

S I N G A P O R E T A T L E

# HOMES

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO LUXURIOUS LIVING



**SUITE 9**

The art of fusing smart design with elegant details

**FEATURES:** CHER'S ORIENTAL HOME • MILAN FAIR PICKINGS • RODOLFO DORDONI EXCLUSIV

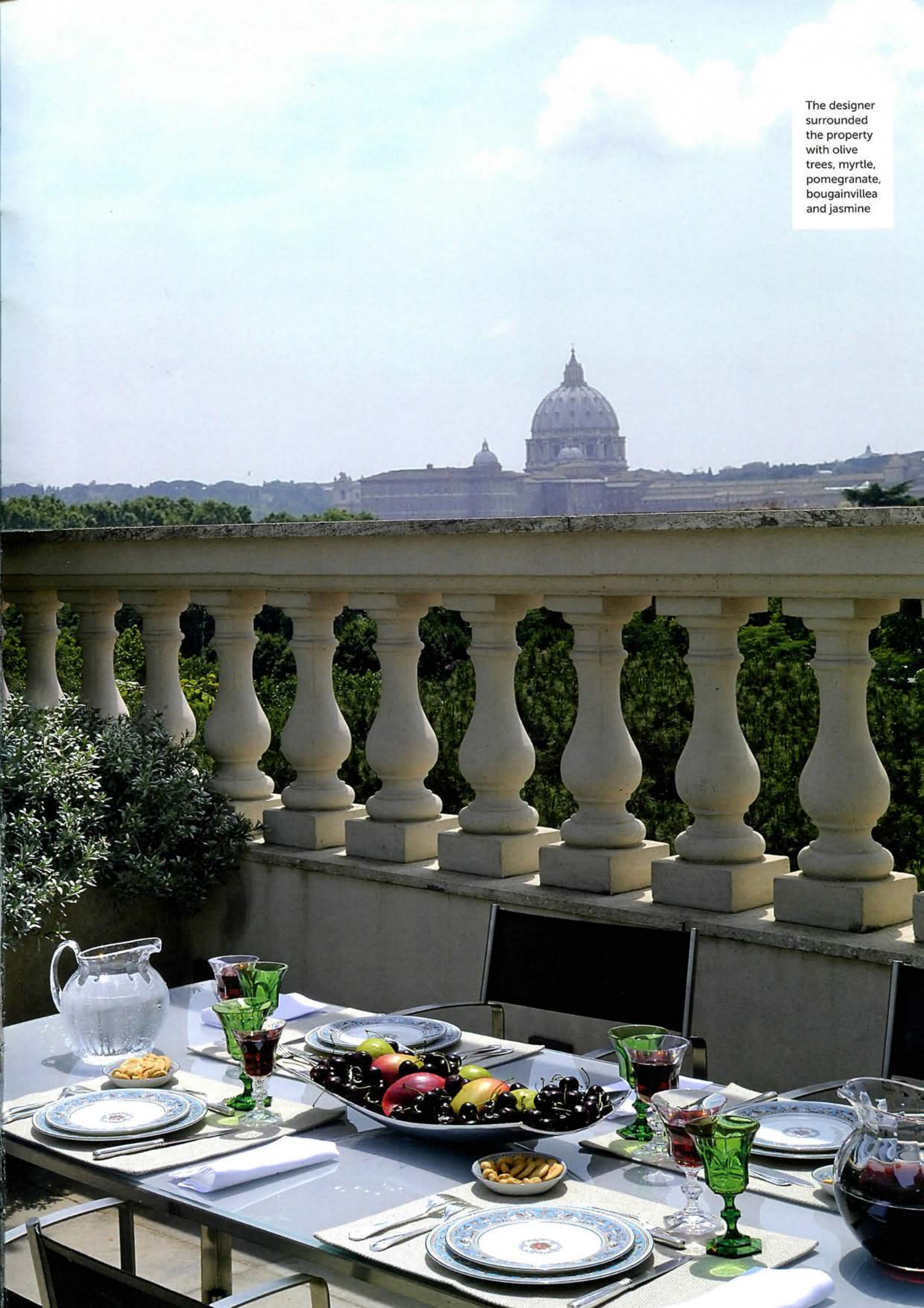
when in  
**ROME**

*A doctor and his wife  
spends nine years  
looking for the perfect  
spot to call home in  
one of the world's  
oldest cities and finds  
it waiting along the  
banks of the Tiber river*

BY MARINA PIGNATELLI  
PHOTOGRAPHY GIANNI FRANCHELLUCCI



The designer surrounded the property with olive trees, myrtle, pomegranate, bougainvillea and jasmine



A spiral staircase that gets to the second floor, with lighting hidden in the handrail designed by the architect Guido Bianchi





Sofa designed by Vincenzo Sposato and Alberto Sifola. Sicilian antique armchairs were reupholstered by the architects with orange cotton

**H**aving been posted to Rome after spending several years based in Scotland, this homeowner couple, consisting of a cardiologist and his wife, began searching for their dream home in the new land. For the pair, the main requirement for their ideal residence was to be accompanied by spectacular views they could return to and enjoy every evening.

Yet finding the right home in a crowded city proved harder than they thought, as the initial search stretched into a lengthy nine-year wait, which saw the two through countless apartment viewings. Finally, it was at a spacious penthouse with an accompanying attic, located in an old building overlooking the idyllic Tiber river, where they ended their search.



The neutral-toned interiors are accented by dashes of colour from the artworks



In the dining room, a corian table designed by the architects Vincenzo Sposato and Alberto Sifola



Oversized candle holders play on the proportions of the room to make it cosier



On the wall a painting by Enrico Castellani. French Empire candlesticks on the corian table designed by the architects Vincenzo Sposato and Alberto Sifola. Perspex chairs from the seventies





The contemporary terrace designed by the landscape architect Virna Mastrangelo with the owner's supervision, floor in Jura Grey stone, furniture in steel and black canvas by Coro

## In the living room the architects designed floors with Yura Grey stone, inlaid with fossils and mother of pearl

To restore the aging apartment space and adapt the interiors to their taste and lifestyle, the couple called on two Neapolitan architects, Vincenzo Sposato and Alberto Sifola, to transform the space. The homeowners had seen previous projects by the duo and believed the architects shared similar views of their appreciation for blending classic and contemporary styles. Sposato and Sifola founded their practice in 1980, after graduating from the Università degli Studi di Napoli. Their design portfolio includes an extensive list of public spaces, such as museums, as well as luxury hotels, spas, yachts and private residences.

The architects, with a dedicated team of artisans from Naples, redesigned the obsolete concepts and architecture by first removing partitions in order to create an airy open space. This created a natural flow of continuity between

entrance, living, entertainment and dining rooms. Sposato also persuaded the owners to tear down an existing room in order to accommodate a self-supporting steel spiral staircase, which allows access to the upper floor as well as being a sculptural element in itself.

In the living room the architects designed floors with Yura Grey stone, inlaid with fossils and mother of pearl. This creates the ideal setting for the earth tone-colored sofas, armchairs covered in brown linen and a coffee-table in rosewood, which complements the table carved in traditional Scicilian style. A canvas by Giandomenico Sozzi, *Red Carpet*, lines the wall, as well as oversized photographic prints of the couple's favourite places such as the Piazza Garruffella and Palazzo Rammacca in the heart of Vucciria – one of the most beautiful and characteristic districts of Palermo.



Light installation  
by Antje  
Blumenstein  
"Anyone Can Get  
Into Heaven"



The washstand  
is designed  
out of a single  
block of stone



In the owner's studio the library  
designed by the architects is  
enriched with antique ceramics  
from Sicily and Urbino and a  
gold chalice with coral ('600) of  
Trapani among art books





A Sicilian golden headboard with contemporary linen upholstery

The walls in another corner is adorned with dark blue enamel paint, specially painted to enhance the golden antiquities, which are part of the homeowners' collections. The designers added to the space by designing a unique iron and blackboard frame to emphasise the stunning crucifix.

Large sliding wings separate the various spaces, while modern objects such as the air conditioning system are cleverly concealed within a false ceiling to maintain the purity of the lines in the interiors. The dining room, connected to the kitchen by invisible doors, has walls decorated with pieces of art by Enrico Castellani, Afro and a sketch by artist Donato Piccolo. A linear Corian dining table is matched with a mixture of different armchair designs to evoke a contemporary feel.

The glass railings along the stairway leads onto the second floor, where the designers created a special space to contain the homeowners' art, such as the light installation by Antje Blumenstein which reads "anyone can get into heaven". For the owners, these

words are a reflection of how they view their new home, believing they have created their own heaven on earth.

In the master bedroom, Sposato gives the antique headboard a modern update by pairing it with minimalist white and gray linen. An etching by Piero Annigoni, gift from one of the cardiologist's patients, which portrays Wye River in Galles, a place where the owner has lived, decorates the walls of the passageway leading into the terrace decorated with outdoor appointments in steel and black canvas by Coro. Here, the homeowners engaged landscape architect Virna Mastrangelo to create a floral masterpiece by using olive trees, myrtle, pomegranate, bougainvillea and jasmine to set the scene for the couple's regular dinner parties and brunches. On reflection, both husband and wife believe their new pad was well worth the wait. "Sometimes it pays to hold out until you find a space that you feel truly comfortable with, and work with trusted designers to turn it into a home you want to come back to day after day," says the matriarch of the house. **H**

#### THE BRIEF

**Size of Property:**

4,844 sq ft

**Family Members:**

**Interior Designer:**

Alberto Sifola,

Vincenzo Sposato

**Time Taken:**

12 months