



Wunderkammer

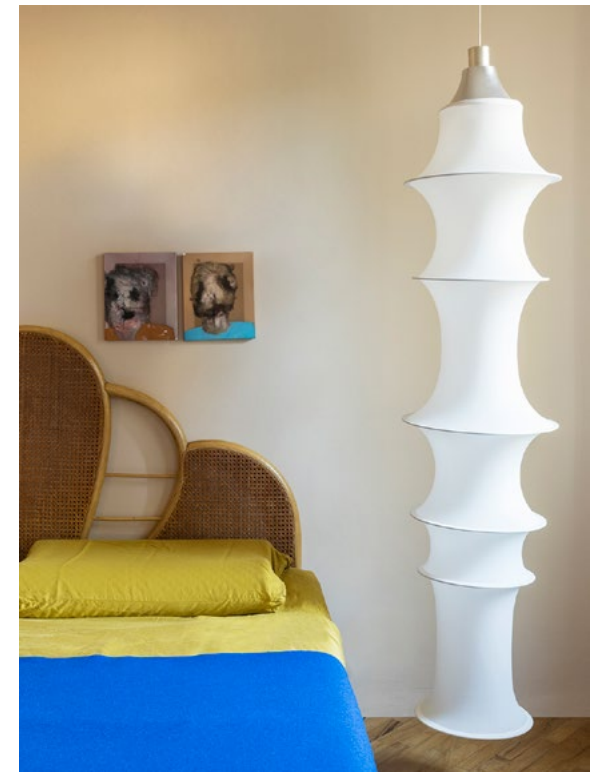
HOMEOWNER

Arianna Bartolomeo
and Nicola Tamiozzo

It’s always great to see a young couple building a home together with a clear vision of what they like and want. When you add an inspired emerging designer who also happens to be a good friend, the result is a home like this one in the city of Vicenza in northern Italy. Arianna and Nicola are a creative couple in search of an atmosphere reflective of their love for the exotic, the eclectic and everything remote in space and time. ‘This house is our very own *Wunderkammer*. We live surrounded by elements that inspire and motivate us – colours, objects and wonders found during our travels or while browsing in the region’s many vintage markets,’ they explain. Arianna works in communications, and Nicola is a musician. They were looking for an early twentieth-century home, which they found on a historic street in Vicenza, just outside the city walls in a neighbourhood with a strong influence from the Liberty (Italian art nouveau) movement. They had found their ‘place to be’, surrounded by villas from the early 1900s and lush gardens populated with palms and magnolias.

Enter Giacomo Totti, a close friend and interior designer. Arianna and Nicola explain: ‘In addition to the long-standing friendship between us, there is a communion of tastes and interests. We discussed some ideas that we had developed over time, and he helped us to realize them and blend them into a coherent design concept. All that he proposed to us fully reflected our taste and our aesthetics. Just like him, we are crazy about the original, mainly Italian design pieces of the 1960s and 70s – Ponti, De Carli, Castiglioni, Munari, Bellini, Frattini and Buffa.’ The layout of the home is filled with airy open spaces, giving them the possibility to create several different *Wunderkammern*, while restoring the original features to their former glory. As the couple says, ‘The house is 110 square metres with a dual exposure: the kitchen, bedroom and bathroom face east, and the living room, dining room and study face west, with the rooms radiating out around a large central corridor. It is very bright, thanks to the numerous windows, two of which have balconies. We wanted the chromatic choices to dictate a certain mood, so we designed a palette inspired by the colours found in nature, warm and earthy, as opposed to the colder tones of green and sky blue.’ To make the most of the available sunlight, the couple has filled the home with potted plants like palms and cacti. Where nature cannot be present, it is represented, like the jungle-themed tapestry above the master bed or the copper leaf motif over the fireplace. As the couple says, ‘We have created similarities and contrasts between original vintage furniture from the 1960s and 70s, bespoke pieces by Giacomo Totti, pre-existences of the Liberty era and contemporary works of art by local designers. Each object tells us its story and has a different origin.’







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