



Architect Fabio Fantolino

A REFUGE IN THE CENTER OF COURMAYEUR

While interpreting his clients' needs by bringing his style and design down to the smallest detail, the architect Fabio Fantolino makes a wonderful property in the center of Courmayeur new and alive, cozy and stylish.

This is the story of the transformation of a holiday home located on the top floor of an independent building in the center of Courmayeur, settled in a large estate consisting of several single-family property units. A transformation made possible by the architect Fabio Fantolino and his team. Turin-based, he founded his architecture firm in 2001, a renowned studio that works in a vast range of projects, from architecture to interior design, mixing timeless elegance and style with an international, global approach.

The property owners, a family of four, are the proprietors of the estate which opens in July as a summer residence. This vacation home, with its own independent access, is so intended for part of the family during the summer.

It all started with a brief that left room for the architect's interpretation: the desire was to have a typical mountain home without involving with a rustic flavor, in which the presence of natural materials such as stone and wood don't give an excessively traditional image, leaving to us the most contemporary interpretation through material contrasts and lines and volumes.

Fantolino's intervention involved a total makeover: the works began in 2020 and have been concluded at the end of 2021. In addition to the overall interior project that affected the entire apartment, the roof was raised in order to have the opportunity to take advantage of greater height and livability of the spaces. Thanks to the collaboration with the Inart studio, which oversaw the volumetric expansion and the raising of the roof, the space has obtained a particularly interesting height. The property is completely bound by the Superintendence, therefore the roof has been dismantled and reassembled to a greater height. Doors, floors and floor plans have all been the subject of a renovation project.

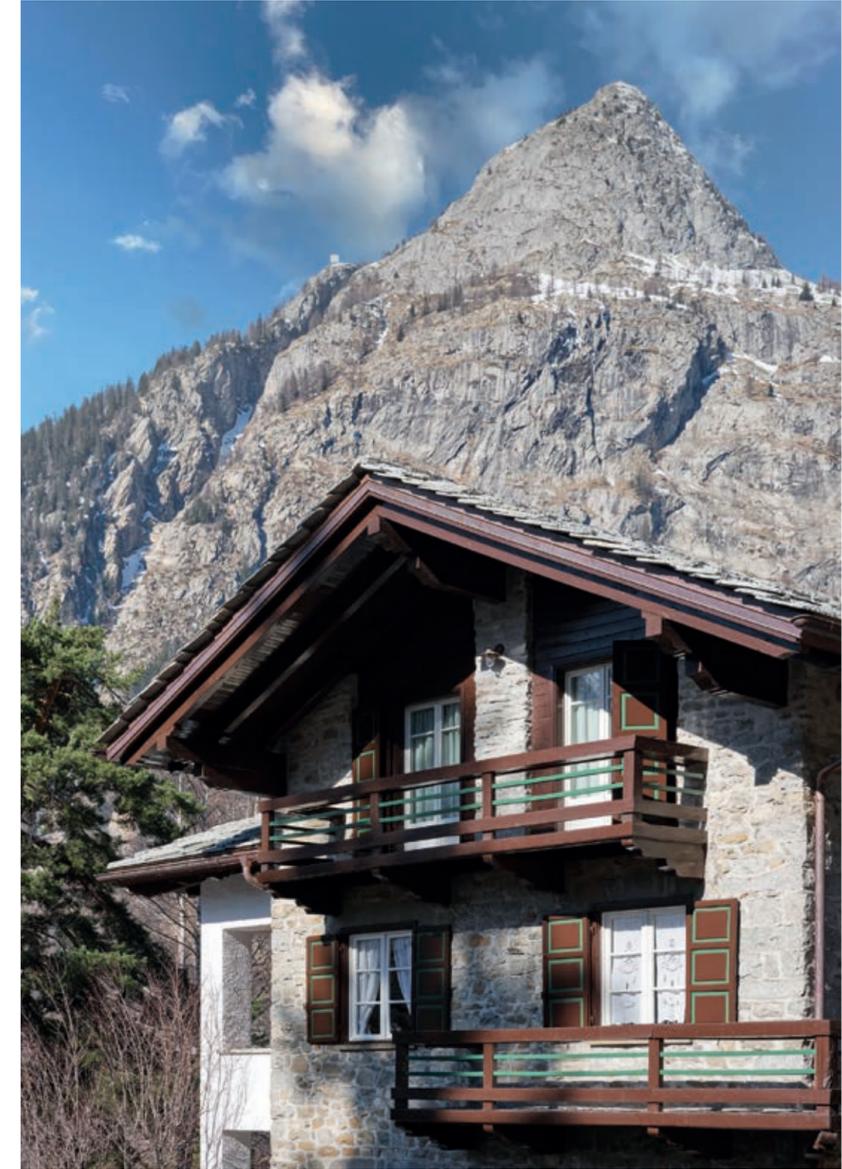
Fantolino chose a contemporary style, in the shapes, in the furnishings, in the cuts, while using natural materials that evoke a mountain atmosphere. The result is an extremely comfortable and balanced environment, that in this project left a distinctive, stylish mark. Most of the furnishings are bespoke, on his design, guaranteeing uniqueness to the entire project.

Clean lines and superior materials concur to the final result: a stylish home, functional, distinctive yet cozy.

Today this amazing house is lived as a summer residence, as a refuge from the chaos of the city, an alcove of silence and hospitality to be able to detach from the everyday life.

www.fabiofantolino.com

Photography: Davide Lovatti / Living Inside / Text: Sara Dal Zotto.



View of the property, a holiday home located on the top floor of an independent building in the center of Courmayeur and the beautiful surroundings.



*Left page: A sofa by DePadova, model Blendy.
Above: two Cassina armchairs (Capitol Complex) upholstered with leather. Table, table lamp and floor lamp by Menu. Side table by Cassina.
Applique by DePadova (model Nota). The photograph on the left is by Davide Lovatti. A rug by Tisca. Vases by Biancodichina and by Simona Cardinetti.*





*Left page: Bespoke furniture, bench (upholstered with Kvadrat model Colline) and table by Fabio Fantolino, realized by Enriart Carpentry. Pendants by Marset (model Ginger).
Above: the kitchen has also been tailor-made by architect Fantolino and executed by Enriart. Bespoke boiserie based on a design by Fabio Fantolino made by Enriart as well. Applique Rich Brilliant Willing (model Branch Small).*



A Tacchini armchair (model Lina) and a Cassina side table. Door handle by Olivari (model Conca).





Bespoke bathroom furniture designed by Fabio Fantolino (production: Enriart Carpentry). Taps by Agape, pouf My Home Collection (model Bule) and Pelassa curtains. Covering in striped ash stone by Venturino Superfici.

Beds and night tables are custom designed by Fabio Fantolino. Sheets and blankets by Society Limonta. A Pedrali chair (model Osaka metal), a Tooy table lamp and an Aromas Del Campo floor lamp.



Architects Gordian Blumenthal (left) and Ramun Capaul (right)

MAGICAL TÜRALIHUS IN VALENDAS

Throughout Western Europe, there is an incredible wealth of architectural heritage which goes beyond the grand monuments and palaces which we all know and many of which we have on our radar to visit when travelling to these countries. There are farmhouses and ordinary family homes which often date back to the Renaissance and very often even further. They were homes of no one in particular and more than likely the ownership history has long been lost, they are anonymous. What happens when these wonderful old structures, run into disrepair after decades of standing empty or simply abandoned by migration to the big cities? They tend to add to the degradation of the fabric of the town or city which surrounds them. Switzerland has many of these types of buildings and thanks to the Swiss Heritage Society an innovative solution has been found to make use of these properties long forgotten and in many cases bring them back to their former glory or as close to it as is possible.

Through the work of the foundation, an architect can assess the state of the edifice and create a plan for the restoration which once done results in a property which has value in itself but also uplifts the surrounding community. Local artisans and suppliers are used and the community is sensitized to the architectural restoration. Then there is, of course, the economic benefit of the holiday rentals and the influx of local and international tourists who have the opportunity to spend a few nights in a magical old world home like the Turalihus in Valendas.

The mansion is situated in the centre of the historic village and was originally built as a large farmhouse in 1485. From the early 1940s, the house stood abandoned. Sixty years of neglect left the home in a state close to demolition but in 2007 the Foundation bought the property and commissioned architecture firm CAPAUL & BLUMENTHAL of Ilanz to undertake the restoration.

The award-winning firm is well known for its approach to preserving the architectural heritage of the region. For the Turalihus the approach was scientific but simple, to maintain as much of the original structure as possible while gently restoring the interiors and respecting the Baroque details which make this place so special and unique. They decided on creating two apartments which can sleep between four to seven people and as much of the original character has been maintained like the worn out steps, to the oiled wooden panelling, stone floors and even the smoke scoured walls, black with soot. There are five bedrooms, two living rooms and two bathrooms all communicating via the stair tower. The baroque detailing is astonishing and the architects have done an amazing job of restoring without renewing. The past is written in the walls and the ceilings, it is both rustic and palatial at the same time and the new additions like the kitchen and bathrooms are done with sensitivity and elegance.

The Turalihus is a testament to a vision of how the past can be relevant and viable in today's society.

www.capaulblumenthal.ch

Photography: Alessandra Ianniello / Living Inside / Text: Kurt G. Stapelfeldt



The rebirth of Türalihus is due to the work of a large number of entities working towards a common goal. The local association Valendas Impuls, the municipality, the Grisons and the Swiss Heritage Protection as well as the Graubünden Historical Preservation with the Foundation Ferien im Baudenkmal and the architects have made it possible to take a few short steps back in time and spend a few nights here.



*The landing on the stair tower with a period wooden door and worn out steps.
On the right page: the living room door.*





This and next double page: The living area with detailed ceilings. Side table, floor lamp and carpet from Fritz Hansen. Cushions on STF6 210 by Möbelhalle Zürich sofa is Bi-colore from MC Selvini. Steel tube armchair Werner Max Moser Modell 1435. Bronze box and wooden bowl from Hands on Design.





278,51 m

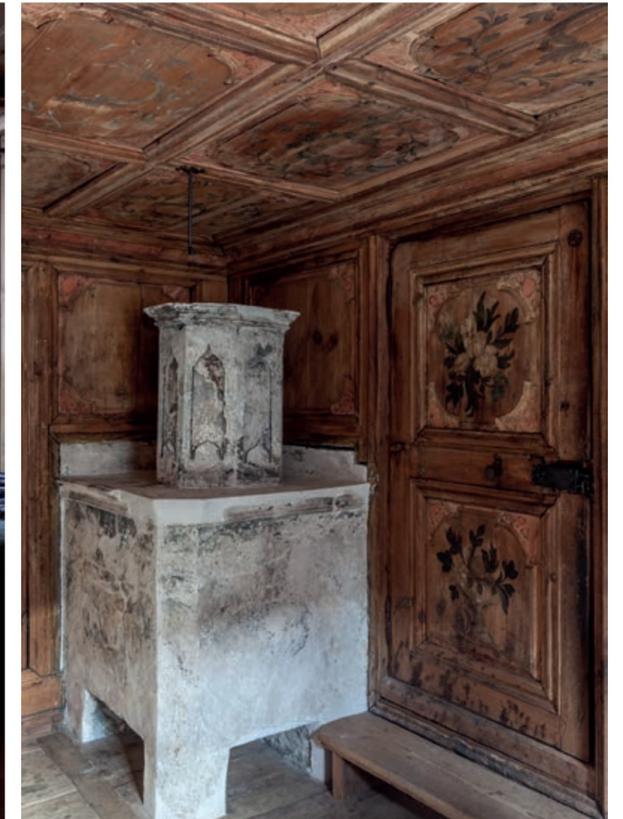


The dining area with a Moser 1-250 chair (Werner Max Moser, 1931), a beech black silk matt and Sigma T-1560 table Horgenglarus, 1944, in walnut. Setting on table from Society Limonta.





Right page: a historic tub has been re-enamelled. Towel by Society Limonta.



*Left page: one of the master bedrooms with side table, candle holder and lamp from Fritz Hansen, bedding from Society and wooden vases in window from Hands on Design.
This page on the left: a bedroom with an ancient trunk, side table and table lamp from Fritz Hansen, bedding from Society. On the right: a painted decoration on wooden panelling.*



Johanna Trojer and her daughter Stephanie

THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE VALLEY

Johanna Trojer and her daughter Stephanie renovated their family's ancient farmhouse, overlooking the dreamlike mountains of East Tyrol. Walk in and you'll get an unexpected surprise: a precious, original stube, exposed reclaimed wood and modern and minimalist elements. In pure harmony.

Reaching Johanna Trojer's alpine house means taking into account a long series of hairpin bends by car. But the effort is absolutely worth it, paid off immediately by the panoramic and breathtaking view of the pristine mountains of East Tyrol, one step away from Italian South Tyrol. Snow-capped peaks, sharp rocks, small villages with a fairytale look. And then, solid and rich in history, is Johanna's family home. She is a high school teacher with a deep connection with this territory.

This ancient farmhouse, partly dating back to 1299, is situated on a mountain at 1300 m above sea level, on the sunny side of the Pustertal valley in Osttirol, at a stone's throw from South Tyrol. Here is mostly sunny throughout the year. The location is very quiet, without any traffic or noise, as the street ends right behind the house. From the outside, the structure has the typical characteristics of the Tyrolean homes, with a sloping roof and the upper part showing a wooden facade. Entering means to discover a new kind of magic, that of a refined interior decoration, capable of harmoniously balancing tradition, rusticity and contemporary minimalism. The (hard) work of mother and daughter, who dedicated themselves to the substantial restyling project.

The house was in a very poor condition. As for the majority of Tyrolean buildings, sustainable architectural features were considered an absolute priority. Thomas Unterweger from Studio Modul2 in Lienz enabled the successful restoration of the house. Many improvements have been undertaken, but always respecting the original layout, with great love for the family past.

Harmony: this is the key word to describe the perfect symbiosis that has been created between old and new, in a domestic setting that protects its inhabitants with an alpine charm.

www.modul-2.at

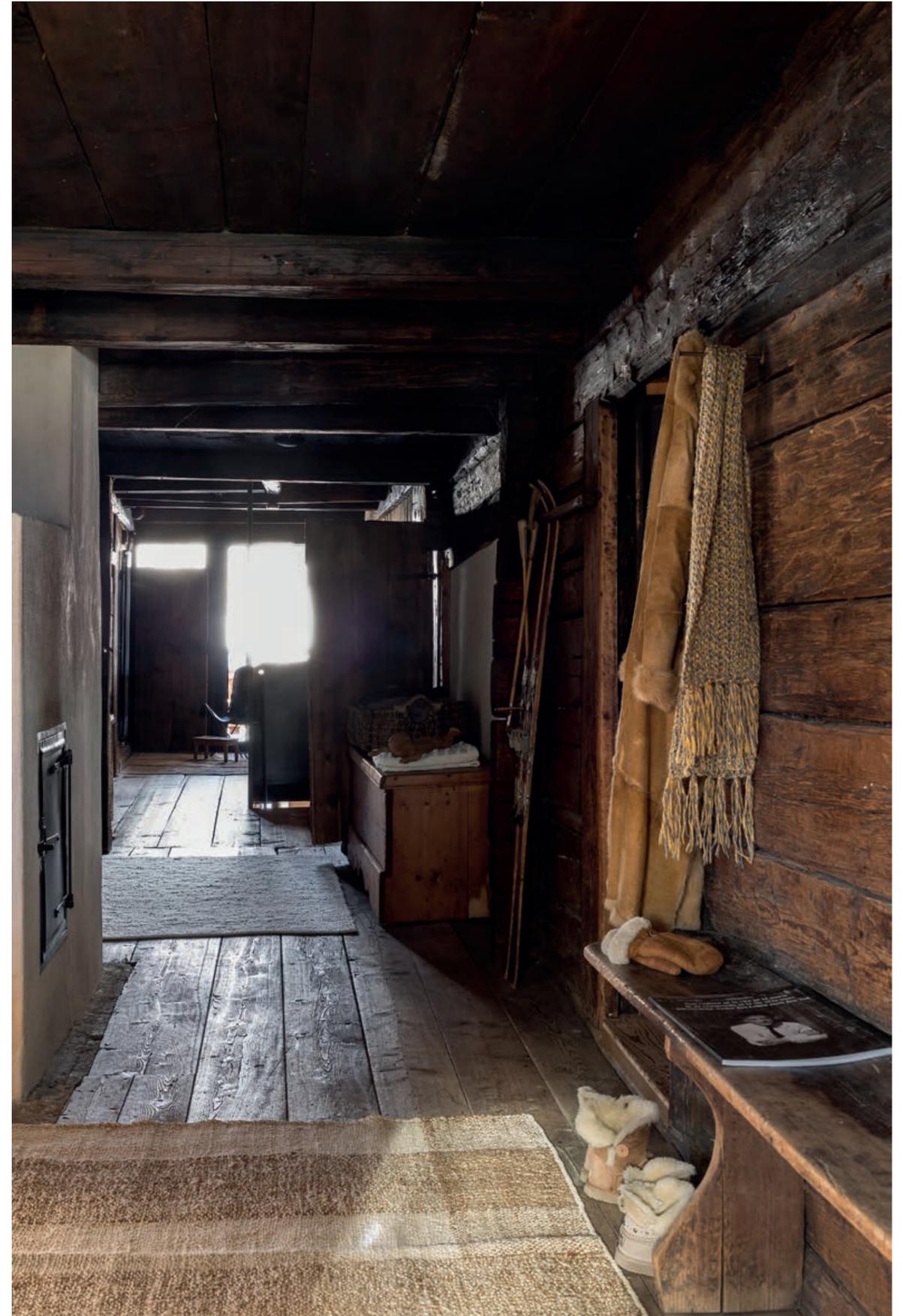
Photography: Alessandra Ianniello / Living Inside / Text: Marzia Nicolini



Next double page: the view, a spectacular panorama from the balcony facing south. You can see the Heinfels Castle, the 'Queen of Pustertal Valley', near the entrance to the Villgraten Valley.







*The furnishings are mostly original, dating from centuries ago. Family heirlooms are everywhere.
 Right page: the corridor looking west. Except for opening the wall for the glass to get more sunlight, no changes have been made. Johanna only cleaned the wooden panels. The chest in the centre is restored (was already in the house). Natural fiber mat from Zara Home.*

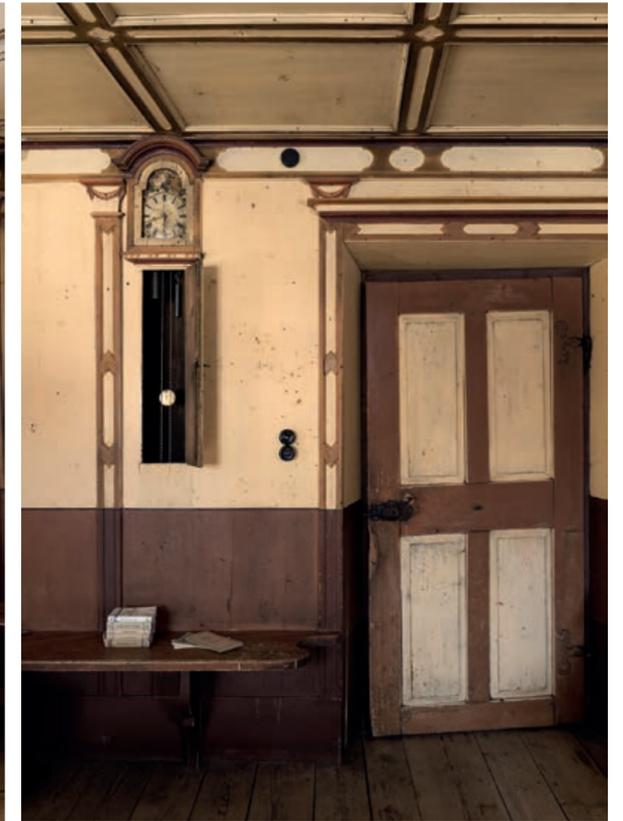


Left page: one of the few wardrobes left in the house, from about 1710, carefully restored (there was no cupboard bottom).

Above: the old kitchen with uncle's table, chairs from 1710/1720, the original floor, a SMEG fridge, original copper and iron pans from the house. In the corner: the open fireplace where Johanna's ancestors would cook, poles on the ceiling to hang up bacon, ham, cheese and sausages. Lamp Ledworks.



The cozy living room upstairs, with its restored stove from the 1930s (from Kaltern, in South Tyrol, where Johanna's mother grew up). Logs from the local forests, floor and any other wooden panel/part are all original (inserted again after the installation works). The couch table was an old case to carry earth, potatoes, and other agricultural products. Floor lamp by Fritz Hansen. Cushions by Zara Home.



The Stube with a folding table from the early 19th century and (next double page) the original table with a picture of Johanna's great-grandparents and uncle and a drawing of the house. An ancient wooden chair and bench from the house.

*Uncle's hat on the hinge in the Stube.
Next double page: the chairs around the table are partly from the 1720s, they have survived modern times in this house.*





*Left page: Johanna's bed with panels from her great-grandmother's house in her home town, probably from the 14th or 15th century. The bed was custom made by a local carpenter in stone pine, while the ancient bench was in the house. Society Limonta blanket.
Above left: a freestanding bathtub in the vaulted room where food used to be kept (with poles still on the ceiling). Chair from Johanna's home farm where she grew up, from the 18th century. Society Limonta towels.
Above right: the washbasin is a recycled feeding trough, inside a hand made copper basin. The mirror belonged to a friend of Johanna who pulled down his old farmhouse and no longer needed it.*



The terrace with a little bench from the house, offers spectacular views over the mountains and ski slopes. Protected from the wind. The Head of Office for Listed Monuments, Mr Hauser, calls it 'a bird nest'. New window frames from the trees grown near the house.



Stephanie's bedroom: uncle's suitcase made of thin branches of bushes/canes, bedstead from the house, adapted and restored. On the right: a metal skier made by Johanna's little brother when he went to school. Bathroom glass door: a picture of Johanna's uncle (it was taken in the 1930).



Chiara Asti sitting in the living room of the chalet.

A WARM HEARTH IN THE SNOWY LANDSCAPE OF THE ENGADINE

Boasting breathtaking mountains views, the Engadine holiday hideaway of two experts of interior designer and architecture reveals a warm hearth, with thick wood panelling, tailored furnishings and a minimalist spa area to say goodbye to stress. Mountains on every side, the river, the woods, the wild nature. No surprise it is here, in this small town in the Maloja region, in the Swiss canton of Graubünden, that Paolo Asti, founder of Asti Architetti In Milano and his wife Chiara, found their haven of rest.

The spot is undoubtedly the first element of fascination. The house is located on the Chamuera river side and faces south towards St Moritz, which is just ten kilometers away; to the west towards the Albula pass; to the north towards Zuoz and the lower Engadine; to the east towards the Bernina. Embedded in the landscape. To protect itself from natural elements and cold weather (here winters are long and frigid), the house has thick walls and a solid and imposing structure, like an alpine rock. It is a building with a long past, hence the allure.

It is an ensemble of buildings built between 1770 and 1930, which were then united in a large single-family dwelling. In the redevelopment project the original details of the noble mountain house, which has all the typical characteristics of the local architecture, have been highlighted. One key word for the architectural project: respect. Of the history of the building, of the Engadine traditions and taste.

When you enter, the feeling of rigour you get from the outside makes room to an intimate sense of warmth and comfort. The interior design is characterized by a very clear and precise spatial organization of the housing functions, each well defined, respecting the traditional layout.

It is a house that doesn't indulge in decoration, leaving to the rich materials and original volumes the role of main characters. Which, however, does not mean a cold and aseptic minimalistic style, on the contrary: the idea is more that of a mountain luxury, in perfect balance between yesterday and today. Almost a counterpoint to the rugged surroundings. As for the furnishings, as for the materials, what prevails is the use of typical mountain details, from the raw fabrics to the earth-inspired colours palette, including of course woods and local stones with sober, organic and discreet nuances.

The study of light was very important too: it emerges and filters from the architectural details, creating suggestive and intimate atmospheres, in the almost total absence of visible lamps (a project by Asti Architetti). The epic view does the rest.

www.astiarchitetti.it



*The snowy landscape of the Engadine, between mountains and woods.
The house is located on the Chamuera river side and faces south towards St Moritz, which is just ten kilometers away; to the west towards the Albula pass; to the north towards Zuoz and the lower Engadine; to the east towards the Bernina.*



The wooden staircase is an original detail, restored and preserved. A vintage wooden sideboard. Pure alpine style, without ever falling into banality. Next double page: one of the most relaxing spot of the house and one of the owners' favourite ones is the reading armchair, a lightweight leather deck chair designed by Paola Navone for Baxter. A custom designed fireplace.

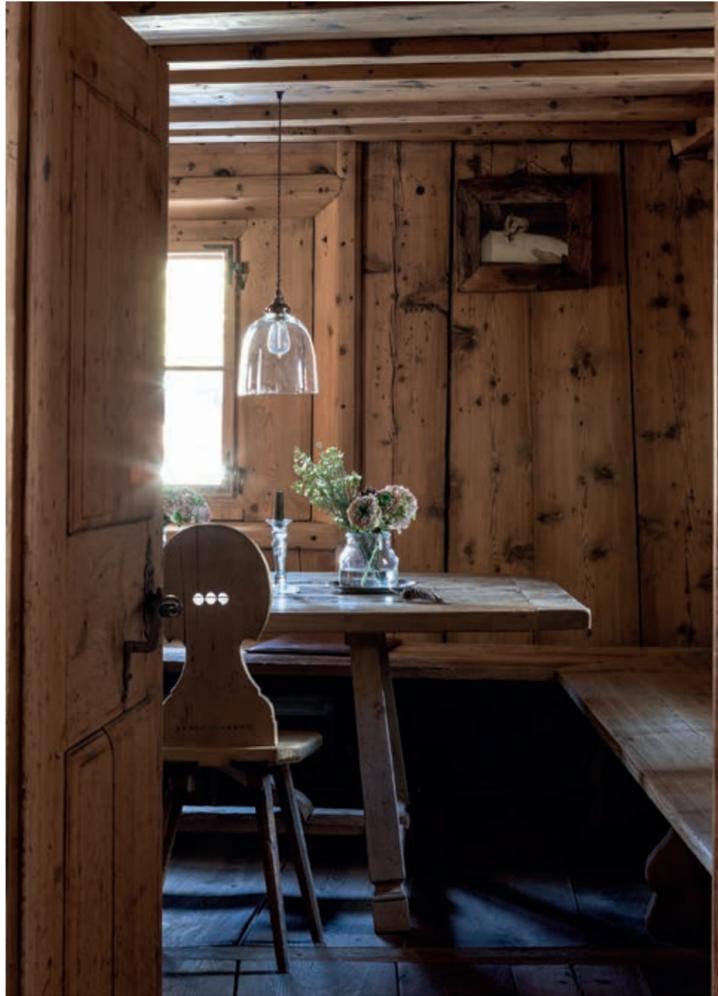




In the living room (that once used to be the barn): leather chaise longue by Baxter designed by Paola Navone. Ottoman by De Padova and custom designed Chester sofa. Pillows are by Brunello Cucinelli; tray by Ralph Lauren Home. Raw wood everywhere and a great sense of intimacy and warmth.



Exposed wood as the fil-rouge of the architectural and interior design project.



A detail of the Stube, where owners and guests gather for their meals. A space furnished in pure traditional alpine style, with an original antique door, a vase of flowers and local wooden chairs. Suspension lamps by Heals London.



Another area much loved (and used) by the owners is the minimalist spa, which was created inside the old stable. Framed by glazed windows overlooking the fir trees, the spa includes a heated pool with hydro massage. Here too, wood warms up the space. Ethimo loungers made of teak wood.



Upstairs, the master bedroom, a sort of extra luxury hideaway in the name of comfort. Wood coverings, soft fabrics, fine leather and tailored furnishings.



The master bathroom with refined antique wood panelling. Shower made using local mountain stone, mirror designed by Gubi.