



Bedroom Three curvy white lacquered fibreglass pieces by the homeowners' design label Il Laboratorio dell'Imperfetto dominate this stark white space. The company also produced the unusually shaped 'B.olla' mirror, seen on the left-hand wall, which was designed by Bruno Rainaldi ►

Stockist details on p168

Art of display

THIS UNCONVENTIONAL LIVE-WORK SPACE IS BOTH A FAMILY RETREAT AND A SHOWCASE FOR THE OWNERS' AVANT-GARDE FURNITURE CREATIONS

Words **CHERYL FREEDMAN** Pictures **ALESSANDRA IANNIELLO/STUDIOPEP**



Where does modern art end and interior design begin? It's a question one might well ask after seeing the space-age furniture produced by Italian husband-and-wife team Emanuela Ravelli and Verter Turroni. Working together as Il Laboratorio dell'Imperfetto, their sinuous seats are as much awe-inspiring sculptures, resembling giant pebbles on a beach, as elegant places to sit and think.

The couple's bright (but extremely minimal) live-work space in Gambettola, Emilia-Romagna, Italy, is the ideal backdrop for these amorphous, fluid forms inspired by nature; each is cast, sanded, painted and polished by hand. The couple live here in the summertime with their young children, although this former metal and machinery warehouse is clearly no conventional family getaway. To begin with, it's rattle-around enormous – 400 sq m – with slanted ceilings, cool concrete floors and clean white walls that create a serene, almost temple-like feel. The pair originally founded a work studio here 15 years ago. Then when their neighbour, a mechanic, moved out eight years ago, they seized the opportunity to turn his workshop into an extra living space, retaining the structure but transforming the cavernous, industrial interior. 'The wide-open space is just so versatile,' says Emanuela.

With a family in tow, certain priorities needed to be addressed. 'We had to add some more comfortable elements to the space to make it more child-friendly and somewhere they can spend all day playing,'

says Emanuela. This is, after all, a place where kids have the space to run around to their hearts' content. On the decorating front, lines are simple, beds low, furnishings sparse and artfully displayed. Nothing is permanent, and things continually move around. 'Our fibreglass objects end up next to items we've collected over time – armchairs, lamps, mainly pieces from the 1950s, 60s and 70s,' says Emanuela. 'The mood of these items often influences our own work.'

Given the building's heritage, there's perhaps an inevitable industrial aesthetic at work. But there's also a strong sense of the natural world, with floor-to-ceiling windows offering uplifting views of a leafy courtyard. Perhaps more than anything, though, this space reflects Emanuela and Verter's passions. They both love art and as well as being a home and studio, this is a gallery. 'Our place often hosts exhibitions. We have big opening parties with friends and artists,' says Emanuela. There's no doubt, though, that whatever the event, the couple's own strange but beautiful designs remain the star attraction. *Il Laboratorio dell'Imperfetto (imperfettolab.com)*

Hallway An antique rug and two leather lounge chairs from the 1950s add a vivid splash of colour to the otherwise white space (try Retrouvius for vintage chairs)

Bedroom The disc-shaped 'Pupik' chair is by Il Laboratorio dell'Imperfetto. Try The Modern Warehouse for a retro wooden cabinets, and find a similar lamp at Flos. The bed is a low futon on a slab of concrete with a quilt made from a 1950s green Damask fabric **Stockist details on p168** ►





Living area The family (pictured above) opted for traditional lighting and vintage furniture to give the industrial space a feeling of faded glamour. The ceiling lamps date from the first half of the 20th century (try Alfies Antique Market for similar) while a classic vintage wooden table has been paired with chairs from the 1940s. The flooring is made of concrete polished with transparent resin and in one corner a wooden frame provides a more intimate office space



Exterior The large iron-framed windows help the interior feel connected to the outdoors, where more sculptural seating adds visual interest amid the trees

Kitchen The industrial-chic iron shelves in the simple kitchen are by Il Laboratorio dell'Imperfetto

Bathroom Simple fittings, tiled flooring and textured walls give the bathroom a raw, natural quality that suits the industrial space perfectly. The sculpture, made from a mixture of resin and stone powder, is by Il Laboratorio dell'Imperfetto **Stockist details on p168** ►

‘The large windows allow us to enjoy a bright space and to have direct contact with the outdoors’





Living area A floor-to-ceiling window throws light into the room, which has floors cleared of clutter, allowing the furniture to take centre stage. The 1960s 'Arco' table was designed by Perry King and Ettore Sottsass for Studio BBPR and manufactured by Olivetti Italia **DECO**
Stockist details on p168