

What a delightful surprise

to discover in the historic heart of Cesena, a city between the better-known Ravenna and Rimini on Italy's Adriatic Sea coast, a duplex apartment that's thoroughly contemporary. Minimal, light, airy, and ingenious are all pertinent adjectives. But it wasn't always that way. Tissellistudioarchitetti's



Filippo Tisselli initially confronted spaces that were dark, cluttered, and claustrophobic, dare we say a 2,000-squarefoot mess?

Removing nonstructural walls on both levels, adding new doorways to the downstairs terrace, and inserting a skylight in the upstairs master suite all addressed the darkness problem. Doing away with corridors brought fluidity to the downstairs floor plan, now configured as a living room, an eat-in kitchen, and a guest bathroom. Throughout, the envelope's palette is limited: herringbone teak flooring with white walls enlivened by strategically placed swaths of sunny yellow and panels of gold-tinted mirror, shimmery touches of elegance.

There's not a conventional door or armoire in sight.
Credit for that goes to the project's most innovative element, a system of panels made of white-lacquered cedar cylinders of varying diameters. Tisselli calls it a "living wall," not in the sense of a vertical garden but

because the cylinders' size and shape remind him of bamboo. In the kitchen, which at first glance appears almost



empty, the panels slide or swing open to reveal shelves, appliances, and a work surface to supplement the island. In the bedroom, panels front the closets in addition to serving as a quasi-concealed door for the master bathroom.



with the adjacent shower's turquoise glass front.

Another intriguing detail: The kitchen's door, not part of the cylinder-panel system,



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Opposite, from top: Kitchen sink

fittings are powder-coated stainless

steel. The same panel solution fronts

the bedroom closets. Parquet panels

form a custom folding door between

the living room and guest bathroom.

From top: The guest bathroom's sink

is painted aluminum. In the kitchen,

above Carlo Cumini's table.

Verner Panton's pendant fixtures hang

is plain white, punctuated by two inset teak strips. The vertical strip intersects with the horizontal strip to form a cross. In Italy, food is sacred.

—Edie Cohen

FROM FRONT SMEG: SINK FITTINGS (KITCHEN). SPINELLI MARMI: CUSTOM SINK. TUBES RADIATORI: RADIATOR (LIVING ROOM). VETROERRE: SHOWER GLASS (GUEST BATHROOM). MOAB 80: SINK. ZUCCHETTI RUBINETTERIA: SINK FITTINGS (BATHROOMS), BIDET FIT-TINGS (MASTER BATHROOM). SMALVIC: COOKTOP (KITCHEN). HORM GROUP: TABLE. NORMANN COPENHAGEN: ARMCHAIR. HAY; MMILO: SIDE CHAIRS. **TRADITION: PENDANT FIXTURES.** FLOS: CEILING FIXTURES (KITCHEN), SCONCE (MASTER BATHROOM). CERAMICA FLAMINIA: SINK, TOILET, BIDET (MASTER BATHROOM). FERM LIVING: TOWEL HOLDER. VELUX: SKYLIGHT. MUUTO: COAT HOOKS (ENTRY). OTY: SCONCE. LAAI: CUSTOM BALUSTRADE. THROUGHOUT SAMA GROUP: CUSTOM WINDOWS, DOORS. FORMANI: WINDOW, DOOR HANDLES. VETRERIA RICCIONESE: MIRRORS. TAVAR: PARQUET. COBER: STRUCTURAL ENGINEER. STUDIO TECNICO ASSOCIATO ING. GIOVANNI **BENEDETTI E ING. ELENA SANTINI:** MEP. IMPRESA EDILE R.F.T. DI PROETTO CARLO & C.: GENERAL CONTRACTOR.



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Clockwise from top: In the master bathroom, glazed ceramic in the same color unifies a sink by Giulio Cappellini and Roberto Palomba with a toilet and bidet from a different callection. Lacquered cedar cylinders protrude 2 inches to serve as door pulls for a bedroom closet. Coat hooks by Lars Tornøe await visitors in the entry. The skylight in the master bathroom is new.