

AD

I N S I E M E



€ 5,00



IN EDICOLA DAL 28 OTTOBRE 2021

P. 262

The silk road

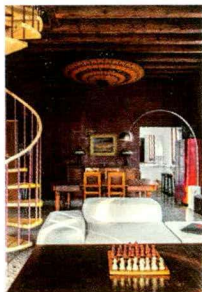
In the Cannaregio zone, an apartment in a Gothic building tells stories of travels and love

Words Elena Dallorso — Photos Ramona Balaban

The architecture studio opened years ago by Elisabeth Regnault de la Mothe in Venice has a prophetic name: "Vivere Venezia". Having fallen in love with the city, living in Venice implies a calm pace and easy social contact along with an extraordinary cultural heritage to be conserved. The lengthy restoration of a Gothic building at the edge of the Ghetto, towards Sant'Alvise in Cannaregio, fits into this philosophy: «The structure is that of the period in which it was built, one level plus attic. It was in bad condition, its architectural character concealed by dozens of interventions, split to make more rooms. Even the trilobed arches of the windows had been hidden. We have tried to restore it to its original beauty».

The terrazzo floors have been saved, the plasterboard suspended ceilings removed, revealing high ceilings and beams. A fireplace, whose chimney was visible from the outside, was discovered deep inside a wall. The Venetian character can also be seen in the plaster finish of the walls, in a velvety shade of bordeaux. The city's relationship with the Orient is reflected in a series of objects purchased during long trips abroad: a Chinese canopy bed, a Burmese vase, traditional parasols as lamps, a coffee table – also from Burma – in the living room. Other traces include the tiles covering the walls of the kitchen and the bathroom.

Contemporary furniture establishes a dialogue with historical and ethnic pieces – an *Extrasoft* sofa by Piero Lissoni (Living Divani), an *Arco* lamp by Achille & Pier Giacomo Castiglioni (Flos), an efficient, minimalist kitchen (Veneta Cucine). All these items are inserted in a profoundly Venetian interior, and become part of it. Because «the true Venetians are those who choose that identity».



The living room of the house in Venice, with antique dining table and chairs and the *Arco* lamp (Flos). Bicycles are Paul Smith's great passion (almost an obsession). Here is the Mercian that he designed for an exhibition in Japan.

P. 268

Under the sequoia

The interior designer Christophe Delcourt and the founder of Collection Particulière, Jérôme Aumont, purchased an estate in Normandy

Words Oscar Duboř — Photos Alexis Armanet

The urge to live in a natural setting was strong, and the weekend house at Honfleur would no longer suffice. So Christophe Delcourt and Jérôme Aumont snapped up

this estate of 50 hectares in Normandy. They knew some of the buildings were on the verge of collapse, especially the long annex, a cross between a house, a barn and a stable. Christophe Delcourt talks about the ruins: «It was a classic truss structure, and the walls were falling apart. Certain portions dated back to the 1980s, but there was nothing to salvage other than a lovely fireplace. The place had been used as a barn, its floor still in packed earth, which made the structure unstable. The outer walls were clad in treated pine, identical to the internal finishes. The point was to preserve the regional style of the building while setting our own tone». Jérôme work on the main house will have to wait.

The focus is now on this annex: the previous layout has been opened up, making the 150 sqm of floorspace into a single area, in which to create a central living room, a bedroom, a large open kitchen with fireplace, a dining room and – on the other side – a bathroom with a smaller bedroom. This organization has orderly segments, countering the dizzying 8-meter ceilings. It is a perfect setting for experimenting with all the new creations of the Collection Particulière catalogue, the brand founded by Aumont seven years ago.

Nature is everywhere: trees, including an impressive sequoia, and horses, a true passion for Delcourt. As Aumont says, it is a case of "total symbiosis": «The house blends into the landscape, asserting all of its potential for natural camouflage».

P. 276

Paul Smith

In the home of the British fashion designer, a practical demonstration of balance

Words Gareth Wyn Davies — Photos Simon Upton

As opposed to the density of his London headquarters, which we saw during a Zoom call in which he gave us glimpses of lots of bicycles, works of art, toys and accessories, the home of Sir Paul Smith and his wife Pauline Denyer is absolutely quiet and peaceful. They have lived here for over 30 years, in a building dating back to the mid-1800s in western London. Pauline is an artist, and the furnishings reveal her taste for calm, form, clean lines. Highlights include a luminous studio that was once a stable, the fabulous proportions and «glorious, enormous» windows, as Smith says.

«The best part is that the house is practically the same as it was», he remarks. «Many people call in an interior designer and everything is great. But for us, following our own tastes made decorating a gradual process». The couple continue to avoid passing fashions, as Pauline ironically explains, avoiding a modern kitchen