



LA CASA DI BABETTE

A MODERN NEST VIBRATING WITH HISTORY



An apartment in the historic centre of Piacenza in Italy.

Architects Cinzia Russo and Fabio Inzani, founders of La Casa di Babette, design the interiors of the piano nobile of a nineteenth-century palazzo in the historic centre of Piacenza.

A home tailored in every detail to a father, three young children and a lively Labrador. In a record time of just eight weeks, the genesis of a nest where colors become creative material.

Through a dialogue between a precious past and a carefully calibrated contemporary vision, giving form to multifaceted spaces where a young family can recognise itself and grow enveloped in timeless elegance.



Milan, June 2026 - In the very heart of Piacenza, in Italy, a palazzo that whispers stories of the nineteenth century becomes the setting for a considered interior design project. Beyond simple aesthetics, a genuine renaissance. **La Casa di Babette**, founded by architects **Cinzia Russo and Fabio Inzani**, transforms the 300 sqm residence on the piano nobile into a modern nest. Spaces vibrating with a rich past, shaped around the needs of a young entrepreneur with three small children and a lively Labrador.

The brief was clear: **a free home, uncluttered by too much furniture, capable of accommodating the children's daily life without sacrificing proportion, elegance or identity.** Spaces to inhabit naturally, where play could enter domestic life without feeling like an exception.

Making the home "child-friendly" thus became one of the project's most important guiding principles: a concrete thread running through the layout, the choice of furnishings, the search for durable surfaces and the creation of **a balance between freedom and protection.** *"The client placed complete trust in us, giving us full confidence. The ideal situation for tackling a project that was demanding on many levels: in addition to the family's needs, we were confronted with a house of decidedly classical layout to rethink in a record time of just eight weeks"*, recounts **Cinzia Russo**. A true challenge for the architect duo, in a stimulating tension between extreme creative freedom and strong objective constraints.



"A classically laid-out home reimagined in just eight weeks."



A Dialogue Between Eras, a Deep Respect

Structural interventions were kept few and discreet, given the extremely tight schedule, offset by a great skill in chiselling the interiors through original furnishing solutions and meticulous attention to the smallest details. In a respectful and innovative dialogue with the past, which La Casa di Babette was keen to preserve and ennoble. Among the pre-existing elements, the most decisive were the **Venetian terrazzo floors and the sumptuous ceiling** of the living room, decorated by **two majestic 17th-century portals salvaged from an ancient church**. *“Once carefully restored, they became for us a powerful source of inspiration for every single choice of forms, styles and atmospheres”*, continues **Cinzia Russo**.



A dialogue between past and present unfolds through restrained interventions and meticulous attention to detail — Ph. Vito Corvasce



*The master bedroom combines rich tones with contemporary accents, in harmony with the palette that runs throughout the home
— Ph. Vito Corvasce*

An Orchestration of Colours and Forms

From the historical heart of the house emerges the use of color as material, as creative matrix of the interior design. **A palette that radiates from the decorations of the wooden ceiling and the chromatic alchemy of the floors.** Earth tones, ochre, cream, chocolate with touches of warm red. And more contemporary accents, such as the midnight blue that wraps, for instance, the bedroom of the two brothers, enlivened by notes of vivid red and sunshine yellow in the custom-designed Berber rug. An affectionate design gesture, where functionality and poetry merge. As in the girl's bedroom, in the more romantic tones of salmon pink, enriched by the delicate arboreal motifs of the two decorated panels flanking the canopy bed. Each space has its own dominant palette according to who inhabits it, yet all are echoed throughout in a subtle harmony that pervades the entire project.

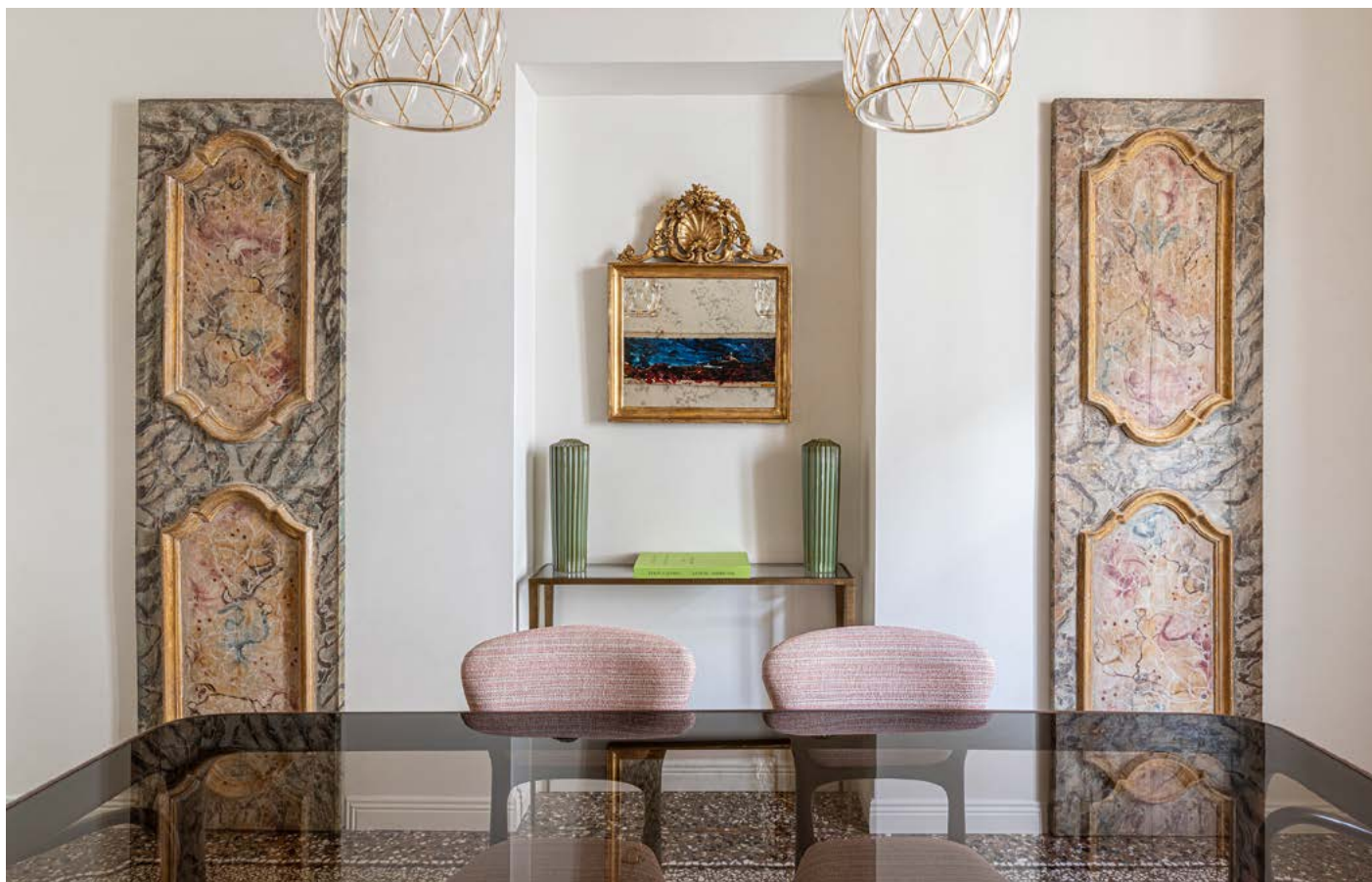


Open Spaces, Details That Move

In bringing to life spaces for growing, thinking, being together, relaxing, the shortened construction timeline imposed a clear decision: to respect the original floor plan, without intervening in the layout distribution. The transformation therefore focused on elements capable of **reshaping the perception of space without altering its structure**. As in the living room, which finds its natural focal point in the fireplace, a pre-existing element to be interpreted and made contemporary in close dialogue with the house. Here again the Venetian terrazzo offers the material and chromatic cue, while a fabric designed by Peter Marino sparks the formal intuition: **a monolithic, sinuous onyx sculpture**, which captures the eye with its unique aesthetic yet is entirely free of sharp edges and child-safe.

“Selecting the stone block whose natural grain was most in harmony with the environment, and then hollowing it from the inside to lighten it, was a complex undertaking. But the effect is warm and scenographic”, explains **Fabio Inzani**. Contributing to the sense of life and openness is also **the large sofa, reinvented in a double-faced composition**, creating unexpected flexibility to welcome friends and family across multiple areas. Following its lines, integrating it seamlessly, is the brass and iron console designed by La Casa di Babette.

In the dining room, antique panels conceal the wall niches and inspire a search for lightness and balance — Ph. Vito Corvasce





Artisanal Care, Material Harmonies

The warmth of **burnished brass** returns in the kitchen furniture, in warm contrast with the **irregular wooden reeded panelling**.

The custom design of every element, from the extractor hood to the bench, composes a perfectly functional microcosm. *“A compact space that we made autonomous from the dining room yet fully equipped for the needs of the young family, calibrating the proportions to the millimeter”*, observes **Fabio Inzani**. Throughout, the project moves in the footsteps of the past, drawing new maps to inhabit. As in the relaxation room where the precious coffered ceiling dialogues with the materials pleasingly raw of the furnishings, from the fabric of the large sofa to the jute rug. Equally material is the luminous artwork by Ilaria Lappano, which La Casa di Babette reinterprets as an original artist’s wall piece. In the dining room it is the two antique panels closing the alcove wardrobes, that guide a search for lightness to balance and enhance them. From the chandeliers blending transparency and gold details with a delicate woven texture, to the measured design of chairs and table. Even the more traditionally conceived parts of the house are lightened and renewed, like the long corridor that gains momentum and breath through the removal of the suspended ceiling, leaving the structural tie rods exposed. And, a precise and refined presence, the parchment-clad cabinet with bespoke brass sculptural handles.



Every element in the kitchen, from the hood to the built-in bench, was custom designed to meet the needs of a young family — Ph. Vito Corvasce



The Challenge of Time, a Miracle of Design

In the record time of eight weeks, essential was the rapport between the architect duo and the client, marked by swift decisions and speed of execution. The greatest satisfaction? *"Managing to meet the deadlines while bringing a measured and interesting contemporaneity to a noble historical context rich in memory"*; answers Cinzia Russo. The result is a **home that responds to the practical needs of a modern family, yet celebrates also its history**, offering welcoming spaces rich in personality. A place where children can grow, the Labrador can roam free and the family can build new memories, enveloped in **timeless elegance, but rooted in the life of today**.

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Press Kit

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Notes to Editors

La Casa di Babette

La Casa di Babette is listening that becomes design, invisible care for detail that transforms into atmosphere, beauty that interweaves with everyday life. A practice built on empathy, experience and culture, to return spaces that know how to move. Environments that become experiences: unique and surprising..



Cinzia Russo and Fabio Inzani

Entrambi architetti, duo professionale e partner nella vita, anime complementari di La Casa di Babette. Cinzia Russo è la mente creativa dello studio, con una specializzazione in bioarchitettura quando ancora la sostenibilità non era un tema comune; mantiene viva l'attenzione per i materiali naturali e per la sostenibilità ambientale. Ama l'arte in tutte le sue forme, con una predilezione per il periodo compreso tra l'Ottocento e l'Art Déco. Fabio Inzani, spirito razionale e meditativo, appassionato di design, archilover e profondo conoscitore dei materiali, coordina con attenzione le diverse fasi di realizzazione. Insieme, progettano sogni da abitare.

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— Ph. Vito Corvasce

