

Italian Revival



Loft Brera as reinterpreted
by FNA Concept



*Two Milanese apartments reimagined by **FNA Concept**
are given new life through local craftsmanship that
ensures cultural preservation*

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assion and respect – two words that best describe her secret ingredients to success as well as her artistic approach. Francesca Neri Antonello – the founder of FNA Concept – is an architect fuelled by an admiration for craftsmanship, authenticity and sustainability. With her work being synonymous with visionary restructuring, bold demolishing, purposeful redevelopment and innovative adaptation of antique pieces – Francesca’s magic touch has already reshaped a number of properties across Europe. “I believe that everything should always be done with passion because that nourishes you as a person as well as everyone around you,” says the designer. “I am a positive-thinking person, who believes in the importance of spreading inspiration and energy. On the other hand, I



The designer does not shy away from bold, unexpected patterns and textures



Francesca Neri Antonello, founder of FNA Concept. Photo by Max Zambelli

The design vision for Loft Brera was built around strong antique furniture



also cherish respect. Respect the work that you do and the people you work with.”

Most recently, the architect dedicated eight months to the thoughtful rebirth of two apartments in Milan. Residing at the heart of a historic building, Loft Brera is a period apartment that playfully blurs the line between classic and contemporary. Building her vision around strong antique furniture that the owner inherited from her grandmother, Francesca wanted to honour those bona fide consoles, chairs and mirrors as well as the soulful craftsmanship that was invested in them.

On the other hand, she also aspired to achieve lightness – something that was done by creating a dynamic open space, using sliding doors between the living area and the kitchen. Utilising furniture elements that demonstrate a wealth of memories, the end result sees striking finesse that is delivered with thought-through materials, colours and craftsmanship.

“I do not like to create waste; this is the way I was brought up and it is something that I constantly teach my kids,” smiles Francesca. “There is so much demolishing and throwing away that ends up creating a lot of waste. If you have things that work, why do you have to trash them? However, I must admit that it is more of a challenge to work with things that you need to refurbish and reinvent rather than starting from scratch.”

While the living room is beautifully occupied by the family’s twin sofas – upholstered in Dedar velvet – two Parisian side tables and bespoke lamps, the bedroom confirms the designer’s preference of minimalism. Aside



Francesca chose special lighting elements for Loft Brera



The main stars in Loft Brera’s living room are the family’s twin sofas, upholstered in Dedar velvet

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Honest to her ethos, Francesca worked with local craftsmen on both projects



The designer's choice of colours aimed to maintain Otto's history as well as bring a sense of modernity



The dynamic open space of Loft Brera achieved the lightness intended by the designer



Francesca combined alluring colours with extraordinary textures to channel Otto's history



Pops of green and blue were introduced across Loft Brera to complement the overarching earthy palette

from touches of green and blue introduced by strategic décor elements, the apartment's palette of earthy colours makes it timeless.

As for the light, Francesca chose to create special elements for this Milanese residence. Her bold choice is best noticed in the bathroom, where she championed Murano glass sconces with crocheted texture. In parallel, the kitchen's oak parquet laid in chevron coupled with the open structure of the space offers statement strength.

Few kilometres away lies a second masterpiece, Otto. Belonging to an enchanting bygone era, this charming residence is located a few steps away from the National Theatre of Milan. Captured at first sight by 1950s brass chandeliers in the living room, the designer did not think twice before delving right into this apartment.

Putting into action her ethos, Francesca once again joined forces with the city's best craftsmen to deliver the project with true persona. With the intention to maintain the apartment's evident history, but also to bring in a sense of modernity – the designer and her team embraced an



Otto's mid 20th-century charm was highlighted with retro furniture elements

The crystal chandeliers are an eloquent testament to the designer's eye for detail



Francesca takes pride in cultural preservation being one of her design signatures

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elaborate colour palette supported by eloquent textures. While the two brass chandeliers remained unmoved, eye-catching sofas with strong personalities were placed under.

Valorous colour choices have been implemented across the house to complement the residence’s retro vibe with bold modernity; pink velvet sofas are accessorised with cushions dressed in graphic Dedar fabric, and walls are coated with marmorino Venetian stucco in neutral champagne.

“I always use the country and the city’s craftsmen because they do not only understand the culture of the place, but they also teach me about every aspect of their environment,” enthuses Francesca. “I believe that wherever you work, you must respect the resources and craftsmanship of the place. This is my ethical approach to architecture and design.” ■ finaconcept.com

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Details were picked as an ode to Milan's tasteful craftsmanship