

HOMES & GARDENS®

JUNE 2014
£3.99

ARTFULLY DESIGNED

BEAUTIFUL HOUSES
WITH PERSONALITY AND FLAIR

OUTSIDE IN
SCHEMES INSPIRED
BY THE GARDEN

PURE DESIGN
INTERIORS WHERE
LESS IS MORE

ON THE MENU
DELICIOUS IDEAS FOR
FISH AND SEAFOOD

TIME FOR
A CHANGE?

*Decorating with pink, colourful planting
& ideas for children's rooms*

RECALL 28/5/14





| HOUSES & GARDENS |

Our choice of irresistible spaces, inside and out

This month, we visit an elegant new-build with timeless appeal, and a medieval hilltop home in central Italy, painstakingly renovated by its architect owner. Enjoy a 21st-century take on the Seventies in a Modernist property, and see how a former threshing barn has been re-imagined to combine modern comforts with eco living. Green spaces include a garden of five separate but linked rooms, each offering a different look, while beautiful planting and heavenly scents provide year-round pleasure for the owners of another pretty, rural plot. ▶

A BRIDGE BETWEEN

With characteristic aplomb, architect Patrizio Fradiani has restored his medieval hilltop retreat to give it a 21st-century ethos without losing its sense of history

WORDS EVIE WILLIAMS | PHOTOGRAPHS MARK LUSCOMBE-WHYTE



STAIRS

The simple enclosed stairs with its tiny wall dices playful sculptures designed by Patrizio Fradiani

Interior design: Studio F.D. 001773 425 5730, studiof-design.com

THE TOWN

Situated in the Lazio region of central Italy, Civita di Bagnoregio was originally an Etruscan settlement. The final half-mile approach is a pedestrian footbridge.

TWO WORLDS





KITCHEN

To blend this first-floor space (far left) seamlessly into the main living area (left and right), Patrizio used an L-shaped configuration, with a bank of wall cupboards for storage.

Replay Next kitchen cabinets, Stosa Cucine at Belvisi Kitchen & Furniture, 01223 327463, belvisifurniture.co.uk. Bespoke Italian Calacatta marble, Mandarin Stone, 0160 071 5444, mandarinstone.com. Eames DSR chair, £225, Vitra, 020 7608 6200, vitra.com.



DINING AREA

A mix of classic modern Italian chairs and a brass chandelier designed in the 1950s add mid-century style to this space (left and right). Patrizio made three triptych panels, "a homage to the orography of Civita", using old wooden drawers, moss and grass.

2097 pendant, from £1,118, Flos, 020 3328 5140, flos.com. Container table, from £1,040, Moooi, 020 8962 5691, moooi.com. Panton dining chair in White (behind sofa), £206, Vitra at Heal's, 0870 024 0780, heals.co.uk.

STAIRCASE ALCOVE

This niche (far left) is one of four each designed to hold a carefully chosen piece of art.

LIVING AREA

To play up the warm tones of the restored 14th-century terracotta tiles (right), the walls and ceiling beams were whitewashed.

Bend sofa B214C, £2,865; Bend ottoman B111P, £808; both in Savo 25 S-grade linen cotton, B&B Italia, 020 78111, bebitalia.com. Gurli cushion cover in White, £3 each, Ikea, 020 3645 0000, ikea.com/gb. ▶





GUEST BEDROOM

The property's ground floor has been transformed into a bedroom (also above right), where cushions in bold colours help to "create the look of a Moroccan daybed".

Eames DAR armchair with a white base in White, £300; The Corran rug in Red-lilac/Orange, £5 extra; Vitten rug, £80; Valborg cushion in Red-lilac/Orange, £5 extra; 020 3645 0000, ikea.com

GUEST BEDROOM

Pops of fuchsia enliven the sleeping area, which is tucked beyond an original arch of tufa limestone (far right).

Tolomeo Micro Fuerto wall lights, £129.75 each, Artemide at Geoffrey Harris, 020 3355 9628, geoffreyharris.com.

Similar cushions, velvet cushions in Fuchsia, £32 each, Oliver Bonas, 020 8974 0110, oliverbonas.com.



There is genuine romance to the narrow footbridge that leads you into the ancient town of Civita di Bagnoregio in Lazio, central Italy, where architect Patrizio Fradiani has made his home. Set on stilts and forbidden to cars, the modern bridge provides you with an awe-inspiring view of the town's 14th-century architecture, and of the valley of the great River Tiber and soaring volcanic Cimini Hills beyond. Continue on into the town and invited guests only will eventually find Domus Civita, Patrizio's newly refurbished retreat.

The three-storey building exudes rustic chic, yet it has undergone a painstaking transformation. Italian-born architect Patrizio and his partner Mark Steinberg, a psychotherapist, were living in Chicago at the time so, for the duration of the project, Patrizio regularly criss-crossed the Atlantic to manage the process. The pair had chanced upon the property while on holiday.

"We offered to buy it on Friday, signed on Saturday and flew home on Sunday," says Patrizio, with typical Italian verve.

It was challenging to undertake the renovation of a medieval property, but Patrizio had a strong vision. The house was in disrepair and the ground floor had served as a shop, but "the fourteenth-century tiles, beams and fireplace were appealing", he says. Tiles were cleaned and sealed with beeswax, the oak beams sand-blasted to remove green paint, and the fireplace was acid-washed. Now, a new staircase links the ground-floor bedroom and first-floor living space, and walls have been rebuilt to create two bedrooms and bathrooms on the second floor.

When attempting to design a cohesive style, Patrizio was faced with a conundrum. "One side of the house overlooks the mountains, the other

opens on to the town," he says. His task was to fuse the contrasting external influences in a seamless interior, so to blend the colours he devised a predominantly grey and white palette. "I needed an accent shade, but everything seemed too hot or too cool," Patrizio explains. "This strong green echoes the vegetation and the purple feels contemporary." Finally, to maximise the living space, he opted for an open-plan layout with a pared down white kitchen and linear Italian furniture.

For Patrizio, it was crucial to employ Italian craftsmen and to source

locally. "I had weeks of whirlwind meetings," he says. The kitchen and bedroom worktops are Calacatta marble from a stonemason an hour's drive away, bathroom surfaces are basalt, an indigenous stone, and the simple curtains are Italian linen. Everything was transported on the town's only tractor. Yet Patrizio has deliberately mixed in decorative items from Chicago, including painted letters, a First World War Red Cross

trunk and three old American school maps. He has a particular fondness for the latter. "They draw together my two worlds," he says. He has lavished equal attention outside and designed a formal Italian garden. On hot summer days, the air is scented with planted rosemary, box and climbing roses. "The house is always full of friends and family," he says. "We eat outside, with local bread, cheese, pasta and tomatoes." Intriguingly, the garden is reached via the original tufa underground caves, now transformed into a secluded pool and wine cellar.

Creating physical and visual links has been Patrizio's enduring theme. "I wanted the house to be a historical bridge between the old town and modern times," he says. At Domus Civita, with its ancient bones and 20th-century furniture, he has achieved the perfect fusion. ►

"We offered to buy it on Friday, signed on Saturday and flew home on Sunday," says Patrizio, with typical Italian verve



MAIN BATHROOM

To ensure a blend of the old vernacular and the modern, original beams and floor tiles sit alongside a crisp glass shower screen and local basalt worktop.

M2 washbasin, from £324, Galassia UK, 0113 239 4447, ceramicagalassia.com.

MAIN BEDROOM

A built-in storage space topped with Calacatta marble doubles as a window seat, offering intimate views across the town streets.

Saarinen coffee table in White laminate, £588, Knoll at Skandium, 020 7584 2066, skandium.com. **Gatto table lamps**, from £277 each, Flos at Utility, 0151 708 4192, utilitydesign.co.uk.

TOP LANDING

Patrizio's collection of hanging birdcages, amassed in the US, Mexico, Germany and Italy, has been fitted with light bulbs to create an unusual lighting effect.

UNDERGROUND POOL

Two caves, which date from Etruscan times, were dug down and transformed into a cooling underground swimming pool and hot tub.



GARDEN

Patrizio designed the formal Italian terraced garden using boxwood hedging, rosemary, rare species of hydrangea and climbing roses. The space is very private – the only access is via the existing caves and through a small opening in the rock.

Pipe chairs in White, £456 set of four. Philippe Starck at Panik Design. 01908 307020, panik-design.com ■