

THE

Style mate

INSPIRATION FROM AROUND
THE WORLD FOR AN AESTHETIC
AND MEANINGFUL LIFESTYLE.
ISSUE Nº 02 | 2022
thestylemate.com



SLOW DOWN

THESTYLEMATE.COM



THIS FORMER GLASS FACTORY IS THE HOME OF TIZIANO VUDAFIERI, FOUNDER AND PARTNER OF THE VUDAFIERI SAVERINO PARTNERS DESIGN AGENCY, AND HIS WIFE CATHERINE VAUTRIN. HERE IN MILAN, THEY'VE CREATED A SPACE THAT'S IN CONSTANT FLUX, WHERE THE TWO STORYTELLERS BRING TOGETHER ART AND DESIGN TO TELL THEIR OWN STORY.

equilibrium



Splashes of colour, movement and light. Situated in the heart of Milan's Porta Venezia, the private home of Tiziano Vudafieri and his wife Catherine Vautrin is a spacious loft in the internal courtyard of a traditional Milanese residential building dating back to the last century. Through the eclectic selection and clever combination of classic design pieces and contemporary artworks, the couple has turned the abandoned glass factory into part of their own personal story. Architect and fashion manager by day, collectors by night, Vudafieri and Vautrin are continually reshaping the interior of their home thanks to their permanent intellectual curiosity, and have now arrived at the fourth incarnation of their home in 12 years. Their "modern, bourgeois house", as they call it, is a place where you can live, but also a receptacle in which art is regularly placed to skilfully transform the living spaces. Across three floors, the 340 square metres that surround a patio are bursting at the seams with stories.

In the revamp before this one, they achieved a radical change in the functional separation of the living and dining areas through the addition of a gigantic bronze of the Eiffel Tower by Aldo Mondino. Two years before that, the house was handed over to artist Gabriele de Santis, who spent six months totally transforming the building on the basis of the Case Chiuse artistic initiative. For many years, it's this dialogue with art that's become a key aspect of Vudafieri Saverino Partners' design language. Founded in 2000 by Tiziano Vudafieri and Claudio Saverino, the architectural firm with offices in Milan and Shanghai has enjoyed collaborations with fashion labels

such as Delvaux, Pucci, Tod's, Louis Vuitton, Kenzo, Roger Vivier, Moschino and Sonia Rykiel. The firm has also successfully redefined the functional and aesthetic norms of the restaurant trade in collaboration with award-winning chefs including Alessandro Negrini and Fabio Pisani, Pierre Gagnaire, Hervé Bourdon, Enrico Bartolini and Andrea Berton. Thanks to these partnerships, they've created numerous innovative restaurant concepts in Milan and around the world.

ICONIC OBJECTS

The loft is a contemporary space that embodies the very personal vision of the architect and his wife. The couple's home shares their passion for art and collecting, and has become a portfolio of artworks and iconic vintage pieces they have come across and collected then displayed alongside custom design pieces by Vudafieri. The home plays on the relationship between upper and lower levels: the inner courtyard acts as a centre point and light shaft, while the stairs, paths and corridors create the impression of movement. That makes the layout a surprise, saturated with lovely transitions and unexpected spaces. "The result is a series of different places where you can spend time," explains Vudafieri. The open, interconnected spaces are in constant communication with one other, with the living and dining areas merging seamlessly. Through the addition of large glass areas (which create a link with those of the former glass factory), the idea of a visual bridge could be brought to life.

Eclectic



The interior spaces have been made higher through the use of transparent materials and natural light, and are elegantly paired with original features such as the Catalan arch, which delicately defines the ceiling.

vudaferisaverino.it





MONOCHROME SURFACES

Over the years, the interior spaces have undergone a series of alterations and changes to wall colours, as well as varying configurations of artworks and furniture. During the most recent transformation, the colour scheme was changed entirely. It was the designs of Le Corbusier's monochrome wallcoverings for Salubra from the 1930s and 1950s, with their unconventional colour palettes that were outside the norm for modern décor, that gave Tiziano Vudafieri the idea of transforming several walls into large monochrome surfaces. That's how blue and red walls have come to dominate the large central area, and the single-colour theme continues in the lime green entrance hall, the grey-blue kitchen and the green in the master bedroom. "These colours are taken from neoclassical London interiors to further underline the eclectic mood," say the inhabitants.

The artwork is subject to ongoing change and arranged in accordance with Vudafieri's concept of the "eclectic equilibrium". In the living and dining area, the blue surface acts as a backdrop to an abstract canvas by Swiss artist John Armleder, harmoniously positioned next to a large rose by emerging Polish artist Marzena Nowak and a plaster frieze by renowned artist Paolo Icaro. The deep red wall is the display for a drawing, a collage and an oil painting by Nick Devereux, while close by there is a new installation by Victor Man and portraits by Catherine Vautrin's ancestors. The same principle can be found in the design pieces.

Alongside Aldo Mondino's bronze sculpture *Gerusalemme* sit iconic creations by Luigi Caccia Dominioni: velvety black Santambrogio sofas, the *L'No* and *Pavino* floor lamps and two extremely rare glass vases manufactured by Azucena in the 1950s and 1960s. The marble and the wood tables between the sofas are by Ettore Sottsass for Ultima Edizione.

They're complemented by Sasso lamps by André Cazenave for Atelier A, Marteen Baas' *Clay Furniture Bank* for Rossana Orlandi and Le Corbusier's *Lampe de Marseille* grey wall lights produced by Nemo Lighting. In the centre of the dining area, there is a custom-made Vudafieri *Tutto* table paired with Danish teak chairs from the 1960s and a glass sculpture by Droog Design. On the table stands a rechargeable *Tetater* lamp by Davide Groppi.

GREEN OASIS

The patio in the centre of the building is a green oasis and the focal point of the project. Designed by Vudafieri with architect Lorenzo Bini and brought to life by garden designer Alessandro Nasti, this secluded garden combines plants, wood and stone with design features such as the 1960s Danish fibreglass *Fjötöto* chairs and the *Corallo* armchairs designed by the Campagna brothers and produced by Edra. The oasis can be seen from all of the rooms through windows and terraces, and can also be accessed from the living and sleeping areas, making it feel like an extra room outside.

SOCIAL LABORATORY

With glazed doors leading to the dining area and to the outdoor terrace, the kitchen is flooded with light and serves as a laboratory for the architect and a room where he can indulge his passion for cooking. Vudafieri places great value on the kitchen as a working and social space, and this inclination can be seen in the homely surroundings that have been created, whose design works well to provide a functional space for family and friends. The central wooden table was made by Fratelli Bianchi out of Lebanese cedar. The artisans from Cantù are also behind the bespoke manufacture of the interior furniture, internal doors and the kitchen. The table is partnered with Othmar Barth Sella chairs from 1962 and a glass dome chandelier with a brass frame, a prototype by Federico Peri made by Nilufar. The room is delicate and light, just like the blue-grey colour on the wall as chosen by Le Corbusier.

TIMELESS MASTER BEDROOM

The master bedroom is bathed in dimmed light, a cocooning room with green walls and a ceiling that reflects a sense of timelessness and the green of the terrace and outdoor patio, which can be accessed via the large floor-to-ceiling windows. Contrasting with the brick red floor, the green wall in the room draws attention to a sequence of photos by Linda Fregni Nagler under the title *Mourning*, Massimo Bartolini's photo *Im Gespräch mit Lisa* and Umberto Riva's

Robot lamp for FontanaArte, a Murano pendant lamp from the early 20th century and a large table lamp from the 1960s – all of which express a hint of the eclectic and tell stories of the past and the present.

PERFECT TRANSITIONS

The staircases and corridors are treated as spaces in their own right and not just as intermediate spaces. The stairs are bathed in vivid orange, which links the main area with the other spaces. In one of the two guest bedrooms, there is an impressive collection of vases by Wilhelm Wagenfeld, a designer and teacher of the Bauhaus art school who wasn't very well known in Italy but had major exhibitions at locations such as MoMA. The stairs have a transparent balustrade that leads up to the other guest bedroom, which functions as a gallery space for a range of oil paintings by French artist Vincent Ruffin.

All in all, Tiziano Vudafieri and Catherine Vautrin's home is an eclectic oasis that tells a personal story between the past and the present, modernism and a very emotional lifestyle.