

ELLE DECORATION

THE
STYLE
MAGAZINE
FOR YOUR
HOME

JANUARY 2017

£4.40

THE WINTER LIVING ISSUE

HOW TO ENJOY YOUR
HOME THIS SEASON



34 HOME COMFORTS TO KEEP YOU COSY

WINTER WARMERS HOTLIST

Sheepskin rugs to snug retreats

EASY ENTERTAINING IDEAS

7 beautiful looks for your table

The new woodwork – modern ways to do panelling and skirting



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Home
Decor

Concrete surfaces feel even more indulgent when paired with cork, brass and smoked glass. Be inspired by this modern take on winter glamour

SHADOW PLAY

Words KARINE MONIÉ Photography MICHAEL DE PASQUALE AND MARTINA MAFFINI Styling CORA VOHWINKEL



Previous spread Next to the Cassina sofa stands a 'Toio' floor lamp by Achille Castiglioni for Flos. On the right, there's a vintage chair and black floor lamp from a flea market in Mantua. Behind, you can see the dining table, surrounded by 'Medea' chairs by Vittorio Nobili (try 1st Dibs for originals). A ceiling lamp by Italian designer Nicola Pianori hangs above

Opposite The kitchen island is one piece of concrete, poured on site. Try Miele for stainless-steel appliances. The black table lamp is a 1970s design (try Ruby in the Dust)


Details, above Homeowner Alberto sits on a vintage barstool, purchased at a local flea market. The leather chair was bought in New York. The artwork is from Piedmont

Stockist details on p135

Alberto Guerzoni, a fashion manager and buyer, bought this loft apartment in the Italian city of Mantua in 2007. 'What is magical about it is the pleasure I derive from returning home,' he says. 'I travel so often for work that this place is my point of reference.' The 140-square-metre open-plan space, renovated over two years by architect Monica Vincenzi, has a fluid layout, divided by two monolithic cork-clad columns that support a mezzanine floor above. Downstairs, the columns create distinct and surprisingly intimate living and dining zones, while the cork not only insulates the rooms, but is beautifully decorative, providing a counterpoint to the cooler tones of the cement walls. Even the cement has character and texture. 'It is brushed with a special pigmented resin to create a swirled effect,' says Monica. In the living space, the glossy concrete floor counters the matt-look walls, while gleaming stainless-steel appliances add polish to the cast surfaces of the kitchen. Alberto's vintage furnishings, many of which have accents of brass, add another luxurious touch.

The apartment's mezzanine level is Alberto's sanctuary. Here, the plaster walls are slightly darker in tone, as is the oak flooring. All 40 square metres are given over to his bedroom and bathroom, which are divided by smoked glass panels. The storage is all bespoke, tailored to Alberto's needs. In the pared-back bedroom, it is built-in and barely-there, but in the adjoining bathroom it makes a design statement: a vintage haberdashery cabinet is framed by concrete.

It is these meticulously considered details that bring warmth and luxury to the home's rigorous architectural lines. Consequently, Alberto describes loft living as cosy and comfortable. 'My perfect evenings are when I'm settled on the sofa, wrapped in my winter cashmere blanket, with a good book and a gin and tonic,' he says. monicavincenziarchitetto.com ►



**'THE CEMENT WALLS
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Hallway Downstairs, the cement wall conceals a second bathroom and closet. The bench is a vintage find – try Retrouvius. At the top of the stairs stands a 1950s floor lamp bought in an antiques shop in Copenhagen
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ARCHITECT'S GUIDE **INDUSTRIAL WARMTH**

Monica Vincenzi discusses the tricks that soften this home's aesthetic

TEXTURED CONCRETE I used La Calce Del Brenta (lacialcedelbrenta.it), a brand of plaster with a particularly attractive grainy texture, on the walls. It is made from stone sourced from the River Brenta in Italy. You work it on to the walls with a spatula, in the same way that you would apply Venetian plaster. I used the same grey finish on the doorways on the ground floor to create a continuous surface – it makes the doors seem almost invisible.

CORK CLADDING I wanted to experiment with new materials, but keep an authentic industrial palette. For example, the cork panels I've used to decorate the large columns in the open-plan space are typically used as insulation for roofs and external walls. They look wonderful when applied decoratively to an interior [try Thermacork for cork cladding in the UK; thermacork.com].

DIFFUSED LIGHTING Alberto wanted to have soft lighting that would break up the strong lines of the apartment. That's why we incorporated recessed lights in the kitchen, and on the side of the staircase – they spread light across the adjacent walls and create a warm, ethereal glow.



Bedroom The bed is dressed with leather cushions, and bedlinen from Ralph Lauren Home. The homeowner discovered the 1950s Scandinavian wooden chair at a flea market in Mantua **Stockist details on p135 ►**



**SOFT LIGHTING
BRINGS WARMTH TO
THE HOME'S RIGOROUS
INDUSTRIAL LINES**

Bathroom Separated from the bedroom by smoked glass, this shower space has the same dark oak flooring as the rest of the room – it has been treated to make it waterproof **ED**