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The World of Interiors UK

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Pag.174

The real macaw

C&C Milano, Tessuto

Roland Beaufre, Fotografi

THE WORLD OF INTERIORS



THE REAL MACAW

Like the parrots – alive and stuffed, modelled and painted – that populate his new home in Tangier, Nicolò Castellini Baldissera's déco is striking for its beautiful plumage of blues, pinks, mauves and greens. That exoticism is reinforced by Syrian mother-of-pearl tables, gilded Moorish four-poster beds and vibrant fabrics mostly supplied by the Italian's family company, C&C Milano. But, as befits the work of this interior designer with an international clientele, everything is governed by a logical rigour, as Marie-France Boyer finds out. Photography: Roland Beaufre



In the veranda, an extension to the dining room, sits an 18th-century cast-iron French bed covered with C&C

Milano fabrics. An Unferro Pasti table sits on a Mauritanian mat. The architectural engravings show the gates of the Vatican

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The real macan

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In the pink living room, an 18th-century Italian cane seating chair (far left) sits on a 'Clouds' rug by Luke Irwin. Three of the cushions on the grey linen sofa are made out of pieces cut from Turkish ka'fans. C&C Milano's 'Osteria' hangs at the window

C&C Milano, Corporate Mention

Roland Beaufre, Fotografi



'I AM FICKLE,' Nicolò Castellini Baldissera admits. 'Like all interior decorators I always have that desire to move house and find a pretext to reconsider everything. Luckily, if I may put it that way, my neighbour built a very noisy hotel right opposite...'. So Nicolò deserted the medina in Tangier he thought he loved so much (*Wol* July 2015). He had already been eyeing a small square in the Marsham district, lined with well-to-do 1940s houses with faded ochre rendering that reminded him of Milan, and even of some of the villas built by his grandfather.

Nicolò divides his time between Tangier, Paris, London and Milan. 'In Tangier, I like the idea of being able to rest while at the same time having all sorts of things made.' His work can be found in Milan, Venice, Switzerland, the USA and Mexico. Trained in art history at Sotheby's in London, Nicolò comes from a family of Milanese architects and interior designers. They founded C&C Milano, a celebrated manufacturer of fabrics, an element which Nicolò can never do without. Happily, he needed a lot of fabric to domesticate this five-storey building with a lift and 45 windows.

'It truly was a very brutal house, tall and cubic. I immediately built an extension, the veranda, on which there is a terrace corresponding with the lounge. I hope that plants will eventually cover these arches and metal structures that I've put in and that this mass of greenery will balance the building.' In the meantime, he asked Umberto Pasti (*Wol* March

2012) to create the two little 'gardens' on either side of the building. You now enter through a riot of colour: orange begonias, blue plumbagos and pink bougainvillea, beneath the big white trumpets of daturas. On the right, tortoises come and go from the little house designed specially for them. No sooner are you in the entrance hall, beneath a chandelier made from antlers, than at the end of the corridor you spot the second garden. Behind the flowering gardenias, spectacular elephant ears – alocasia – are combined with strelitzia, banana trees and the *Monstera deliciosa* plants dear to that earlier Tangier aficionado, Henri Matisse. This delightful little garden is completed by a cage of parrots and a fountain made from old tiles collected one by one.

On the ground floor, the house is divided by a corridor. On the left the long dining room decorated with a discreet trompe l'oeil of plants extended by the colonial-style veranda. To the right is a set of saffron-coloured rooms: the kitchen, pantry, cloak-rooms and loo. The steps of the plain staircase with its minimalist iron handrail are grey; the walls white, the tiled floors of the landings grey and white, as are the long, striped linen curtains, often drawn to filter the strong light on the floor. Nicolò has retained this sober approach over the five floors, to offset and separate the dazzling colours of the rooms.

The first-floor living room, which occupies almost the entire space, was intended to be a delicate pastel pink. 'I wanted to try at least,' Nicolò says, but when he saw the result, he found that his objects

Top: the mauve study/TV room is also used as a guest-room. Antelope antlers, romantic engravings and a portrait of Charles X, king of France, overlook a large metal Ottoman daybed. The mother-of-pearl-inlaid tables are Syrian. Opposite: seen beyond stuffed parrots, the spectacular fireplace (half seen on the previous spread) is copied from a 17th-century one in a family property in Piedmont. Beneath a strip of antique Venetian silk velvet can be seen a sprig of faux coral, miniature tiles and a Moroccan wedding-belt buckle

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C&C Milano, Tenda

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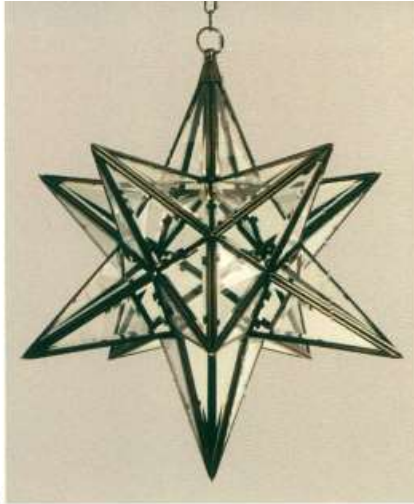
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C&C Milano, Coperta/plaid/piumino

Liam Stevens, Fotografi

Augusta Pownall, Redattori/Stylist



1

inspiration

Some of the design effects in this issue, recreated by Augusta Pownall



2



3



4



5



6



1 The second-floor corridor in Nicolò Baldissera's Tangier home is a firmament of twinkling stars (page 181). Wonder what they are? Charles Edwards's large star lantern in new bronze with clear bevelled glass is a shining example of the style, for £2,268. Ring 020 7736 8490, or visit charlesedwards.com.

2 It's perhaps little wonder that many of C&C Milano's designs can be found in Nicolò Castellini Baldissera's home, given he's a scion of the family that founded the Italian fabric firm. Spot 'Pienza Rafano', shown here in gialle (top) and viola (£189 per m) on the bed mattress on the veranda (page 174). Ring 020 3583 3303, or visit cec-milano.com.

3 Some might balk at papering a room that's open to the elements on one side, but not Nicolò Castellini Baldissera in Tangier (page 174). Here the stripe is right: Cole & Son's green/white 'Glastonbury Stripe' (£65 per 10m roll). Ring 020 7376 4628, or visit cole-and-son.com.

4 The cushions in Nicolò's sunny pink sitting room are made by cutting up old Turkish kaftans (page 176). If you don't have any Ottoman antiques to hand, no matter. This hand-embroidered *suzani* cushion, £370 from Yastik by Rifat Ozbek, runs rings around other designs. Ring 020 3538 7581, or visit yastikbyrifatozbek.com.

5 The coral above the fireplace in Tangier is purely decorative (page 179), but if you're after function *and* form, switch to Cox London's coral table lamp (£3,000). The 'coral' is made from free-form wrought iron hand-painted with milk paint, sitting on a turned giltwood base. Ring 020 3328 9506, or visit coxlondon.com.

6 Not one to shy away from elaborate decoration, Count de Bussy had his Salle des Devises painted with octagonal depictions of his friends' – and no doubt enemies' – châteaux throughout France (page 162). John Derian's 36 × 24cm 'Fontainebleau' platter, \$265, pairs the palace with Astier de Villatte's glazed terracotta. Ring 001 212 677 3917, or visit johnderian.com.