

# Livingetc

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# NOBLE BEGINNINGS

Occupying what was once a count's stables and service rooms, this Turin apartment is now a contemporary family home



**LIVING ROOM**  
Throughout the apartment, industrial touches, such as cement and laminates, are blended with more sophisticated and elegant materials, like walnut and Calacatta marble, to reflect the rich and varied history of the property.

**Bookcase, coffee table and panelling with integral cabinet** in walnut and Valchromat, designed by Fabio Fantolino and made by Materiadesign. Custom-made **sofa**, Fabio Fantolino for Nube Italia. Sindar **rug**, Tisca. *Quiétude* **painting** (on shelf); *Scene théâtrale* **Subconscient painting** (right), both by Claire Robert. Sculptural **vase** (right), Nathalie Du Pasquier. Eclipse **pendant lamp**, Dechlem Studio. Susanna **armchairs**, Zanotta; upholstered in green fabric, Kvadrat

PHOTOGRAPHY Monica Spezia/Living Inside  
WORDS Rachel Christie and Francesca Sironi/Living Inside





**P**alazzo dei Conti Callori, a historic palace in the old centre of Turin, is home to minimalist architect Fabio Fantolino. He shares the space with his wife, Laura, and their two daughters, Bianca and Letizia. And, despite the aristocratic roots of the building, the actual view from their living room is somewhat deceptive: the raw, almost-industrial architecture, modernist green garden and exposed bricks seen through the floor-to-ceiling glass windows could almost transport you to any inner city. But look more closely and you will spot an olive tree and a laurel hedge, as well as a brick wall dating back to the mid-19th century. 'In fact, we are in the wing of a noble building not far from the Giuseppe Verdi music conservatory,' says Fabio.

The original palazzo was designed by Alessandro Antonelli, the architect behind the Mole Antonelliana, the landmark building, completed in 1889, that has become a symbol of the city of Turin. Fabio has made his home, however, in what would once have been considered the slightly less auspicious part of the property. 'Our apartment occupies most of the service rooms on the ground floor, built as an extension in the 1930s,' he explains. His particular 300 square metres are distributed around a large open patio, which once housed the stables. 'Before we moved in, these were the offices of Cassa Edile (the Special Construction Workers' Fund),' he explains. 'The layout was a disaster with the spaces divided by plexiglass walls.' So, with Fabio at the reins, the couple ripped out everything and, when it was clear, his project could begin.

Fabio decided to design a new layout, highlighting the garden as the main attraction – simply because it's such a rarity in the centre of Turin. 'It was my starting point,' he says. 'I liked the idea that it was accessible from all the rooms and could also become an extra room during the summer.' The large living room and dining area overlooks the garden from one side, the bedrooms from the other. The kitchen, on the other hand, is located in the neoclassical part of the building.

Since the majority of the floorplan had been 'workplaces', Fabio decided to lay an industrial concrete floor almost everywhere, reserving elegant herringbone parquet only for the kitchen as it was in the historic part of his home. But to ensure the spaces didn't then feel too cold, he furnished them using soft, cosy designs – with a slight 70s touch – and a colour palette ranging from warm tones of cream, hazelnut, pink and tobacco to cooler greens and petrol blues. 'I enjoy playing with contrast,' he says. 'The glossy lacquer of the furniture, the textiles of the upholstery and the Calacatta marble.'

Many pieces within the apartment are designed by the architect himself – from tables and bookcases to consoles and panelling – and set off against production pieces by up-and-coming designers. It all creates a very personal effect. Not that surprising, really – after all, this wasn't just a work commission, this was a passion project that was all about creating a home.

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## DINING ROOM

'The glass partition takes inspiration from stained-glass windows from the early 1900s,' says Fabio. 'We worked closely with a skilled glass craftsman, selecting glass and designing the different geometries.'

Säule **table**, Fabio Fantolino for Gebrüder Thonet Vienna.

Leda **chairs**, Miniforms; upholstered in fabric by Kvadrat. Ambra **pendant lamps**, David Pompa.

Globe **wall light**, Claudia Melo for UTU. Gli Steli **vases** in coloured Limoges porcelain, Biancodichina





### LIVING ROOM

**Fabio has incorporated an elegant desk area into the living space.**

Minimal **desk**, designed by Fabio Fantolino and made by Materiadesign. Diverge **chair**, Miniforms. Volta **wall lamp**, Nahtrang Studio for Estiluz

### BREAKFAST AREA

**'The furniture design here is based on the idea of adding the new, while also preserving the old,' says Fabio.**

**Table**, designed by Fabio Fantolino and made by Materiadesign. Coco **chairs**, Gubi. Gli Steli and I Gusci **vases** in coloured Limoges porcelain, Biancodichina. **Pendant light**, Studio Haos. **Artworks** by Francesca Lupo



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### THE OWNERS

Turin-based Fabio Fantolino, who heads up his own architecture practice, his wife, Laura, a property consultant, and their two daughters, Bianca, 12, and Letizia, nine.

### THE PROPERTY

A single-storey apartment on the ground floor of a 1930s addition to a historic 19th-century palazzo, built in 1847. There are three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a living room, dining room and kitchen-diner.



## KITCHEN

'The only room located in the neoclassical building is the kitchen and the flooring is an original parquet that we recovered and restored,' says Fabio.

Custom kitchen with Abet laminate furniture and Calacatta marble worktop, designed by Fabio Fantolino and made by Materiadesign. Lins tiles, Yonoh at Harmony Inspire, Tap, Bellosta Rubinetterie. Nemo wall lights, Oty Light. Parquet, Palumbo Legnami



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MIXING MATERIALS



#### OUTDOOR DINING AREA

'What characterises the garden is the brick wall that borders it,' says Fabio. 'We wanted to preserve that and make it the focal point. We then worked on a clean and linear design for the new outdoor furnishings.'

Outdoor **furniture** and **pergola** made by Palumbo Legnami. Nolita **chairs**, Pedrali. Materia and Origo ceramic **vases**, Stefania Loschi

#### MAIN BATHROOM

'Designed as an extension of the bedroom, this space alternates the same wood used throughout the rest of the house with Calacatta gold marble and a cream-coloured mosaic,' says Fabio.

Custom-made **furniture** with Calacatta marble, designed by Fabio Fantolino. Diva mosaic **tiles**, Appiani. Ludo **taps**, Bellosta Rubinetterie. **Wall lights**, Fabbian. **Towels**, Society Limonta









**MAIN  
BEDROOM**

'We created a play of wooden rods and colour decoration that embraces the bed and the vanity console,' says Fabio.

Custom **panelling** with Vescom **wallpaper**, **bed**, **bedside table** and **console**, all designed by Fabio Fantolino. **Bed linen**, Society Limonta. **Flowerpot lamp**, Verner Pantoni at &Tradition. Pair of **Vis à Vis cups** in coloured Limoges porcelain, Biancodichina. **Buddy armchair**, Pedrali. **Table lamp**, Masiero Papilio. **Eclissi artwork** by Paolo Grassino, Davide Paludetto gallery

**GIRLS'  
BATHROOM**

'Ensuring the project endures without the risk of becoming unsuitable as the children grow was a priority,' says Fabio. 'By framing the blush pink tiles with wooden rods and bands, we created an environment that can stand the test of time, not limited to a specific age or trend of the moment.'

Colore & Colore pink **tiles**, Ceramica Bardelli. **Taps**, Bellosta Rubinetterie. **Linen towel**, Society Limonta

