



THE HEART OF STREET ART

Hong Kong-based creative Gustav Szabo juggles his professional career as an architect and designer with his life as an artist, deeply inspired by the local street scene

+ HONG KONG ART WEEK

Hong Kong celebrates in high spirits with three major art fairs this month: Art Basel, Asia Contemporary Art Show and Art Central

RIBA award-winning
Angdong Hospital, China
—p.20

Zaha Hadid's
Morpheus, Macau
—p.26

Rhizome House @
Amsterdam Light Festival
—p.28

Villa Montelparo, Italy
—p.33

12,000 Francs,
Hong Kong
—p.36

Allia Anji, Zhejiang
province, China
—p.38

Dav Suj, PAPIINEE
—p.57

Da Chang Muslim
Cultural Centre, China
—p.60

The Design Museum,
London
—p.66



HK\$48
US\$18
€15



Phoebe Liu, *A new day dawns*, in "Perspective" (Hong Kong)
marzo 2017, n. 3, pp. 23-25

ARCHITECTURE



Marble and wood create a contrasting yet welcoming entryway into the communal areas of the villa

A NEW DAY DAWNS

In the hills above the Italian seaside town of Forte dei Marmi, a streamlined villa by FABBRICANOVE ushers in a new era for the site which once hosted a factory which produced explosives first for the mining of marble in the nearby caves, and then for military munitions

TEXT:
Phoebe Liu
PHOTOGRAPHY:
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Enzo Fontana, Giovanni Bartolozzi and Lorenzo Matteoli founded FABBRICANOVE in Florence eight years ago

Forte dei Marmi is a seaside town and commune in the province of Lucca, northern Tuscany, Italy. Blessed with both a coastal location and the glorious hills of the region, tourism is its principle activity – its 'regular' population of just under 8,000 nearly triples over the summer months as visitors from as far afield as Russia come to enjoy the spectacular surrounds.

This influx of tourists dates back to the early 19th century, which is also when Italy's wealthy classes began to build holiday villas in the area. Drawing from this grand tradition is a home crafted by FABBRICANOVE, an architectural studio founded by Enzo Fontana, Giovanni Bartolozzi and Lorenzo Matteoli in Florence in 2009.



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Forte dei Marmi House | Lucca • Italy



PROJECT CREDITS

Architect and works supervisor:

FABBRICANOVE

Structural engineering:

Studio Baroni, Enrico Baroni,
Paolo Baroni (Florence)

Installations:

SEPI, Mariano Santi, Torgiano (Perugia)

Contractor:

Società Cattolica di Reggio Emilia

The modern, streamlined villa is the result of precise attention to the relationship between the natural landscape and the built environment.

“All our work starts with the ambition to control each phase of the project and each element of the detail, in the same way as an artisan builds their own masterpiece”

The firm has established a reputation for its attention to detail, and this is once again evident here, as the modern, streamlined villa that rises out of the ground is the result of precise attention to the relationship between the natural landscape and the built environment. The result is a structure which is clear and simple, with domestic spaces that are

From left
All the bespoke furniture, designed by FABBRICANOVE, was crafted by local artisans • On the ground floor, the storage/library furniture has been realised in teak wood, while a white steel staircase provides a sleek, industrial edge • Inspired by the precision of the works of famed Italian architect and industrial designer Gio Ponti, the design team deliberately devised the interiors to be elegant and understated





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ARCHITECTURE

eminently liveable; also attributable to FABBRICANOVE's close working relationship with the team of artisans and carpenters who helped craft the dwelling.

This exacting definition of detail is what the architects credit as having built "the real soul of the dwelling: thought of as a sartorial work, yet searching for a formula that allows the identification of the whole project as one unique piece."

The project began from a complex starting point in a chaotic urban and landscape context. In the early 19th century, the site played host to a factory which made and stored explosives, first for the mining of marble from the nearby caves and then used for production of military ammunition. Later, the factory ceased production and the site became something of a tourist attraction. Then, a highway running parallel to the coastline was constructed, effectively creating a physical and visual interruption between the site and the agricultural land behind it.

Recently, the authorities of Forte dei Marmi have planned a park which would encompass all the abandoned green areas, currently scattered within the margins of the consolidated urban fabric. It is here that FABBRICANOVE inserted the new villa, on a parcel of land situated in the margins of a now-protected landscape. "The villa is aligned to the foreseen indications in the plan of the realisation of the park," the architects say.

The villa comprises two overlapped volumes: one with a square plan, on the ground floor, with flat walkable roofing; the other rectangular in plan, on the first floor, with single pitched roof. The 'dark' volume is placed on the top of the 'bright' volume: the former hosts the master bedroom, the second includes a 'night zone' reserved for guests, the kitchen, and the living room.

Outside, there is a patio, pergola and a swimming pool, while a parking garage and the technical and service rooms are

located underground. Inside, the interiors have been deliberately devised to be elegant and understated, "soft in the preferred tonality and refined in the choice of materials and their further treatment," say the designers, who were inspired by the precision of the works of famed Italian architect and industrial designer Gio Ponti.

The neutral colour palette, dominated by subdued earth tones of sand and cream, create a warm Mediterranean atmosphere enriched by the profusion of natural light that floods the interiors. All the windows are wooden with a natural finish, on the shutters a white lacquer finish has been added. Outside, cladding on the two volumes has been selected with just as much care: an ivory plaster finish for the square volume, and ceramic panels on the rectangular volume "which resemble the greyish shades of the Apuane Alps nearby", according to the architects.

All the bespoke furniture, designed by FABBRICANOVE, was crafted by artisans. On the ground floor, the storage/library furniture has been realised in teak wood, while a white steel staircase provides contrast and becomes an unique object from both a structural and a visual point of view.

"All our work, regardless of scale, starts with the ambition to control each phase of the project and each element of the detail, in the same way as an artisan builds their own masterpiece," say the architects. Thus, FABBRICANOVE's office is organised as a workshop, in which each architect oversees their own project, and then shares its progress with the whole work group.

"In this way, also during the design of the villa, each design step has been strictly controlled as much by the single architect as by the whole design team, in order to optimise the quality of the final result." ●

