

Taste & Flair

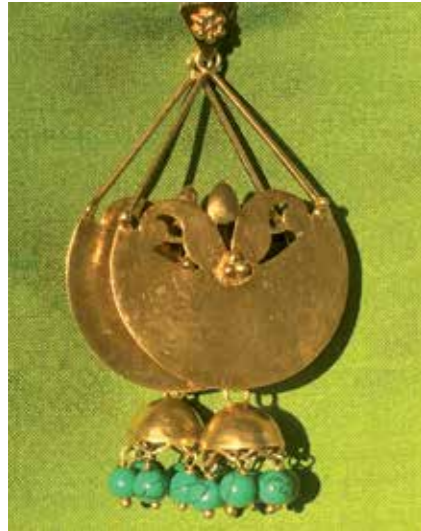
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Feed your imagination

FOOD · WINE · GLORIOUS COLOUR · INTERIORS · ARCHITECTURE

Welcome



One of the upsides of people having to spend more time indoors is that there's more interest in food. Inevitably, there are more frequent visits to the refrigerator in search of something to alleviate boredom disguised as appetite, as food is both comforting and entertaining. But there seems to be a growing interest in the economics and culture of food generally – where it comes from, how it's produced, where to source quality ingredients, how to combine different flavours or pair wine with food. Experiments in the kitchen are producing varying results, but all are worthwhile. There's something to be

learned from each one and, bar the worst, in the end they're all edible. To sate the demand for all-day flavour and novelty, we've covered breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacktime with a collection of easy-to-make recipes. And because time spent indoors also means making our personal environment more pleasant, we bring you colourful interiors to inspire ideas you can use in your own home.

We'll be back soon with another colourful issue of Taste&Flair.

Corinne



Lemon and Sugar Crepes by Claire Borg. Photo by Claire Borg. See feature starting on page 10.

Taste&Flair

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COLOUR & LIGHT

When designing your home, the earlier you consult an architect and the more time you invest in the initial stages in defining what is important to you, the more likely you are to achieve what you want.

Interior architecture and design: Forward Architects
Photography: David Pisani



The internal staircase connecting the two levels was designed as a sculptural volume.

“It’s a question of values, of what’s really important to you,” says Michael Pace, a partner at Forward Architects. “What do you like? What is the feeling you want to evoke? If something is particularly important to you – an artwork, say, or a piece of inherited furniture that has sentimental value – it’s best for your architect to know that from the start so that it can be given the importance it deserves.”

That is the design philosophy behind the gallery-like interior designed for owners who wanted the narrative of the interior to be led by the eclectic art pieces they placed in it. Forward architects were engaged to shape the interior architecture and design, right down to advising on soft furnishings. The residence belongs to owners who have homes in other parts of the world. They wanted to evoke the mood of a very bright, Mediterranean place—not a nostalgic look, but a bright and airy practical space.



▲ A curved wall wraps around the midway landing, accentuated by glowing light from the recessed overhead fitting.

◀ The design narrative was led by the eclectic artwork and furniture the owners wanted to include.



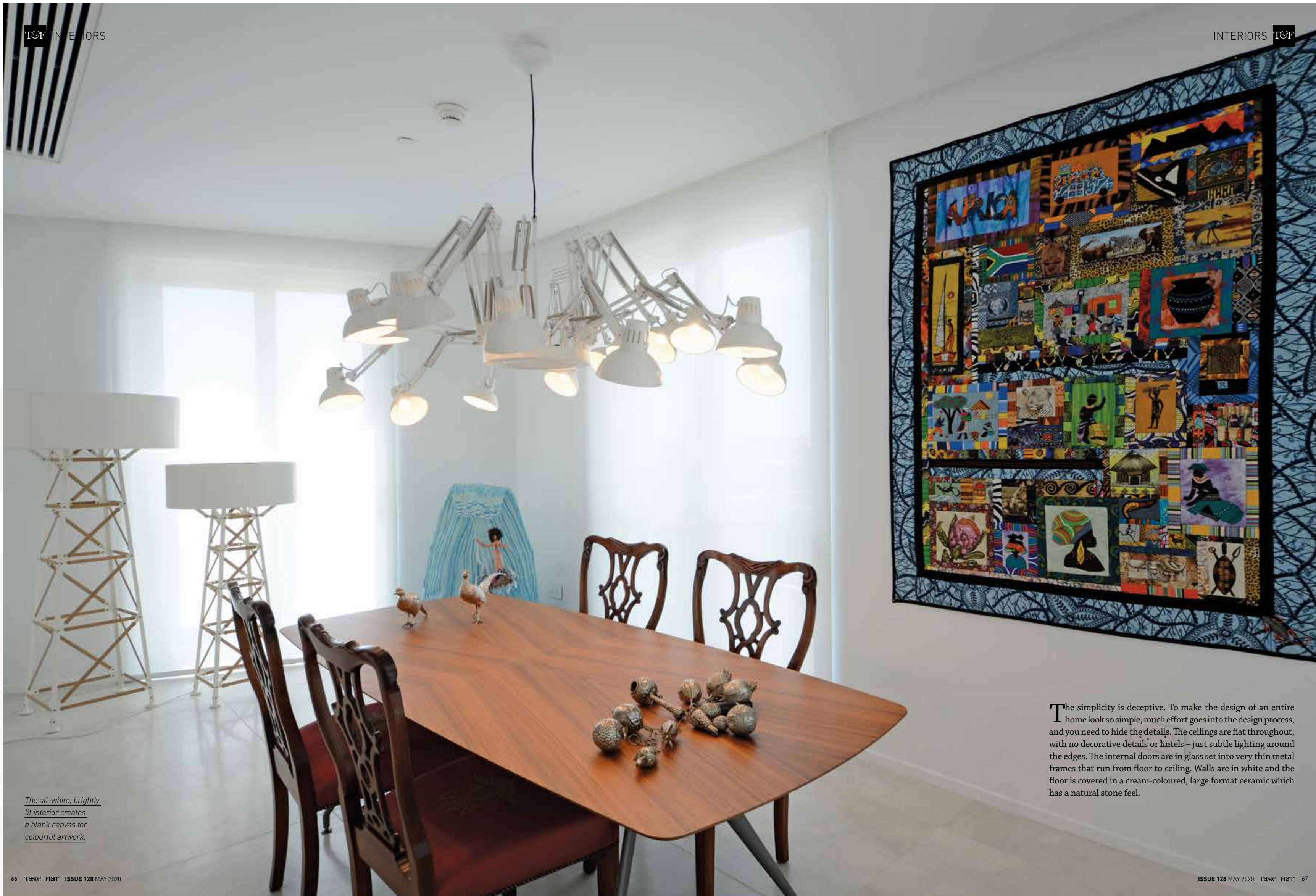
In the 280-290 square metres of space spread over two levels, the architects laid out bedrooms with their own integrated bathrooms, a master bedroom with its own study, an open-plan living area that flows into a dining area and kitchen, and onto a large terrace on the upper level. The internal staircase connecting the two levels was developed as a sculptural volume, rather than as just a functional element. It is defined on its inner side by a partition wall with a gap between the top of the wall and the upper ceiling, allowing light to flow through. On the outer side, the wall curves gently around a midway landing which glows in the light from the halo-shaped fitting set into the ceiling. On the upper level, a waist-high glass wall is set into the floor overlooking the staircase, forming a nook planned to house a sculpture.

In the kitchen, stone-like flooring and a marble worktop add visual texture while in keeping with the overall neutral palette. The cabinetry is bespoke.



The bespoke shelves behind the desk and the sofa are in a mineral-based material supplied by Satariano, which is warm to the touch and has a natural, stone-like feel. Natural light floods the 2-level interior through large windows with 180-degree sea views. Most of the artificial lighting is indirect, bouncing off surfaces from concealed fittings. The exceptions are the dedicated lighting for art pieces and the pendant lamp over the dining table, a large, industrial-style fixture. This, too, is in white, eye-catching because of its sculptural shape but visually blending into its setting.





The all-white, brightly lit interior creates a blank canvas for colourful artwork.

The simplicity is deceptive. To make the design of an entire home look so simple, much effort goes into the design process, and you need to hide the details. The ceilings are flat throughout, with no decorative details or lintels – just subtle lighting around the edges. The internal doors are in glass set into very thin metal frames that run from floor to ceiling. Walls are in white and the floor is covered in a cream-coloured, large format ceramic which has a natural stone feel.



Every home we design is different to the previous one.

◀ *The floor-to-ceiling glass-bodied doors were supplied by Form.*



The overall look of the interior is clean and streamlined: with the exception of the bathrooms where the dry areas are covered in vibrant wallpaper, it is a brightly-lit, neutral space that creates a blank canvas for the owners' colourful art and furniture. Some furniture, like the antique pieces, was already in hand. Other pieces were selected by the clients with their architects' advice, to fit a particular space. All the pieces were drawn into the project plans at the outset and then simply moved into position.

There's no rigid style rule. Like the owners' art collection, the interior is the result of a spontaneous and eclectic collection of elements which looks good together. "That's the great thing about designing personal spaces for people," says Michael Pace. "They are personal, functional places which reflect their owners' personality and lifestyle. That's why every home we design is different to the previous one." ■

