



Francesca Ferlazzo Natoli

New Urban way of living: a spacious apartment inside a former Milanese factory

Studio Ferlazzo Natoli

Work

Apartment in the Navigli area

Client

Private

Location

Milan, Italy

Project Year

2019

Architect

Francesca Ferlazzo Natoli

in partnership

with Chiara Gnisci

Building Management

GreenTec Milano of Giovanni Alaimo

Additional Functions

Custom-made furnishings:

Studio Ferlazzo Natoli

in partnership with L01 Abitare

of Lorenzo Santambrogio

Size and total area

250 m²

Image credits

Sergio de Riccardis



The hectic life of metropolitan cities determines a continuous evolution of the concept of living, focused on well-being and oriented towards a better quality of domestic spaces, which are transformed into real urban shelters. Therefore, what better than the creation of well-proportioned environments that allow a coherent and rational development of spaces, seeking the right balance between the optimization of the premises and the expectations of the customer.

The house presented in this article is located inside a former Milanese factory near the Navigli district, converted in 2011 into a residential complex, consisting of independent villas. The refurbishment consisted of some internal works in a 250 m² apartment, exposed on three sides and with a terrace. The aim of the project was to create a large living area, a convivial kitchen, a study corner and three bedrooms with private bathrooms.

The access to the house consists in a small entrance from which a stone-clad staircase leads to the first floor. There, a living room, a dining room, a kitchen, a bedroom, a bathroom, and a pleasant terrace perfect for outdoor dining are gathered.



The internal distribution of the living area has been completely revised, since the three spaces – kitchen, dining room and living room – were previously located in three separate rooms. Now, instead, the kitchen is in place of the dining room. Although small, the two large windows give it airiness and the central kitchen island allows one to cook and, at the same time, comfortably host a dinner of four. The main living area is privileged: the dining room is annexed to the living room, also incorporating the corridor, resulting in larger and more fluid spaces immersed in the light. Therefore, the intervention, in addition to giving greater depth to the rooms, enhances their brightness and visually unifies the dining and living areas, while keeping their functions distinct. Shielded from the sofa is a modern antique desk framed by the iron and wood bookcase, conceived in concert with the two sliding iron doors. The solid oak parquet – hand-sanded with planks of different widths, displaying thick nails and butterflies – and the sand-colored lime walls with recessed lights make the environment pleasant and warm. In contrast, however, the raw iron doors, custom made, have a heavy and austere character, shielding the kitchen on one side and the bedroom and bathroom on the other side as required by the client. Unusual material combinations give a strong personality to the home together with the furnishings, and even the color – mainly red – plays a significant role. The staircase – previously closed between two walls – is partially freed. A long splayed slit, of Arabic evocation, generates a blade of natural light on the second flight that connects the ground floor to the first and, at the same time, offers those who enter the house a glimpse of the living room.





The interventions in the sleeping area on the second-floor attic are more contained. The furnishings are custom-made to make the most of the spaces, privileging white and essential lines in contrast with the modern and ethnic furnishings and furniture.

The leitmotiv of the entire project is the reduction of the distribution surfaces to favor the fluidity of the environments and the reduction of vertical closures in order to diffuse natural light, accompanied by an eclectic taste in the choice and design of the furnishings for a comfortable environment, which tells the story of its owners and their travels.

These ingredients are certainly indispensable for the realization of a personalized project that interprets fashions according to the taste and needs of those who live there, with stylistic choices aimed primarily at the creation of unique flexible spaces.

