COLOUR COLLISION

Forget the checklist of must-have design pieces: this opulent and textural apartment proves that creating a soulful home is all about personal expression and trusting your instincts

Words **TRISH LORENZ** *Photography* **ALESSANDRA IANNIELLO/LIVING INSIDE**

Hallway Textile designer Valeria Bosco (pictured) has transformed the ground floor of her home in Piedmont, Italy, into an atelier and showroom. Her passion for rich colours and layering is evident in the tones she's chosen for the entrance hall. The stairs lead to the upper floor, her private space ➤

Fashion designer Valeria Bosco's home sits in the fertile countryside of Piedmont in northern Italy, some 40 kilometres outside Milan. Valeria has worked in fashion and textile design since 1980 and can name-check Franco Moschino (with whom she worked as an assistant) and brands including Bottega Veneta, Gucci and Prada as some of her career highlights. Today, she lives in a two-storey 1930s home, neighbouring an ancient castle and surrounded by rice fields, which serves as a retreat, atelier and entertaining space. On the ground floor is the studio where she creates her Tubini limited-edition fashion collection, a small showroom and a flourishing sun-filled garden that hums with birdsong and is the perfect place to relax over a morning coffee. But it's upstairs that really takes your breath away. In her private space, Valeria has given her imagination free rein and the result is a dramatic and sumptuous interior layered with colour and pattern. We spoke with Valeria to find out more about her style and how it translates to her home.

What inspired you when you were creating the space? The rice fields around the house inspire me as they change so much with the seasons: in spring they are covered with water and reflect the colour of the sky, like mirrors; in summer they are bright green and in the autumn they are golden yellow. The paintings of Mark Rothko are also an inexhaustible source of inspiration.

The way you use colour definitely has a link to Rothko – shades and tones blurring into one another... It's true, I love colours that are dense and layered and composed of many overlapping shades: they inspire me when I'm dyeing my fabrics. I make limited-edition pieces using the Japanese *shibori* dyeing technique (similar to tie dye). I like to combine ancient traditions with contemporary Western taste. Unfortunately, it is impossible to change the colours of my walls with the same frequency as my clothes!

Would you say this home is typical of your interior style? Yes, but much also depends on the house itself. I try to create a dialogue between the spirit of the place and my own needs. I've lived in very different homes, from studios to post-industrial lofts and a palazzo with beautiful stucco ceilings and frescoes. The thing I care most about is that spaces are comfortable, stimulating and softly lit.

How has your work in fashion and textiles influenced your taste? I guess the concept that both my interiors and fashion pieces have in common is that they're not linked to current trends but to the intrinsic value of high-quality materials, timeless pieces and the pleasure these give you.

How do you choose pieces for your home? I like objects that tell a story. I prefer the simple and imperfect, and only choose the things I like at first glance, instinctively and without asking myself too many questions. Sometimes I'll store pieces for a long time but then they'll call to me and find their place in a new space.

Showroom The homeowner creates limited-edition clothing and textiles using the Japanese *shibori* dyeing technique
Living room A pair of linen armchairs the homeowner painted using drips of colour take pride of place. 'I call them my Pollocks,' she says, referring to artist Jackson Pollock's signature style
Kitchen The kitchen and dining area has a homely, handmade feel to it. The harlequin patterned dining table, from TAD in Milan, makes a bold statement. Mirrors hang haphazardly on the walls, and a curtain made of coffee bags sewn together screens the door
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Kitchen The homeowner designed the units and repainted the dining chairs, which were junk shop finds. In reference to the rice fields surrounding the house, cutlery is stored in an antique metal container once used as a measure for rice
Landing The homeowner has created a collage by painting different colours onto the wall and adding a mix of traditional Japanese rice-paper cards that she has block-printed and painted ➤

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Landing 'I choose pieces that have similar tones and I pay attention to the relationship between the mix of patterns: small and large, floral and geometric, plain and detailed,' says the homeowner of the collage of hand-painted cards that decorates the wall
Bathroom This space typifies the homeowner's Rothko-esque approach to colour. The walls have been painted in colours that she created herself then watered down to a fine wash before applying using both sponges and brushes. She also made the shower curtain, dyeing a silk/satin-mix cloth using the same *shibori* technique that features in her fashion collection ➤

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Bedroom 'This is one of my favourite rooms in the house,' says the homeowner. The 1930s walnut bed belonged to her grandmother and the sheets are linen (try Toast for similar). The curtains are a mix of vintage fabrics, and the bedspread has been dyed by the homeowner. The chandelier is also her own design. 'I used the base of a 1950s table and hung drops of crystal, silver and votive objects, alongside starfish and angels,' she says. The gilded mirror and bedside table are both antique finds

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