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**MILAN REPORT:
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SITTING DOWN & COOL NIGHTS**

03





white



out

white out

WHITE ON WHITE MIGHT BE TOO MUCH FOR SOME, BUT FOR ONE OF ROME'S MOST WELL KNOWN COUPLES IT'S THE PERFECT BACKDROP FOR THEIR PRIVILEGED LIFE.

WORDS MONICA ZERBONI / PHOTOGRAPHS BEATRICE PEDICONI



EVEN THE CHILD'S BEDROOM MAKES NO CONCESSION TO THE ALL-WHITE THEME - COLOURFUL TOYS ARE KEPT OUT OF SIGHT.

HOME TO A well-known television actress and a famous footballer, this spacious apartment in a posh residential area in Rome pays homage to purity and spotlessness. "My clients wanted to have a minimal home, with nothing ornate nor elaborate," says architect Luca Braguglia. "But at the same time they needed something really special that would give people something to talk about." It was an extra-challenging commission, due to the delicate personalities of the clients. "The brief was to create a simple, rational ambience with one specific request. Everything had to be absolutely white." The lady of the house almost had a breakdown when a lamp was accidentally delivered in silver.

In accordance with his clients' demands, Braguglia created a space that is cool, clean and high-tech. "Every single element merges into the architectural background and seems to dissolve into a world of transparency and silence." Entering the house imparts a feeling of respectful awe for the unblemished spaces, and an almost fearful reticence to walk on the white resin coated floors, sit on the immaculate sofas or touch the objects meticulously selected from a palette of whites.

It was no easy task to find a home in central Rome with a flexible layout that would allow the requested transformation. This apartment was suitably located, but needed major renovations to fulfil the client's wishes. "Originally the place consisted in a row of small rooms off a long corridor," the architect recalls. "But we have reconfigured the whole layout. Every single wall has been torn down, and every bathroom dismantled and relocated to give way to an open continuum."

From the empty shell, a totally new home emerged. At the core of the project is a wide walk-in closet that Braguglia built in the middle of the floor plan. Inside, regular rows of open shelves and built-in cabinets provide storage for the piles of fashionable clothes and shoes that belong to the couple. White lacquered panels of light MDF make up the internal structure, from floor to ceiling. On the outside, an opaque white coating of paint covers moulded sheets of steel. The panels gently curve to give body to the elliptical shape, while knobless sliding doors

connect the space to the adjacent rooms.

In the corridor, the protruded, rounded corners of the central block look like architectural elements. The entrance plays with light and dark, and through the milky transparency of the white surfaces, objects lose their shape. Attention is drawn towards a few artworks and design items, like the Flos lamp positioned on a white lacquered etagere. The owners didn't want a lot of furniture or accessories and so every room is sparsely equipped with a few functional objects, mostly design classics. The lighting consists of halogen lights, with an ultra-modern pendant hanging over the dining table.

From the entrance, the living room opens to the right. Once inside, the space unfolds into a light-filled and highly flexible room, which can be divided into specific areas. A built-in kitchen has direct access to a generous terrace, and a green floor-to-ceiling glass panel separates the kitchen from the dining area. "Green is the only colour accent present in the apartment," says Braguglia. "And it relates [to] the thick vegetation out of the window." A white painted aluminium frame holds the glass panel and incorporates the cooking island and an eating corner for informal meals.

The dining area is set between the kitchen and the lounge. Heavy chairs are upholstered in white cotton, which contrast with the lean table. On the right the sitting area overlooks the trees of the garden. Two comfortable sofas lined in white cotton are paired with acrylic coffee tables, while a floor to ceiling storage cupboard occupies the far wall. The central block of the walk-in closet separates the living room from the sleeping area, with its two large, sparsely furnished bedrooms and bathrooms.

The bathroom walls are lined with frameless mirrors and custom-built Corian cabinets. The master bedroom's white lined bed and custom designed cabinets are deployed more as architectural elements than as ornamental pieces. White also dominates the bedroom of the couple's only child. For him, a few colourful toys have been admitted, but his mother swears his favourite is a white hand-knitted bunny.

