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A SINGULAR VISION

INTERIOR DESIGN: ELEONORE CAVALLI/VISIONNAIRE

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ELEONORE CAVALLI, THE ART DIRECTOR FOR

the luxury furniture brand Visionnaire, took on the design project of a lifetime in 2010 when she purchased the south wing of Villa Fibbia, an imposing 18th-century mansion located between Sasso Marconi and Bologna. With her husband Marco Morandini—an art consultant and curator of eclectic art shows including Wunderkammer, Silent Light and Disco Le Corbusier—Cavalli undertook a challenging restoration of the awe-inspiring villa, originally built by a noble family from Bologna.

“We fell in love with this idyllic place at the base of the Appennino Tosco-Emiliano park, as well as the mansion, surrounded by nature and beautiful animals, such as wild deer, peacocks and hares,” Cavalli says. The couple, both architectural designers, were on a mission to bring the mansion, which is surrounded by cypresses, olive trees and vineyards, back to its original splendor. “Marco and I worked very hard to find a dialogue between Visionnaire’s contemporary furniture and the historical structure,” Cavalli says. Although the couple is well-versed in bringing the Visionnaire décor and its holistic, 360-degree approach to modern residences from Hong Kong to New York, decorating their own residence became a passionate personal challenge. Eleonore began with the garden, where she created a lovely open-air sitting room with Farnese armchairs surrounding a Bisanzio table beneath a canopy of trees—an ideal place to enjoy a pleasant lunch or dinner. Nearby, a terrace holds a sofa and an unusual canopy Sveva Capitoné chaise.





INSIDE THE AIRY APARTMENT, A MODEST, LIVE-IN KITCHEN

charms with a porthole window and chic, streamlined white-lacquered cabinets. Here, where the couple and their two sons spend most of their time when in residence, a bright Acanthus chandelier hovers above a Kew table and an enveloping, high-back by Siegfried armchair, all by Visionnaire. To this Eleonore added a few clear Philippe Starck Louis Ghost chairs from Kartell. The room's beamed ceilings and light wood floors continue to the living room, where Eleonore and Marco chose more cherished Visionnaire pieces, such as a modular, honey velvet Ginevra sofa, elegantly matched with a red pouf, a mirror and glass cabinet for the couple's large collection of art and architecture books and, overhead, a sophisticated Galahad chandelier. Atop the low Dagonet console are raku ceramics by Rita Miranda, a heart sculpture by Alessandro Brighetti and a small portrait by Domenico Greci (a larger one hangs on the opposite wall). Nearby, an abstract painting by French artist Emmanuel Barçilon adds a contemporary touch. A portion of the original brick and stone wall behind the modern stairs leading to the bedrooms is a nod to the mansion's history, but is modernized by a clear glass wall fronting both.

The upstairs bedrooms are filled with natural light and decorated accordingly. Son Guglielmo's bedroom has a custom bed and furniture, while the walls are embellished with contemporary art. Eleonore and Marco's bedroom is more sophisticated, centered by the new Big Sleep bed in cream leather and highlighted by the couple's favorite Visionnaire furnishings and treasured pieces by artists. Those include Loris Cecchini, Susy Gómez, Daniel González, hyper-realist artist Yigal Ozeri, Marco Lodola, Shepard Fairey and the American artist known as Obey. There is no room in this house without art: Even in one spare hallway, the kinetic *Chromosoma* by Enrico T. de Paris casts a moody green glow over a painting by Alfredo Romano; beneath is a silk and Tibetan wool Argante rug, named for and modeled after the butterfly and designed by Samuele Mazza. "We both love to create contacts with young artists, whom we meet at international galleries, studio and fairs," Eleonore says. "We generally buy art only after creating a relationship of mutual esteem with the artist."

The couple, who adore spending time in their country abode—where their love of antiques is balanced with an appreciation for the contemporary and a true passion for art and architecture—moved to Milan two years ago to support to their son Matteo, who is studying dance at La Scala Academy. They still spend quality time at the villa, taking advantage of rare breaks between their private life, travels and work commitments, such as their most recent milestone: the opening of a space inside the prestigious concept store IDD in Los Angeles. ■ *Visionnaire*, visionnaire-home.com

