

# we're loving

STYLE TIPS, IDEAS AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR HOME

## 42 Poetic modernists

Influenced by Modernist style, a couple of architects create a simple yet stunning home out of an old agricultural building

## 53 Fave finds

We've discovered some seriously cool products and creative people this month

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Check out the interiors blog the **real living** team are loving this month

## 56 Handywoman

Customise a chest of drawers with fluoro rope handles

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Take decorating inspiration from your wardrobe to create a home you'll absolutely love

### Light fantastic

Homeowner Mariapia Ruggerini says she knew the Paolo Rizzatto lamp would be perfect for this wall before the wall even existed. The lamp can reach both the dinner table and sofa. The rosewood sideboard and the letter A (on the stairs) were bought at a flea market. Turn the page to see more of this cool home. →





# COOL MODERNISM

Architects Marcello and Mariapia get hands-on designing their dream home:  
a Modernist house using a **simple aesthetic & natural materials**



## Designer duo

After previously living in an urban environment, Mariapia Ruggerini and her partner Marcello Zappador (pictured) are enjoying their home in the country. "We love the nature around the house, the quiet, the light and simplicity of space," Mariapia says. "For me a clean space is mind-stimulating."



♥ drawings on the  
chalkboard change daily

# Hello spring!

The couple love the garden and make the most of the indoor-outdoor connection. "All around the house there is a sort of 'cloud forest'," Mariapia says. "In springtime there is an explosion of white flowers, which is amazing." The black Vicario chair is by Vico Magistretti for Artemide and the cream Plona chair is by G Piretti for Anonima Castelli. →

### Calming colours

The open-plan living and dining room has been kept neutral, with timber tones providing warmth. "We always use a neutral palette," Mariapia says. "It is honest, relaxing and calming." The flooring throughout most of the house is concrete. The Scandinavian-style table belonged to Marcello's grandmother, and the bright Herbert Krenchel "Krenit" bowls were flea-market finds.



THE FAMILY OF MARIPIA RUGGERINI have owned a rural property in Northern Italy for years. Alongside the main house has stood an agricultural building since the 1970s that has been used for many functions, including a stable, rabbit hutch, garage and barn. So when Mariapia asked her brothers at a family reunion if they were interested in the site they both said: "Do you really want to live in that pigsty?" The answer was yes!

### A MODERNIST IDEA

Mariapia, an architect, says she always believed the building had potential. "It's a large space with a geometrically simple layout," she says. Together with her partner Marcello Zappador she runs the design studio Amorfo. "As architects we appreciate all the aesthetic principles of the Modernist movement: simplicity of forms, visual expression of structure and being true to the materials," she says. "But we try to add some poetry to all of that." →

**who lives here?** | Architects Mariapia Ruggerini and Marcello Zappador with their two German shepherd dogs, Uto and Ada. [Amorfo.it](http://Amorfo.it)

**1 Mixing ideas** The couple come from quite different backgrounds and this has informed their design approach. "It's always a struggle between Marcello's symmetry, order of the forms, and my asymmetry and raw sense of things," Mariapia says.


**2 Keeping it simple** "We appreciate the simplicity and clarity of forms of Modernist architecture, especially Bauhaus, and its use of materials in their true form," Mariapia says. "We believe that architecture doesn't have to 'scream'."



**Natural materials**

The stairs are made from one piece of sheet metal and haven't been varnished. The wall is plastered concrete. The upstairs studio is visible from downstairs, and a favourite spot for Marcello to work. The kitchen was kept simple with no wall cupboards and streamlined, handle-free doors. →



A minimalist white interior space. On the left, a white cabinet holds a stack of books. In the center, a tall, thin floor lamp with a circular light fixture stands next to a small, vintage-style portable television set resting on a stack of books. To the right, a green Danish-style sofa is partially visible, with a large, dark, round object on a small table in front of it. The walls are white, and the floor is a light-colored, reflective material.

"WE ALWAYS  
USE A NEUTRAL  
PALETTE – IT'S HONEST,  
RELAXING AND CALMING"

#### Hybrid space

The studio is also used for overnight guests. The green Danish sofa, which can convert into a bed, was loaned from Marcello's sister many years ago. The Flos "Toio" lamp by Achille Castiglioni is one of Marcello's favourite pieces in the house. The Brionvega "Algol 11" portable TV was designed by Marco Zanuso in 1964. →



## THE PLAN

Because the building was set in an old garden with trees that had been planted by not only Mariapia's father, but her grandfather too, the couple set to create a study in contrasts. Outside is the past while inside is the present. The interiors are simple yet considered. The materials used throughout are in their natural state. Therefore, iron used for the stairs has not been painted, the concrete has been left unfinished and the stone is unpolished.

## HANDS-ON APPROACH

The structure of the building was quite sound, and council regulations meant the couple weren't allowed to change the exterior of the building. But when it came to the interiors Mariapia and Marcello did as much work as they could. This included plastering, painting walls, concreting and assembling furniture. "We really enjoyed ourselves," Mariapia says. The only job that was left to tradesmen was the reinforcement of the floor. The whole project took about one year and was completed in March 2011. The total cost came in at about \$100,000, and comprised construction work, furniture and fittings.

## EVOLVING DESIGN

While the house is essentially finished, it's not a static space. "Furniture comes and goes," Mariapia says. "Sometimes I get home and a lamp has disappeared, so I ask Marcello and he says that he sold it to a client." The couple are fans of flea markets and so the house adjusts to new pieces, and items are sometimes swapped with their studio, which is only about 3km away. Perfect! ❶



### Simple pleasures

Mariapia loves to soak in the bathtub, which she bought at a flea market and enamelled herself.

She only painted the inside as she liked the character of the rust on the outside. The silver

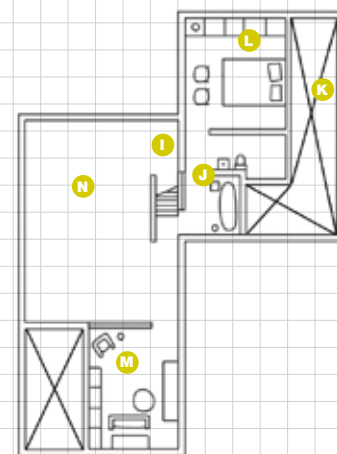
Venticinque floor lamp is a 1968 design by Sergio Asti for Candle – it adds a more modern hit to the pared-back, vintage-style space.



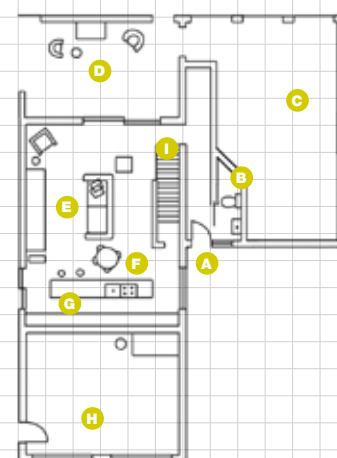
### Storage sorted

Mariapia and Marcello designed the cupboards in the bedroom for extra storage. The couple spend most of their time in their nearby studio and return home to have lunch and, in the evenings, sleep. →

FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



### KEY

- A** Entrance
- B** Wash room
- C** Garage
- D** Outdoor living area
- E** Living
- F** Dining
- G** Kitchen
- H** Laundry / Storage
- I** Staircase
- J** Bathroom
- K** Skylight
- L** Master bedroom
- M** Studio
- N** High ceiling

*\* concrete flooring  
= cool & contemporary*



**Framing nature**  
The decor in Mariapia and Marcello's house is fuss-free, allowing the focus to be on the greenery outside.



**SEE MORE OF MARIAPIA & MARCELLO'S HOME!** Download the free **viewa** app, select the **real living** channel and hold your phone or tablet over the page to see more pics.

## PAINTS

**INTERIOR** Taubmans Endure Interior in **Crisp White**, \$61.90 for 4L.  
**FEATURE WALL** (dining room) Taubmans Endure Interior in **Grey Attitude**, \$61.90 for 4L.

CRISP WHITE

GREY ATTITUDE

**Going green**  
Samui stoneware **dinner plate** in Green, \$8.95, Freedom. 27cm diameter.

\* save

**Table or seat**  
Replica Classic "B" solid oak **stool** in Walnut, \$280, Clickon Furniture.

**Elegant detail**  
Scandi clay **vases** in Bleach, from \$40 each, Have You Met Miss Jones.

## MARIAPIA & MARCELLO'S MOODBOARD Simple style, natural materials, neutral palette

A

B

**Clean contemporary**  
Arild 3-seat leather **sofa** in Karaktär Bright White, \$2299, Ikea.

## FINISHES

**FLOORING** Epoxy resin flooring system (A), from \$35 a sq m installed, Cobblecrete Australia. **BENCHTOP** Caesarstone "Classico" in **Pure White** (B), \$550 a sq m installed, Caesarstone.

**Parallel lines**  
Timber "Cubico" **coffee table** in White, \$729, Project 82. 1.3m x 70cm x 40cm.

\* splurge

**Sixties Danish**  
Vintage Louis Poulsen **table lamp** (56cm), \$895, Modern History. For stockists, see page 210.

**Luxe lounging**  
Replica Eames "Premium" leather **lounge chair & ottoman** in Black, \$799, Milan Direct.



the bathroom basin is a concrete cube. Cool