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Inspiration from three of our favourite recent interior projects



1 CELEBRITY CHALLENGE

Argentinian architect Santiago Cordeyro was asked to create a riverside family retreat for a TV star

2 PRODUCT PLACEMENT

Italian product designer Anna Gili has produced a personal museum in her car showroom conversion

3 LIGHT CUISINE

Glass and carefully selected surface materials helps to fill the extension to architect Mouzhan Majidi's family home with light

Product placement

Italian product designer Anna Gili has arranged her new home in a converted car showroom to create a personal museum for her own designs and artwork and coloured it to foster concentration

WORDS BY ELENA PLEBANI • PHOTOGRAPHY CRISTINA FIDRENTINI/PHOTOZEST





Italian product designer Anna Gili's home is in a former car showroom which has been converted into seven residential units, with her own space arranged on two levels.

'An important element is the extensive space I have here: it allows me to place my work as if it was a personal museum, to give each piece room to be fully expressed,' says Gili.

The ground floor is defined by a dividing wall, up to which is a whole space comprising the living and dining areas and kitchen, master bedroom and bathroom, utility room and guest toilet. A staircase joins this floor to an upper

level, where Gili has located both her studio and an en-suite guest bedroom with a walk-in-wardrobe.

The whole space has been defined by exposing the original structure's core of iron and glass, which maximises the light coming in from a courtyard garden. 'It is important for me to have a place empty enough to add a dimension of relaxation, which is further enhanced in this house by chromatic panels,' says Gili. 'I studied this structure and kept the main beams exposed to give a rationalist character to the space. Colours are placed just like in a Mondrian painting, even though they are have a bright, Indian tonality.

'Working on the colours was very demanding; the chromatic panels of the hallway, the lacquered doors of the kitchen units, the tones of the walls were chosen specifically to aid concentration.'

Gili organised her rooms with the courtyard at the heart of her house. In the narrowest place, linking the living space to the dining area, she positioned the kitchen. 'The kitchen looks into the garden, and coloured glass panels above reflects the plants back into the space. But it is also organised to allow whoever's cooking to be able to chat with people in the eating area,' says Gili.

The feeling of spaciousness on the

FACING PAGE, VASES DESIGNED BY GILI AND ALESSANDRO MENDINI FOR SALVIATI & VENINI ARE DISPLAYED ON TOP OF THE KITCHEN CUPBOARDS. THIS PAGE, ON THE WENGE UNIT SITS A COLLECTION OF BOTTLE OPENERS BY MENDINI FOR ALESSI. INSET, GOLD LAQUERED CHAIRS BY GILI SIT WITH A TABLE BY AARO AARNIO FOR PARABEL

THIS PAGE, A WALKWAY FRONTED BY COLOURED GLASS PANELS LEADS TO GILI'S STUDIO. RIGHT, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT, 'DOG' LIGHT PAINTING BY GILI; PROUS CHAIR BY MENDRINI; MASTER BATHROOM IN BLUE AND YELLOW BISAZZA MOSIAC TILES; SOFA BED BY GIOVANNETTI, PIPE WALL LAMP BY ARTEMIDE, CAT SIDE LIGHT BY GILI FOR SLAMP; METAL CHAIR BY PHILIPPE STARCK, GREY SOFA BY ELAM

ground floor is enhanced by double-height ceilings, while wooden cladding on the ceiling and an oak floor add warmth.

The kitchen, designed by Gili for Valcucine, features cabinets with coloured lacquered doors and an island work area and breakfast bar in stainless steel and wenge. The stools are by Driade.

The background wall of the living room, into which the front door opens, is painted a fuchsia pink, complementing a grey sofa by Elam. The rug – Carpette Transylvanie – in front of the sofa is designed by Gili, as is the Cat floor lamp, now in production. The metal chair here is an early piece by Philippe Starck for

Baleri, while the 'cilindro' spotlights at the entrance and outside are by Viabizzuno.

A large sliding door separates the bedroom from the rest of the ground floor. Here the background wall is mauve, a contrast to the yellow by the adjacent stairs. The dining table is designed by Aaro Aarnio for Parabel, while the chairs, finished in gold laquer, are by Gili.

The bathroom is covered in Bisazza mosaic tiles in tones of light blue and yellow. A lion Gili designed for Bisazza has been reproduced and placed at the bathroom entrance. In the space all the furniture is bespoke and built to Gili's design, added to a Duravit bath and sink.

On the upper floor, the studio is set apart from guest accommodation, accessed by its own suspended passage way that overlooks the living space and into the garden. The studio is furnished with some of Gili's early designs. A large, square table is her main desk and is framed by white and gold chairs designed for the Segno-Disegno collection. Alongside is the Bea cabinet, designed in 1985 and decorated with carved with animal symbols. More animal designs from the Chinese Zodiac collection she designed for Trend are on the wall **idFX**
Anna Gili: www.annagili.com



