



SITTING ROOM

Bathed in ochre, the space has a desert-like feel, which Giacomo has enhanced with his collection of cacti. A magenta velvet sofa and cobalt blue chair inject extra pops of colour, which are picked up in the vintage Chinese rug. **Sofa**, Giacomo Totti. **Blue armchair**, Osvaldo Borsani for Tecno. **Swing chair**, Giovanni Offredi for Saporiti. **Metafora coffee table**, Vignelli for Martinelli Luce. **Floor lamp**, Angelo Brotto for Esperia



HOUSE 12

TALE OF THE UNEXPECTED

Giacomo Totti's apartment – like his design style – is a magical mix of the historical and decoration that is full of wonder

WORDS VIVIENNE AYERS PHOTOGRAPHY HELENIO BARBETTA/LIVING INSIDE



KITCHEN
The Palladian marble flooring is original and Giacomo decided on stainless-steel cabinetry to chime with the colour of the flooring. Cabinets designed by Giacomo Totti

“I’VE ALWAYS PREFERRED COOL TONES, BUT THIS TIME I WANTED A COLOUR THAT WOULD STIMULATE ME MORE ENERGETICALLY AND THE YELLOW ACCENTUATES THE LIGHT”



KITCHEN

The splashback consists of tiles made from hand-dyed artisanal porcelain, from the Maya collection by Giacomo for De Marchi Verona.

Trilobi Murano glass wall light, Venini. Oil on canvas, Denis Riva, Cellar Contemporary



DINING ROOM

The geometric mouldings on the ceiling are new and the large brass and iron bookcase was designed by Giacomo.

Table from the 1950s is by Gio Ponti. Chairs are vintage. The Stilnovo pendant is 1950s; find similar at 1stDibs

Interior architect Giacomo Totti's apartment epitomises the bold and unexpected both inside and out. Situated in the charming historic city of Thiene in northern Italy, his home stands in marked contrast to the period buildings that surround it, with its Brutalist exterior resembling the renowned Torre Velasca, a 1950s skyscraper in Milan. 'I was attracted to the building's exterior, which was a significant architectural feat. The building epitomises the early Brutalist architecture that very few designers in the 1950s achieved,' explains Giacomo. 'When it came to the apartment's interior, I was captivated by its abundant natural light and mid-century finishes, especially the Palladian marble flooring.'

A passion for the past, and in particular vintage furniture, is in Giacomo's genes – his father was an antiques dealer, regularly taking him to fairs and markets throughout Europe as a boy. Giacomo's renovation of the apartment involved removing the inappropriate alterations made by the previous owners, while keeping the 1950s finishes and materials, restoring them where necessary, and rearranging the floor plan to one more in keeping with mid-century style. The open-plan kitchen, for instance, was reconfigured into a separate room, while the second bedroom was transformed into a dining room and studio.

Giacomo's inspiration came from renowned designers such as Carlo Scarpa, Gio Ponti and Le Corbusier and he incorporated various mid-century features such as the Gio Ponti-style geometric mouldings on the sitting and dining room ceilings, which he designed himself, the green marble portals in the sitting room and the olive wood wainscot in the entrance. 'In every one of my projects, my aim is that visitors can't discern the original features of a space from the period-style additions,' he elaborates. 'I have to say that very few guests have been able to figure it out here.'

Giacomo was keen to create an authentic 1950s backdrop where he could showcase furniture from various eras and styles, with a strong affinity for Italian design. 'Gio Ponti was a must-have in my home,' he explains, adding, 'I wanted to create a dialogue between the pieces, with stylistic resonances and dissonances. It's a subtle balance between all the stylistic choices, always teetering on the edge of the precipice.'

New life has been breathed into the interior with texture and colour, another nod to Gio Ponti. 'I love colour because I am terrified of boredom,' Giacomo explains. 'I've always preferred cool tones in my previous homes, but this time I wanted a colour that would stimulate me more energetically.' He made a bold choice with the ochre shade that envelops the sitting room. 'It accentuates the abundant light, giving the space a desert-like aesthetic. This amused me in an urban context.' Additional pops of colour are incorporated with jewel-toned seating. The room is set off beautifully by the vintage Chinese rug that teases out the jewel tones. 'I love unconventional pairings, trying to harmonise colours even if it seems a forced process. After the work was completed, I found a Chinese art deco rug that had the same colour combinations. It felt like destiny.' The mellow yellow is continued in the kitchen for a cohesive feel, pairing well with the Palladian marble flooring.

The bedroom, with its more muted palette, is Giacomo's favourite room and, not surprisingly, bold design is a key ingredient here, encapsulated by an eye-catching triangular headboard. 'The choice of wall colour wasn't intentional, but when removing the old layers of paint, the weathered yellowish finish of the original lime plaster was revealed and it harmonises with the other rooms.'

Giacomo describes his signature style as 'respect and study of history and architecture, and anarchy in decoration,' which his apartment certainly exemplifies. ☺

■ giacomototti.com



ENTRANCE

Giacomo redesigned the entrance and introduced dark olive wood panelling.

Luisa armchairs, Franco Albini. Wall lamp, Max Sauze for Atelier Robert Weil



ENTRANCE

Ribbed glass doors allow in extra light.

Mirrored walls are profiled in brass.

Floor lamp, Angelo Brotto for Esperia. Blue linoleum floor, Forbo



BEDROOM

The custom bed was designed by Giacomo and made from Italian walnut.

Rug, Giacomo Totti for Matteo Pala. Bed linen, Lanerossi. Lamp, Carlo Santi for Kartell

MEET THE DESIGNER

Giacomo Totti shares his style inspiration

GO-TO COLOUR Mustard was the first shade I had in mind here, while also matching the existing Palladian flooring in an unconventional way.

SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT

Covering the front wall of the French doors with a mirror. This simple architectural trick doubles the light and space in the living area.

YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS

Fanatic, anarchic, contradictory.

FAVOURITE DESIGN DETAIL There isn't a specific detail; it's the search for endless details.

INSPIRATION I find it mainly in old architectural books, but when I have some free time I spend it in Venice, which always offers high-quality cultural events.

SECRET ADDRESS Flea markets at 5am.

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