



coming up violet

Using shades of purple and grey and a patchwork collection of treasures, interior designer Michela Curetti has created a cosy haven in the ancient Italian town of Mondovì

室內設計師Michela Curetti利用紫色、灰色和多件珍藏的寶物，為自己位於意大利Mondovì的居所打造出舒適優美的感覺

BY MARTINA HUNGLINGER PHOTOGRAPHY MADS MOGENSEN AND CARLO BEN-VENUTO





previous page: designed by Curetti, this bookshelf was inspired by a Japanese bookshelf. She found the six Chinese lanterns in Paris; the purple silk wallpaper lining the stairs is from Rubelli
opposite: the roof terrace is accessible from the top-floor loft
left: Eero Saarinen's Tulip chairs and table sit under a pendant lamp Curetti handmade from glass beads found in Morocco. The silk screen is from an antique shop in Paris

前頁圖：Curetti設計這個書架的靈感是來自一個日式書架，而架前的6盞燈籠是她在巴黎購物；樓梯的絲質牆紙購自Rubelli
對頁圖：天台露台跟頂層的閣樓相連
左圖：Eero Saarinen的Tulip椅子和桌子上裝有一盞吊燈，是Curetti利用購自摩洛哥的玻璃珠子裝飾而成。絲質屏風來自巴黎一間古董店

Interior architect and designer Michela Curetti is overflowing with creativity: it's evident in the vivacity in her eyes, and in the dashes of purple in her lovely apartment in the ancient city of Mondovì, in Piedmont, Italy. Curetti's flat is situated on the two top floors of a noble *palazzo*, a historic building from the 19th century that sits in the very centre of the city. From the top floor, there is access to a large roof terrace, overlooking the many towers of Mondovì and the snow-covered mountains of the nearby Italian Alps.

The flat includes a bedroom, a dressing room and a bathroom on the fourth floor of the building, along with a newly restored loft space, which was originally the *palazzo*'s storage attic. The transformed loft is now a large open space that includes a living room, a dining area, a kitchen and a working space plus the main bathroom.

室 內設計師兼建築師Michela Curetti擁有無窮無盡的創意，尤其是當你看著她的眼睛時，會感覺到精靈且朝氣勃勃的氣息，好像在她的腦海裡收藏著很多精彩的意念，正等待逐一施展的機會；如果你參觀過她的居所，便更會發覺她的設計意念非同凡響。Curetti居於意大利Piedmont區Mondovì內的一個古樸城鎮，其住所位於一幢座落市中心、建於19世紀的歷史建築物頂層，外貌充滿瑰麗氣派，經歲月洗禮後依然優雅迷人。從頂樓可來到一個寬敞的天台露台，能俯瞰屹立著多幢美麗建築物的Mondovì，以及在阿爾卑斯山附近，鋪著皚皚白雪的群山，眼前美景有如一張明信片。

Curetti的單位設於建築物的4樓，內有一間睡房、一間衣帽間和一間浴室，還有一個不久前才經過翻新的閣樓式空間。這個閣樓本來只是建築物的一個儲物室，後來給重新規劃，搖身一變成為一個開揚寬敞的生活空間，附設一個客廳、飯廳、廚房，還有一個工作室及主浴室，環境優美，實在難以想像此前是個毫不起眼的儲物房。



above left to right:

a Cassina sofa bought at an online Christie's auction takes pride of place in the sitting area. Vintage stools from the 1920s add to the look; the wall lamps in the bathroom are handcrafted Venetian pieces from the 1920s, set against smoky grey walls

opposite: Curetti hand-stenciled the floor, using an Etro pattern as inspiration

上圖左至右： Cassina沙發購自Christie's的網上拍賣站，成為客廳的一大焦點，而1920年代的凳子同樣矚目；浴室的牆燈是由1920年代的威尼斯配件手製而成，在灰色牆壁上分外注目

對頁圖： Curetti以Etro圖案為本，給浴室的地板油上漂亮花紋

"When I saw this space my imagination ran away with me," says Curetti, who studied Fine Arts in Milan and who now has a million projects going at the same time, designing furniture and carpets as well as creating beautiful interiors.

In order to revamp it so that as much light as possible would stream in, and so as to create an open space, walls had to be removed and the roof structure was changed into a two winged structure. One wing looks towards the mountains and the other, towards the hills of the Langhe region.

Curetti tried to save as much of the original structure as possible: the *graniglia* floor tiles in the entrance hall, the parquet herringbone floors in the bedroom; the doors, the wallcovering in the bedroom, among others. Thick oak floor panels line the whole top floor and staircase: these were once roof beams, removed in the renovation. "A piece of the house that remained in the house," smiles the designer.

As for decorating the place, Curetti had started up a collection years before she found this flat. "The Saarinen table and the chairs I bought in Paris about 15 years ago, when Saarinen had not yet had his great comeback," says the ingenious designer. "I buy pieces that attract me to their shapes and materials. In a way my home is a patchwork of different styles, all chosen with sincerity and my inner aesthetic instinct".

「當我第一眼看見這個空間的時候，腦中便立時浮現出很多幻想和意念。」Curetti回憶說。設計師曾在米蘭修讀藝術學系，現時手頭上的工程多不勝數，由傢具設計、地毯創作到室內設計等項目也正等待著她發揮創意，打造出一個又一個令人驚喜的新作品。

而在翻新居所時，設計師為了令更多陽光能照進這片空間，使之更富明亮感，同時又能打造出開揚感覺，首項工序當然就是把可以拆走的牆壁也一一拆掉，而天台的結構也給改建成由兩翼部份組成的空間——其中一邊可飽覽漂亮的山景和附近的天然景色，而且視線更可不受阻擋地一直伸延至遠處的Langhe區群山，景致美不勝收。

Curetti盡量保留建築物原有的結構，使居所能散發出幽幽古樸雅緻的魅力。例如門廳位置的*graniglia*地磚、睡房內的人字形拼花地板、門、睡房的牆飾等等，無論是顯眼的元素，還是細微的細節，設計師也極力保存下來。此外，上層整個地板和樓梯級也鋪上了厚身的橡木地板——這些漂亮的木板條其實原是居所的橫樑，在翻新工程期間拆走後循環再用。「屋內的一點一滴也給留下來了。」設計師微笑著說。

至於在裝飾室內空間方面，Curetti是以她多年來收藏所得的珍藏品作為美化工程的起點，而這些珍品早在她找到這間住所前已一直陪伴左右。「Saarinen桌子和椅子是我於15年前在巴黎購買所得，當時他還未捲土重來。」設計師表示：「我會選購的設計，通常都是因為其形狀和物料能吸引到我。亦因如此，我的居所有如一個大熔爐，結合了不同的風格，全部設計都是以我的個人感覺和內在的審美角度來選取。」



Curetti's clients often ask her to help them furnish their homes, so she searches for the right pieces in retro shops, at flea markets and at online auctions. Some pieces eventually find their way into her own home. The mauve wallpaper that lines the staircase is just one such example: by Rubelli, she found it for some clients. But at that time, purple was not a colour many of her clients understood or would have dared to use in their homes. "As happens so often, I fell in love with the piece ... and in a way I was quite happy that the client rejected it, so I could use it in my own flat," she says happily.

The floor lamps that sit next to the work table followed a similar route to her home. The work table is one of Curetti's own designs; a prototype made from a thin sheet of carbon fibre covered in leather. The original *graniglia* floor tiles in the entrance area have flecks of violet through them, perfectly matching the plum hues of the lovely wallpaper.

In the bedroom, heritage floral wallpaper from the 19th century creates a stripe across one wall. Curetti discovered it after removing two or three layers of wallpaper that lay on top of it; bland designs from the 1940s and 1970s. So she retained a large, weathered strip of it, which, together with the rosé silk-taffeta curtains and the antique tulle sheers, adds a delicate, feminine touch against the smoky-coloured walls.

The loft space, meanwhile, is airy next to the intimacy of the tones in the bedroom. Here, there's a dash of

Curetti's客人經常都會向她尋求有關室內裝飾的意見和協助，所以她經常前往專賣懷舊家品的商品、跳蚤市場和網上的拍賣網站，尋找各種漂亮獨特的好東西，而當中有些設計最後更成為她的私人珍藏。這間居所的樓梯間鋪有一張悅目的淡紫色牆紙，就是她其中一件寶物——這款Rubelli設計的作品，是她為客人們「尋寶」時找到的；不過，當時很多客人也不太相信紫色能為居所帶來優美迷人的效果，所以不敢在家中選用這種色調。「久而久之，我愈來愈喜歡這些東西……而且從另一方面來看，當客人們拒絕了這些設計之後，我就可以把它們應用在我自己的居所內，這樣我也會覺得很開心。」她高興地說。

放於工作桌旁的地燈跟居所的裝潢設計非常配合。工作桌是Curetti其中一件親自設計的作品，是一個原型，由一片飾上了皮革面的薄身碳纖維製造而成，款式特別。另一邊廂，上文也提到門廳位置的*graniglia*地板是設計師特意保留下來的優美元素，細看之下發現地板中泛著點點紫色的小斑點，優雅感覺悠然而生，而且正好跟洋李般的紫色紅牆紙互相配襯。

睡房內，來自19世紀的傳統花卉圖案牆紙佔據著其中一堵壁的中央部份，就像一大條粗身的淺藍色彩帶。Curetti本來是想清走貼於這堵牆上的兩至三層牆紙，而在撕走一層又一層後發現到這幅漂亮的花卉圖案牆紙，結合了1940年代及1970年代的設計。於是她決定保留呈長形的部份，雖然當中有些地方已破損，但卻不會帶有殘缺的感覺，再加上玫瑰絲質塔夫綢窗簾和古雅的薄紗窗簾，為這個色調如煙如夢的睡房添上精緻和柔美的格調。

至於閣樓的設計，則採用了跟睡房差不多的色調，使之同樣散發出親密溫馨的感覺。除了用色之外，裝飾品也同

opposite
clockwise from
top left: in the work area, Curetti has placed a prototype of one of her own desk designs; the stainless steel kitchen bench was custom-designed by the owner. The stool is by Jasper Morrison for Cappellini; two 1960s armchairs, inherited from Curetti's grandmother, sit in the newly-glassed-in loft area; the view from the stairs to the dining area
above: the view of the snow-covered town of Mondovì

對頁圖，順時針方向：
Curetti把她其中一件原型書桌設計放於工作室內；不銹鋼廚房桌子是由屋主親自設計，凳子則來自Cappellini，是Jasper Morrison的作品；兩張1960年代的扶手椅是Curetti的祖母留給她的設計，放於新裝修的空間內；自樓梯望向飯廳
上圖：Mondovì的城鎮景色，漂亮迷人



IN THE BEDROOM, HERITAGE FLORAL WALLPAPER FROM THE 19TH CENTURY CREATES A STRIPE ACROSS ONE SMOKY WALL. NEXT TO THE ROSÉ SILK-TAFFETA CURTAINS AND THE ANTIQUE TULLE SHEERS, IT ADDS A DELICATE, FEMININE TOUCH



Arabic fairytale thanks to the collection of six lanterns in aubergine, oriental silk screens and a collection of wooden stools.

One of Curetti's design strengths is her ability to create spontaneous, original decorative solutions of great impact. She has applied this streak of creative genius in her own apartment – the table lamp hanging on top of the dining table, for example, she brought to life using necklaces of glass beads, collected on different trips to Morocco. "I was expecting an important group of friends for dinner and I still only had a naked light bulb hanging from the ceiling, so I took all the necklaces and wound them around the electric cable," explains the designer. The bathroom floor was inspired by an Etro pattern – she painted it as a stencil on the wooden floor on a Sunday afternoon.

By blending her own craft work with modern pieces and vintage items, Curetti has concocted a unique home that truly evokes the creative spirit of its owner. Pockets of purple here and there – from shades of plum and violet to lilac and lavender – add a feminine touch that's also edgy when combined with shades of smoke grey, charcoal and white. It's a look that's utterly cosy, unusual and altogether pretty.

樣能為空間注入情調，例如一套6個茄紫色的絲質燈籠、東方絲質屏風和數張同款的木凳子，一同為睡房打造出阿拉伯童話的情境。

才華洋溢的Curetti其中一項令人拍案叫絕的設計強項，就是能創作出一些自然而原創的裝飾方案，來營造精彩絕倫的奪目效果。在裝飾自己的居所時，她當然會毫不保留地發揮這項才能——例如掛於餐桌之上的燈飾本來只是一盞平平無奇的燈膽，但她利用多次前往摩洛哥時搜購所得的玻璃珠子頸鍊，來點綴這盞吊燈，使之頓時變成一件實用又別緻的家居飾品。「有一天，我準備招呼一群很重要的朋友來家用餐，但當時我只有一盞自天花板垂吊下來的燈膽，於是我把所有頸鍊都翻出來，再纏於吊燈的電線上。」設計師就這樣略施小計，便成功設計出一件矚目的裝飾。另外，浴室的地板原本只是平凡的木板款式，但她沒有放過能運用創意的機會，於某一個星期天的下午在地板上「動手腳」，油上漂亮的Etro圖案，整個沐浴空間立時變得優美迷人。

Curetti在居所的設計中結合了自己的手工、現代的家品和懷舊的配飾，打造出一個獨一無二的生活空間，完美呈現了屋主天賦的創意才華。家中各處不時出現紫色的元素——洋李的紫、紫羅蘭的紫、紫丁香的紫、薰衣草的紫等——為這兒注入柔美感覺，再加上灰、啡和白色調，又能譜出時尚的氣派。居所的新貌糅合了舒適、非凡和漂亮的效果，令人一見難忘。❖

opposite: Curetti discovered the vintage wallpaper in the bedroom after removing several layers of wallpaper that lay on top of it

above left to right: herringbone parquet floors, lilac-coloured bedding and smoked-eggplant walls set a cosy scene; rose-hued taffeta curtains and antique tulle sheers add femininity in the bedroom

對頁圖: Curetti除掉睡房內數層牆紙後，發現到底層這個優美懷舊的款式

上圖左至右: 人字形地板、淺紫色寢具和茄紫色的牆壁，鑄造出舒適的格調；玫瑰色塔夫綢窗簾配上雅緻的薄紗，感覺柔美