, hydraulic tiles, white micro-cement and oak surfaces.

**Location:** Barcelona  
**Architecture:** Raúl Sánchez  
**Structure consultant:** Diagonal Arquitectura  
**Engineering:** Marés ingenieros  
**Furnishings and fittings:** Herman Miller, vintage edition from Artefacto, Iconico, Nivito, Ramon Soler, Vitra  
**Lighting:** &Tradition, Flos, Gibas, Santa&Cole  
**Photos:** José Hevia



## 2nd Avenue Residence

The front/back relationship in urban dwellings is an integral part of the central residential areas of Montreal and the Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie district. “The 2nd Avenue residence embraces this tradition: while its front façade aligns, dissimulates, and simplifies itself, the rear facade opens, projects, retracts, and cuts itself out.” The aim of this stepped architectural landscape is a respectful insertion into the urban structure, with an emphasis on history, but also to take advantage of the opportunities and constraints of this rare small lot that from a former parking lot has developed into a 2-story single-family house with service areas and a small independent apartment in the basement. The considerable shift between the street level and the level of the lot in the rear portion made it possible to adopt a strategy of vertical organization and to imagine a multi-level residence, whose decidedly misaligned volumes at the back interfere with each other to create multiple indoor and outdoor living areas, for a highly differentiated daily rhythm. The large spaces of the

daytime area – kitchen, dining and living – are in continuity with each other, but also with the outside through large windows and a terrace ‘protected’ by a brick wall, a material used for all the façades. The most private spaces are on the second floor, which contains two bedrooms, a bathroom and a multifunctional area overlooking the ground floor, for a vertical connection of all the levels of the house, up to the large opening on the roof.

**Location:** Montreal  
**Architecture:** Microclimat  
**General contractor:** Construction N. Deslauriers  
**Landscape Architecture:** Vivanti  
**Photos:** Adrien Williams

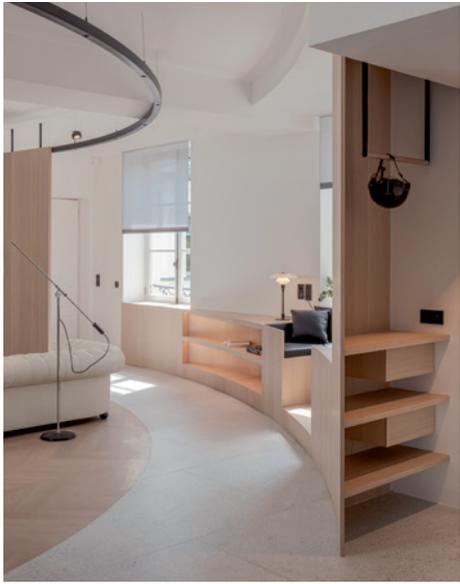


## Canal House

Though respectfully aligned with the row of residences facing the Brussel-Scheldt Maritime canal, the front of this small single-family house stands out for its diversity, and features a surprise beyond the entrance gate: a small secret garden with a tree, functioning as a buffer between the street and the house. To emphasize the relationship with the canal, the project by Studio Farris has totally revised the volumes and the layout of the spaces, emptying a part of the original silhouette and generating an introverted front while reversing the arrangement of the functions. While traditional homes call for a daytime zone on the ground floor, with tall windows protected by curtains, the new definition of the indoor and outdoor spaces inverts the hierarchy and puts the living area on the first floor, to obtain a quiet, more intimate space, while the bedroom zone is now on the ground level. One bedroom opens directly onto the entrance court, while the other faces the small garden at the back, also bringing air and light to the bathroom zone. As key features of the project, the

courtyards exploit the potential of the small lot, while creating spatial continuity between the ground floor and the first. The living area is divided between indoors and outdoors, thanks to a terrace that offers natural light and a fine view of the waterway, visually connecting the dining and kitchen spaces, where the latter face towards the rear courtyard.

**Location:** Humbeek, Belgium  
**Architecture and interior design:** Studio Farris  
**Photos:** Koen Van Damme, Martino Pietropoli



## Nicolai Paris

Located inside the Hôtel Nicolai, in the Marais district, this Parisian pied-à-terre created for an Italian family occupies part of the second floor and the attic, and puts the accent on the nomadic spirit of its owners. The design makes reference to the logarithmic spiral of a chambered nautilus, a symbol of domestic comfort, whose imaginary lines trade the borders of niches on ground level, that of the kitchen and the living area to one side, and a reading area to the other, or that of the carved wall that encloses the service zone (laundry, dressing room, closet). The staircase connecting the lower to the upper level also has a sinuous organic form. On the ground floor there are two bedrooms and one bathroom. In the master bedroom, the design challenge was to distribute the weight of the freestanding bathtub made of a single block of Botticino Fiorito marble, allowing it to be supported by the old load-bearing structure. The contains a multifunctional room outfitted for home cinema, and a guestroom with services, both lit by skylights in

the roof. The overall character is refined and timeless, featuring oak furnishings designed by noa\*, blue-gray Bardiglio Imperiale marble for the fireplace and the kitchen worktop, and blached oak floors with a French herringbone pattern. The calm, welcoming atmosphere is also set by the precious fabrics selected for curtains and coverings.

**Location:** Paris  
**Interior design:** noa\* network of architecture  
**General Contractor:** Conduk  
**Furnishings:** Carl Hansen, Living Divani, Poltrona Frau,  
**Lighting:** Lichtstudio Eisenkei; Flexa Lighting, Gubi, Intra lighting, Lampe Gras, Louis Poulsen, Nuura, Occhio, Vipp  
**Bathroom:** Axor, Bisazza, Duravit, Geberit, Tubes  
**Photos:** Antoine Huot

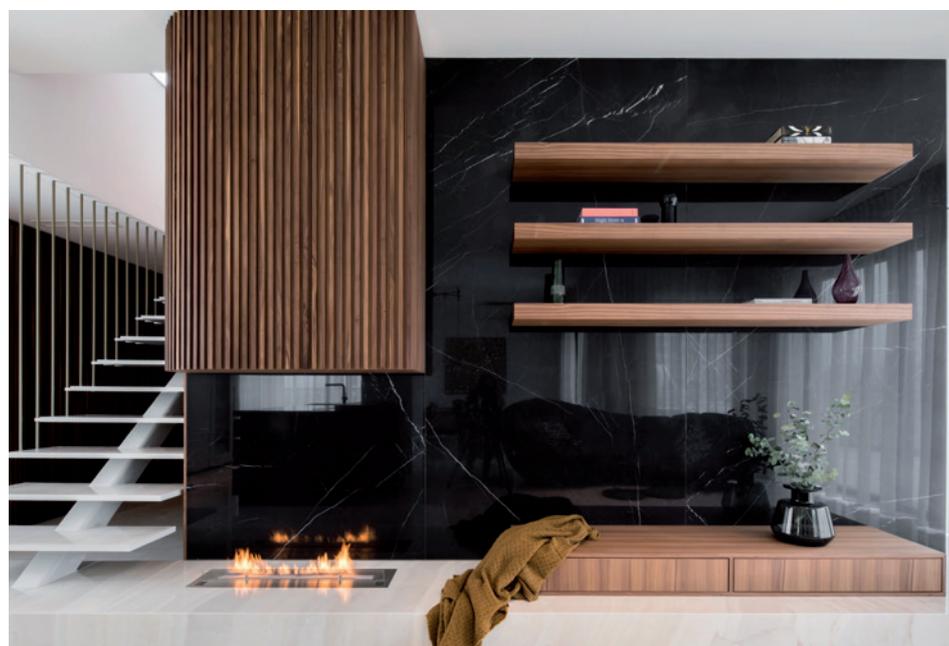
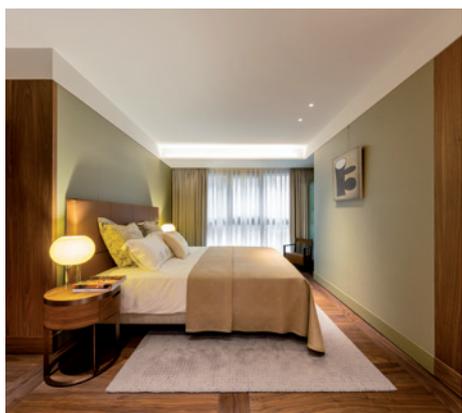


## Casa C

In the hilly zone facing the Inviolatella Borghe-se Park, the farmhouse conserves its outer form, volume and presence, while conveying its contemporary identity in the interiors of the three levels that form this simultaneously 'rural' and urban residence (not so far from the center of Rome). With very high ceilings, large fluid rooms and many windows for views of the world outside, a sensation of openness, welcome and freedom pervades each level. "We have organized the space on three levels, working on the 'sky' of each to generate three different experiences. On the ground floor we have used white and concrete; for the first, we have chosen the luminous tones of yellow; on the upper level, the wooden structure has been left visible. The factor of continuity in this architectural promenade is the staircase," Junko Kirimoto, co-founder of the studio, explains. In a dominant position, the staircase is made in natural iron with a slender central support, and a single sheet of micro-perforated metal to form the steps and the parapet. Light and transparent, it offers a view of the entire stairwell, culminating in a large skylight.

From the ample, informal ground floor with a living area, a TV space with custom shelving in natural wood and black iron supports, a dining zone and an open kitchen entirely in stainless steel with a black central island screened by glass, the staircase leads to the level for the children, with bedrooms and bathrooms organized around a balcony corridor. The upper level contains a living and studio area with a bathroom for guests, followed by the secluded area of the master bedroom with en suite bath and closet.

**Location:** Rome  
**Architects:** Alvisi Kirimoto  
**Furnishings:** Cappellini, Cassina, Cecchi Cucine, Contact Design, Edra, Flaminia, Living Divani, Maxalto, Opificio Lauchli, Zazzeri  
**Lighting:** Artemide, Belfiore, Catellani&Smith, Flos, Viabizzuno, Vibia  
**Carpentry:** Marcello Manieri  
**Metalworking:** Massimo de Frussi  
**Lighting:** Telmotor  
**Floors and facings in micro-cement:** Il Cementificio Roma  
**Photos:** Serena Eller Vainicher



# La Bella Vita Apartments

“The design process for La Bella Vita involved a careful study of the urban context. The result is a high-rise building that creates living spaces with interiors that are infused with effortless luxury,” says Chung-Yi Yang, partner at ACPV in charge of interior design for La Bella Vita. In the 7th District of Taichung, the tower with a height of 128 meters connects with the context of surrounding public urban spaces and the nearby Charlotte Park to create a new neighborhood in the commercial and residential heart of the city. From the green areas and retail/service spaces at street level, the organization rises towards the privacy of the residents in 168 apartments in the four volumes connected by the central structure. To generate sustainability and social interaction, a vertical sequence of biospheres has been developed around indoor trees. In the individual flats, with three different types, the space is flexible and ready for reconfiguration, subdivided into open, transformable functional areas, with luxurious settings and comfort Made in Italy. The balance between

night and day zones, private and convivial life, is based on large kitchen and living zones, while the ample spaces of the bedrooms contain wardrobes and en suite bathrooms. The colors and materials selected for the interiors establish dialogue with the external architecture, the balconies and the glass façades, with elements in stone and amber-color details.

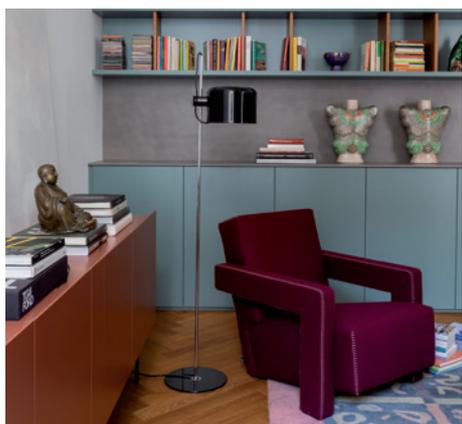
**Location:** Taichung, Taiwan  
**Developer:** Continental Development Corporation  
**Architecture and Interior design:** Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel (ACPV)  
**Furnishings:** Azucena, B&B Italia, Flexform, Maxalto  
**Lighting:** Flos, Foscarini, Vibia  
**Photos:** courtesy Continental Development Corp

# Penthouse L

Just past the entrance door of this penthouse, one immediately notices the game of juxtapositions and overlaps between forms and materials, woven in the composition of the various living spaces. The ribbed walnut wall cladding, the mainly custom-made furniture in the same material, the contrasting flooring with stone and polished finishes, the rounded shapes, the striking backlighting. The warm wood paneling, in the more three-dimensional version punctuated by small slates, or in a smooth version with rounded profiles, pervades the entire apartment. From the long entrance wall to the volume in the living area that incorporates the fireplace, from the staircase leading upstairs to the master bedroom, from the walk-in closet to the bathroom, to the 1970s-inspired boudoir. The same cladding conceals service spaces, wardrobes and closets, including the doors offering access to the more private areas of the house. A clear contrast is provided by the polished vertical and horizontal surfaces with a marble effect in different light and dark colors, in the bath-

rooms, the kitchen block, or the very bright living area that is almost totally glazed. In addition to natural light, the key element here is the bioethanol fireplace, where only the flame comes into view when lit. Nearly ‘invisible’ against the dominant reflective black background, it is placed on a low marble base that also serves as the first step of the staircase, made lighter thanks to a transparent ‘filigree.’

**Location:** Vienna  
**Interior design:** Destilat  
**Furnishings and fittings:** custom, Axor, Gaggenau, Bosch  
**Lighting:** XAL, Wever Ducre  
**Tiles:** Fiandre  
**Carpets:** Object Carpet  
**Sliding doors:** Csamay  
**Curtains:** Böhm, CHB  
**Door handles:** FSB  
**Photos:** Monika Nguyen



## Casa Promenade

The 150 square meters of this apartment, located on the high first floor of a fully renovated 1930s building, stretch and articulate through narrows and edges, the result of the layering over time of various fragmentations and fractionations. “The idea was to imagine and set up this path as a real linear room, as if the four walls of a small living room had been unpacked and aligned along a guiding line.” Between the view of the inner courtyard and the more noble one on the main facade, “an *allée* is thus unveiled, a kind of linear gallery where the areas that would normally be found in a real room follow one another: a bench, a bookcase, a closet, a shelf, each defined by one of the specific finishes that mark the project: oak, ash-gray panels, metal.” Since the sleeping area is located near the entrance, the living area – on the other side of the house – enjoys the best view, and to make creative use of the long silhouette, the corridor serves not only as a functional link. “The promenade accompanies us to the small studio, carved out of a cone kissed by the grace of natural light

from the west that floods it throughout the day. The glazed wall allows the brightness to spread down the corridor to the living area, announced by the archway that marks the entrance into a new territory.”

Location: Milan  
 Interior design: Icona Architetti  
 Photos: Monica Spezia/Living Inside

## Corso Einaudi

As the architect Matteo Italia, who designed this flat for his family, points out: “the chevron parquet creates a particular effect, inviting you to enter and accompanying the gaze along an ideal line towards the light of the living area, with hues that are paler than those selected for the entrance, precisely to emphasize this game of perspective.” Once inside, the high ceilings in this early 20th-century building are impressive, enhanced by original stuccowork, wall paneling and moldings, large luminous windows, period doors and chandelier compositions with a contemporary character. Like the one found in the vast but welcoming living area, or the one that prompts you to enter the kitchen, a completely renovated separate space, suitably organized for everyday rhythms of life. These rhythms are set by reformulated ‘period’ spaces, ready for family activities and work, making distinctions between private life and social life. The architect has imagined an elegant home, made to measure, which can contain and enhanced iconic design pieces, souvenirs from journeys to the Orient and a

series of contemporary artworks by the Turin-based MAC-Movimento Arte Concreta. A personal, eclectic collection that could not remain in the background, highlighted by the clean lines and a palette of warm or pale hues of sage green, sand, rose and blue.

Location: Turin  
 Architects: Italia and Partners  
 Furnishings: Bonaldo, Lema, Modulnova, Rimadesio  
 Bathrooms: Cielo, Fantini, Mutina, Salvatori  
 Lighting: Flos, iGuzzini, Panzeri, Tom Dixon, Tooy  
 Fabrics, curtains, wallpaper: Dedar  
 Radiators: Tubes  
 Doors: Rimadesio  
 Photos: courtesy Italia and Partners