



VILLA RIVAZZOLA
A COLOURED ELEGANCE

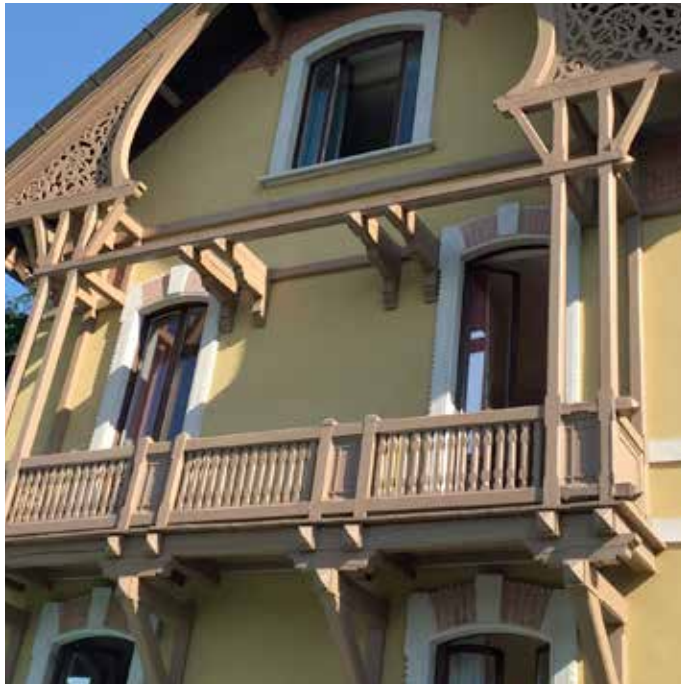


VILLA RIVAZZOLA

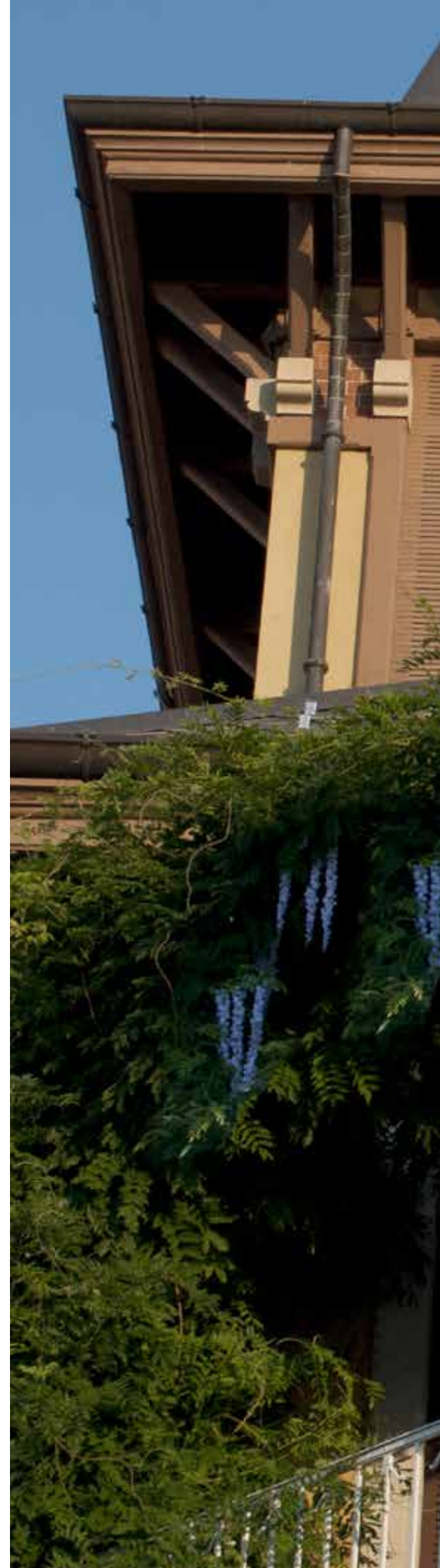
A COLOURED ELEGANCE

While sailing in Verbano or taking a walk along the bank of the lake, it is hard to miss the Art Nouveau Villa standing out in the middle of Lombardian side of the great Lake Maggiore in Port Valtravaglia. This precious medieval village is located thirty-five kilometres away from the south bank of Arona and Locarno, the Swiss side at the northern part of Lake Maggiore. The current owner grew up spending his summer holidays with his grandparents in the late sixties in this breathtaking place.

Over the years, he has become rather familiar with the infinite shades of green from the surrounding mountains and forests. He has witnessed the orange ochre color of sunsets and sunrises that are very rare to grasp in the big cities people often dwell. His memories are filled with mountain walks, flowers and mushroom searches soothened by the freshness nature gently offers to mankind time after time and the sound of music from people living and equally enjoying the gift of mother nature.

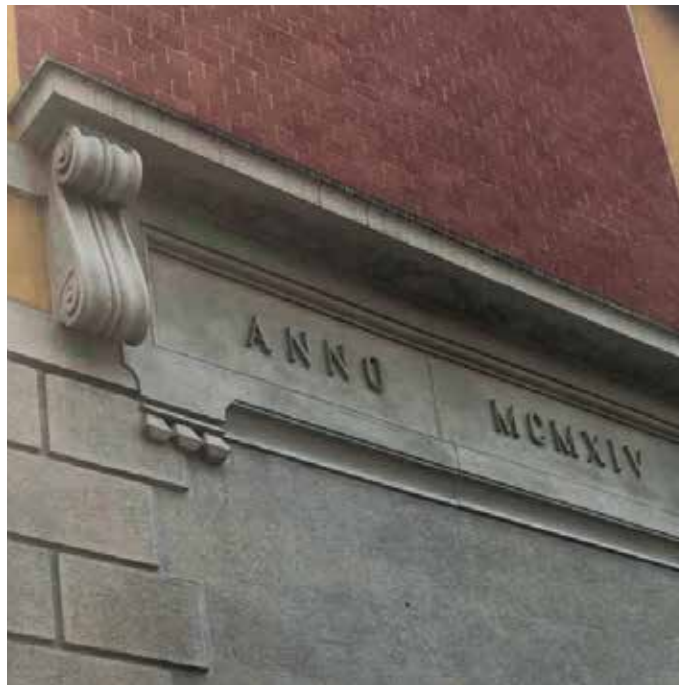


The villa is one of the few exquisite samples of an eclectic Art Nouveau style present on the lake and dating back to the turn of the XXth century









If asked, this *Lady* of more than one hundred years old and having seen much water run under the bridges, could tell you a number of stories







VILLA RIVAZZOLA WELCOMES ITS GUESTS



The wind rose of gneiss stone, from the Val d'Ossola quarries on the other side of the lake, welcomes guests reminding them that Verbania is home to winds and sailors





The Villa is both part of the history of a century and the scenario for many stories and adventures. It witnessed both World War I and II, when the lake area was land of partisans, battles and refugees exiled from the neighbouring country of Switzerland.



In the entrance hall, one can find prints illustrating the house in 1915 when the coastal road had not yet been built.



THE BLUE SOUND OF MUSIC



The living room on the ground floor plunges into the lake stealing its blue shades. The piano and the lovely lyre back chairs recall ancient melodies played in this room over the years.







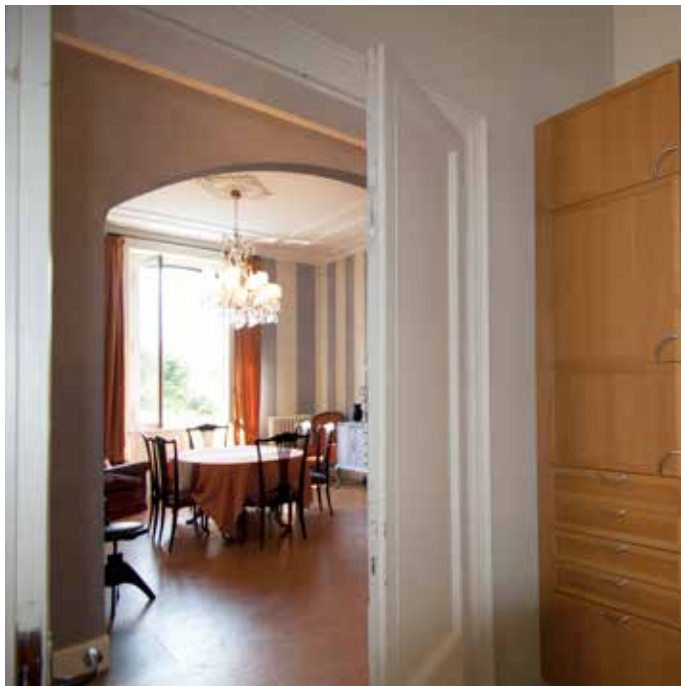
The chandelier goes hand in hand with the whole, evoking water drips and their countless reflections





THE WARMTH OF THE HEARTH





Fairy tales in the kitchen by the warmth of an old fireplace mirrored in the modern cooker hood







The two large red lamps, salvaged from antique junk shops and expertly restored, light up and overlook the classic Thonet chairs typical of the lake villas of those times



GRAND MAMA'S BEDROOM



Her favourite shades of green and burgundy overlook the garden and the pool. The two-colour chest of drawers tells about a typical light lake-style decoration of furniture.







ONE OF THE GUEST'S ROOM









A TROMPE L'OEIL FOR THE GUEST'S BATHROOM



Grey and terracotta for the curtained wall tromp l'oeil
look out into the palmed side of the garden







STAIRS TO HEAVEN



The elegant, wrought ironed, original stairway offers a gentle warm embrace, a touch of gold gives lightness to the handrail, the meter base frames the wall with a symmetrical beige green conversation and presents the lovely frescoed ceiling



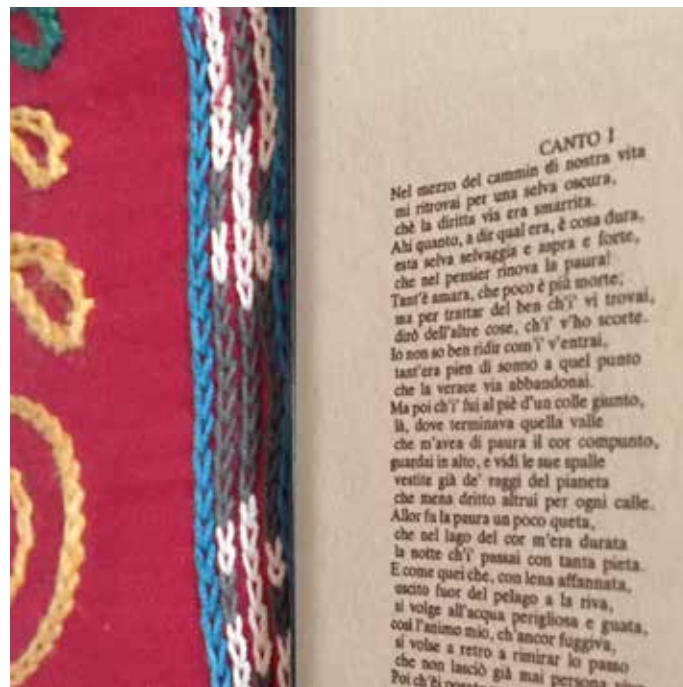


The main floor opens its decorated doors to guests, welcoming them with elegant stuccoed capitals and local inlaid marble floors









The accurate miniature of Dante's Divine Comedy, framed with fine fabric adds a touch of art and eternity



THE CORAL LIVING ROOM



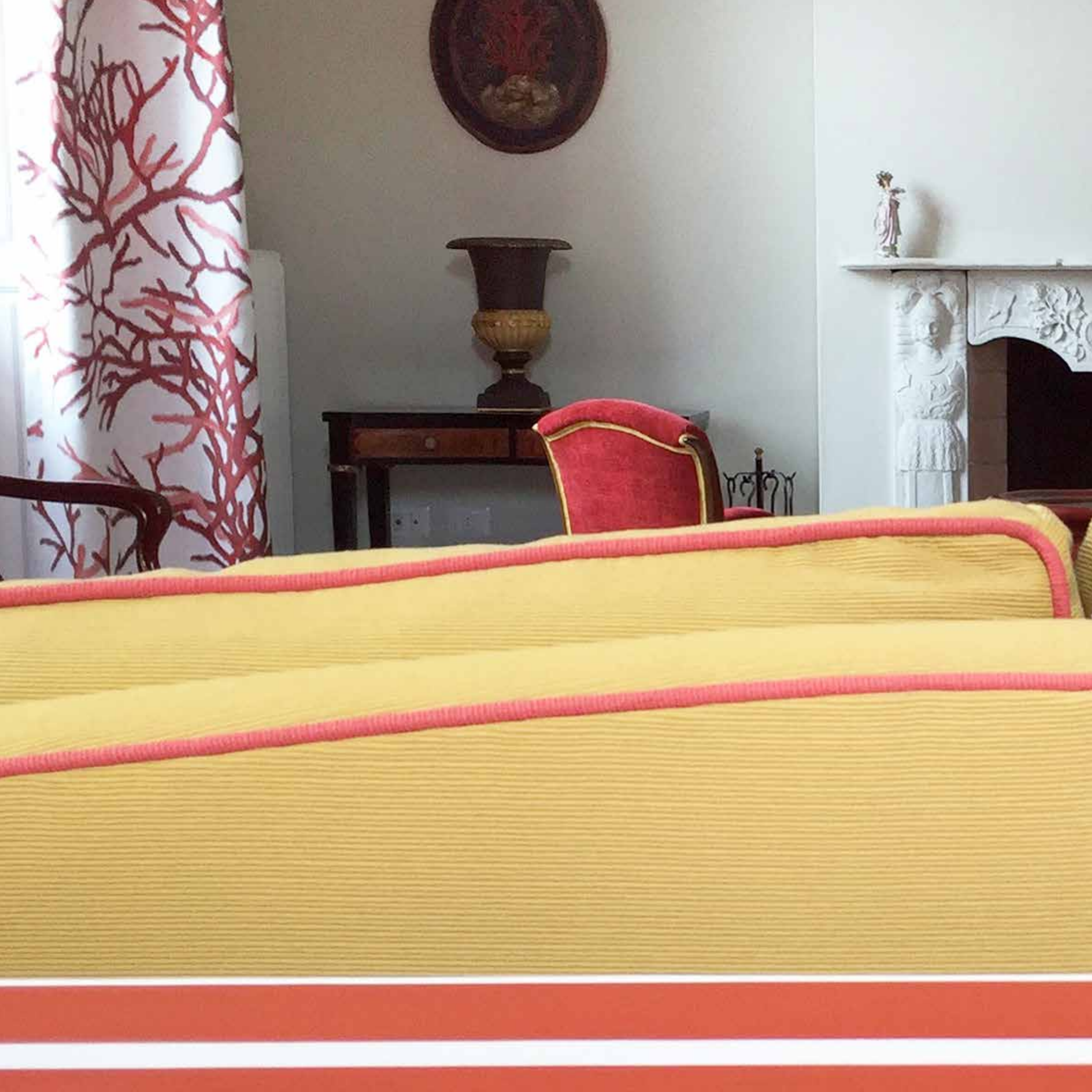
Coral interpretation all over, a tribute to water and its richness, an eclectic treasure of colours, emotions and fine details. A marble Art Nouveau fireplace echoes stories of the past.

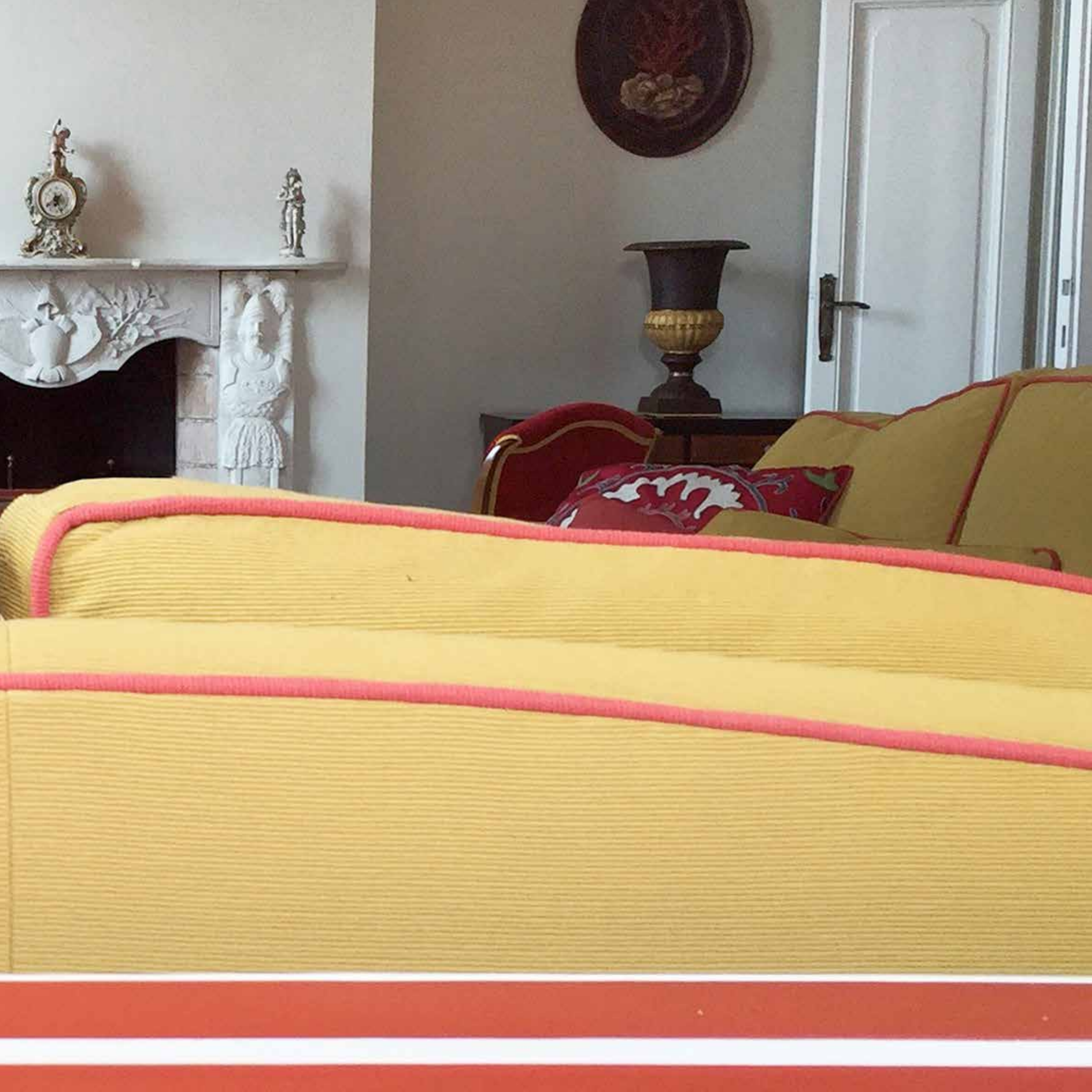












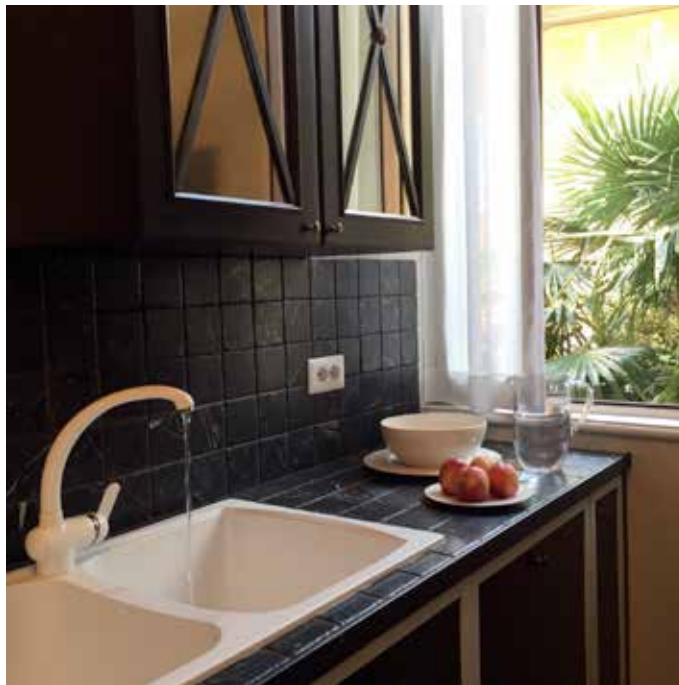


BLACK AND WHITE FOOD TASTING



A tailored shaped kitchen on the *piano nobile* introduces its Egyptian evocations of late XIXth century archaeological discoveries of the pharaohs tombs















A G O L D S U R P R I S E









A SECRET PASSAGE IN THE SLEEPING AREA



This floor welcomes rest and can accommodate up to 13 people. Every bedroom carries a different duo coloured interpretation of the lake-style, using modern shapes and spaces to allow the best use of it providing wisely disguised wardrobes and storage spaces. Two paired and fully equipped bathrooms satisfy all requirements.



THE MASTER BEDROOM





The golden "*papier maché*" master bedroom connects to a children's room through a secret door



























PAIRED BATHROOMS









A TOWER FOR THE “LADY OF THE LAKE”



An exquisite 360° view offers breath-taking views of the lake, the medieval bell tower of Santa Maria church and the Swiss Alps. A play room filled with the natural splendour of light to cheer one's soul!







WISTERIA FOR BREAKFAST



Breakfast, what a special moment - someone like it English, some American or even Italian but the “Lady of the Lake” like it wisteria





A POOL ON THE LAKE



Two arbours, one hand-fan shaped wrought ironed and the second covered by an old wisteria, which can accommodate a good numbers of guests.

Running water, a fully equipped outdoor kitchen and a BBQ area, welcome a round the clock entertainment.

In the basement the amenities serving the pool with changing rooms, showers, toilets and a massage area.







COUNTRY LIFE IN THE GARDEN





Garden
K. La Tabla



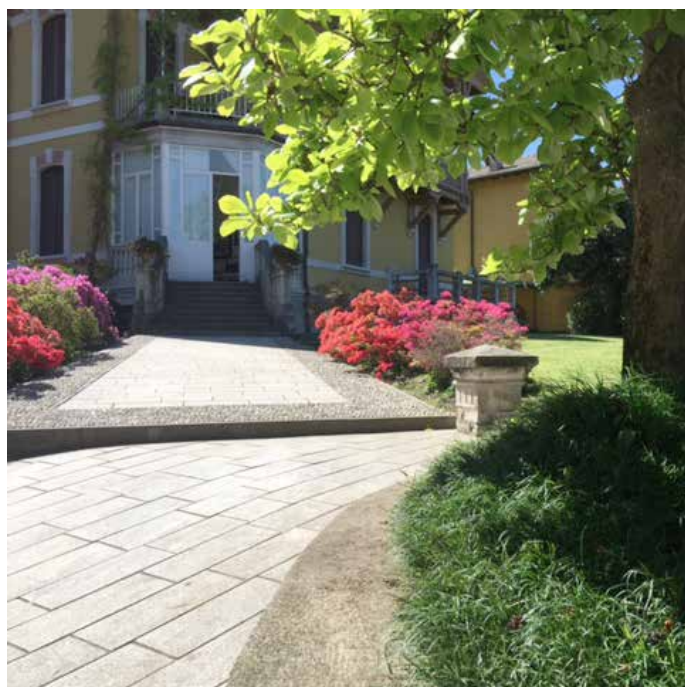




THE GARDEN WITH ITS LIGHTS AND COLOURS



TALKS BY ITSELF...



A variety of plants, secular azaleas and camellias with extraordinary colours all the year round together with a superb view on the precious little harbour are the perfect frame for Villa Rivazzola











UNFORGETTABLE ATMOSPHERES



















VILLA RIVAZZOLA WELCOMES YOU

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THE REAL STORY BEHIND THE DWELLING

During his studies in Milan, the hectic start-up of his law firm and family, the owner, Cesare, missed this place for over 20 years with just a few nostalgic visits. Walking along the lake banks opposite the harbour, he used to notice a neglected house, shrouded in an aura of mystery, a place left abandoned to playful raids of local children.

Eventually in 2008, after years of daydreams, Cesare decided to buy it and bring it back to its origins hoping the four floors, the tower and the twenty beds would become a cosy home for family and friends.

The big question was how to return this dwelling its former splendour and colours?

The answer came by chance after meeting two old friends, Daniele, a local contractor and Erasmo, an interior designer and co-founder of Cometa Association in Como, who accepted the challenge of a major conservative restoration.

What lies behind Erasmo and “Cometa” is an unpredictable life challenge that started with a child in custody. Erasmo, his brother and sister in the past twenty years have experienced how love and beauty can be means for growth and rebirth.

Nowadays “Cometa” is a story of families engaged in welcoming, educating and training children and teenagers. This has led to the foundation of a vocational school - “Oliver Twist School” and a woodworking lab - “The Artisans’ Contrada” where actual master

craftsmen teach and guide the youth in the production of exquisite furnishing and interior decoration.

Moreover, Erasmo is a “lake man” as well as Cesare. His experience and creative talent were able not only to bring the Villa back to its past beauty but also to reproduce the traditional Lombardy-lake colour combination and furniture style of the early 1900s.

The photos, settings and graphic design of this book are thanks to enthusiasm and passionate contribution of Laura and Francesca from Home Staging Soul. Thank you for having granted your attention to the book.

Thank you too for sharing this adventure with us!



Cesare & Paola
Francesca Pietro Caterina
Margherita



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