

High

Two former bandmates reunited to transform a new-build Italian apartment into a personality-filled home that sings



PHOTOGRAPHY Helenio Barbetta/Living Inside

WORDS Anna Bisazza

notes

LIVING SPACE

'The colour on the walls and curtains gives an almost underwater feel, which is very relaxing,' says designer Giacomo Totti.

1950s **armchairs** by Gio Ponti. **Pulse rug**, Duccio Maria Gambi for cc-tapis. Reissued Bul-bo **floor light**, Gabetti and Isola at Axolight. Custom **fireplace**, Giacomo Totti; covered in artisanal porcelain, De Marchi Verona. **Vases** (on fireplace) by Riccardo Zocche



Those were the days:
Giacomo playing the bass,
Davide on the guitar. As
bandmates they toured
Europe and North
America, but then came the
moment of reckoning.

‘We had to abandon music, our first love, and move on to grown-up jobs because it simply didn’t pay what it should,’ says Giacomo, now an established interior designer. ‘Yet my experience as a professional musician was important because it allowed me to travel and be creative. The exposure to new realities helped me develop my own aesthetic language and vision.’

A decade later, the two friends have joined forces again, this time to play a very different tune. Davide, now a computer engineer, and his partner, Alice Vanzo, had acquired their first home, in a town in the Alpine foothills of northern Italy, and called on Giacomo’s expert eye to infuse it with personality.

The couple’s brief was simple: they wanted a cool, urban environment, with a showstopping kitchen suited to cooking and entertaining. It sounds straightforward, but it posed a challenge because the layout didn’t lend itself to this plan, leaving too little space for a living room. Eventually, the couple gave up on the second bedroom, knocking down walls to turn it into the cosy lounge area.

Then began the fun of adding colour, furnishings and custom-designed pieces. ‘I like mixing elements from different eras so that they interact in a certain way but also conflict one another, producing dissonances,’ says Giacomo, who collects lesser-seen vintage designs to use in his projects. ‘It’s much easier to have them handy, than having to look for them,’ he explains.

The palette originates from the Vico Magistretti sofa, reupholstered in purple. It is combined with a mix of vintage and contemporary choices, from the 1950s Gio Ponti armchairs to a cc-tapis rug. Cacti and palm-tree motifs add a hint of California, while a vivid painting reflects the colours of the ceramic vases above the porcelain fireplace. A fresh teal covers the ceiling. ‘I love using colours that are in between two primary or secondary colours because, as the hours pass and the light changes, the perception of them evolves,’ says Giacomo. ‘It’s an effect that helps create a mood.’

In the kitchen, Giacomo convinced the couple to use bleached oak and silver travertine to balance out the other colours in the apartment. The drama of this area is in its high ceilings – nearly 4.5 metres at peak – and it needed very specific lighting, so Giacomo designed some stylish elongated pendant lights to fill the space.

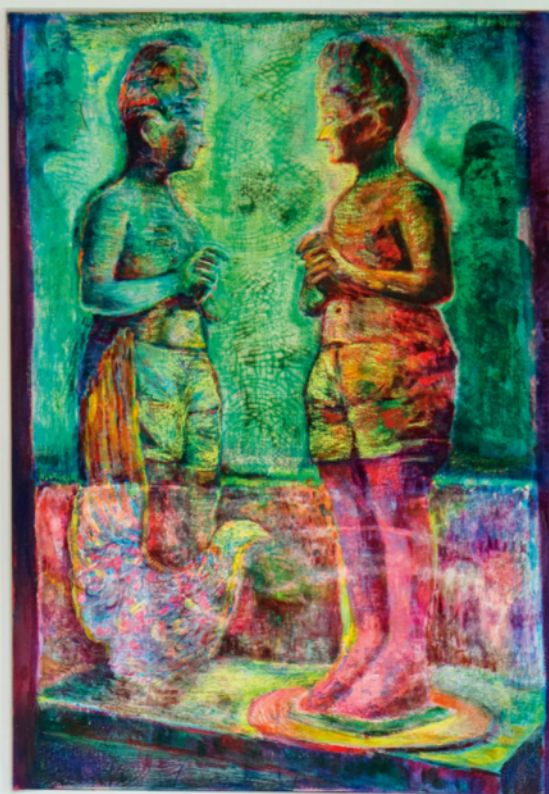
‘What is hard to capture in photos – but is striking in person – is the feeling of being submerged, almost floating, when inside the home,’ says Giacomo. ‘The beautiful sensation was unintended. So, despite the choice of cooler materials and colours, the soft light that bounces from the walls creates a very relaxing atmosphere.’

giacomototti.com

LIVING SPACE

'My signature of combining elements from different eras is clearly evident here,' says Giacomo.

Maralunga velvet **sofa**, Vico Magistretti for Cassina. Green Verde Alpi marble and brass 1950s **coffee table** by Cesare Lacca. Shogun **lamp** by Mario Botta for Artemide. 1970s burlwood and brass **coffee table**; similar, Pamono. Custom **bookcase** (just seen) by Giacomo Totti. Oil **painting** by Paola Angelini



KITCHEN

'The imposing island was designed to meet the needs of the owner, who is a skilled chef and great lover of entertaining,' says Giacomo.

Custom oak and silver travertine **kitchen**; custom **table**; custom polished brass **pendant**, all Giacomo Totti. Gaja **stools**, Kazuhide Takahama for Cassina. **Vase** (on table) by Riccardo Zocche. **Sculpture** (on table) by Alessio Tasca, 1950s **chairs**; similar, Vinterior. Oil **painting** by Davide Serpetti





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THE OWNERS

Davide Chinotto, a guitarist-turned-computer engineer, lives here with his partner, Alice Vanzo. He asked his old bandmate, Giacomo Totti, former-bassist, now founder of his eponymous interior design studio, to help them reimagine their modern apartment in northern Italy.

THE PROPERTY

The top floor, one-bed, new-build apartment features an open-plan living zone, complete with kitchen, dining area and living space, which leads to a roof terrace. A wardrobe-lined corridor leads to the bathroom and bedroom.

HALLWAY

'We took advantage of the impressive height to cram most of the storage space into this area,' says Giacomo. 'The mirror increases the sense of space and completes the dual function of storage/walk-in closet.'

Custom **wardrobe**, Giacomo Totti. Bucchero **handles**, Damiano Groppi. 1960s sculptural **wall art** by Carlo Nason for Mazzega. Purple Berber **runner**; similar, Etsy. **Artwork** (above stand) by Fabio Sandri, Artericambi Gallery

THE SIMILARITIES AND DISSONANCES BETWEEN
THE VARIOUS STYLES OF FURNITURE CREATE A
CERTAIN SURPRISE, DESPITE THE SIMPLICITY
OF THE SPACE SURROUNDING THEM



BATHROOM

'The mirrored and stainless-steel vanity is a nod to the work of Italian architect and designer Nanda Vigo,' says Giacomo.

Cadenza Collection blue porcelain **tiles**, Kejun Li at De Marchi Verona. Custom **mirror** and stainless-steel **vanity cabinet**, Giacomo Totti. **Vases** by Alessio Tasca. Enamelled copper **bowl** by Paolo De Poli. **Artwork** by Piero Martinello

BEDROOM

'Most of the couple's collectible furniture is in this room - the only one in the home featuring touches of warm tones,' says Giacomo.

Vintage Vanessa **bed**, Afra and Tobia Scarpa for Simon Gavina. Digital **artwork** by Bridget Moser, Artericambi Gallery. Model T44 **table**, Osvaldo Borsani for Tecno. 1960s **wall lamps**, Sergio Mazza for Artemide. 1960s **armchair**, Torbjørn Afdal for Bruksbo





ROOF TERRACE

'The jungle mood clashes with the building's very minimalist, pre-existing finishes,' says Giacomo, 'while the flooring seamlessly blends into the living area.'

Margherita chairs,
Franco Albini for
Bonacina