

# A WIDE OPEN VIEW OVER THE MOUNTAINS

UMBERTO ZANETTI

Words by Laura Ragazzola  
Photography by Santi Caleca

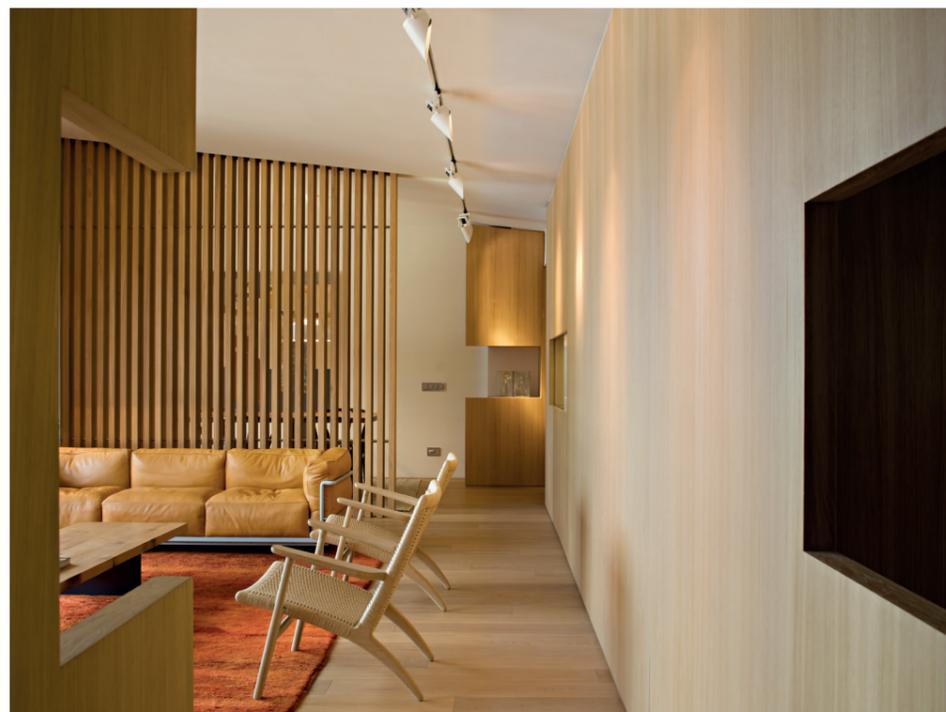
IN THE SWISS ALPS

A CAREFUL RENOVATION PROJECT CREATES

FASCINATING INTERIORS AND

ENHANCES THE VIEW OVER THE BERNINA GLACIERS

**HERE** The living room, with large windows facing south.  
A red fireplace is framed by the bookcase, both designed by ZDA. Sofa produced  
by Cassina and chairs produced by Carl Hansen & Son and Vitra.



**ABOVE AND LEFT:** in the kitchen tailor-made furnishings are made in oak; the view of the living room towards the entrance; the wooden wardrobe at the entrance.

**RIGHT:** The living-room area. The lamp is produced by Louis Poulsen; chair by Carl Hansen & Søn

The apartment is on the fourth and upper level of an elegant condominium in Saint Moritz, one of the most exclusive resorts in Europe, in the heart of the Swiss Alps. It originates from the union of two adjoining flats, which the new owners – a couple who enjoys a rich social life - wanted to merge into a large single-family house, in order to have great independence and flexibility. The task was assigned to Umberto Zanetti, whose Milan-based architecture and design studio can boast a wide international experience. "The winning move in this project has been to leverage on an apparently critical aspect of the original structure", says the architect. "By keeping the long corridor of the first apartment as the axis of our new layout, we managed to transform a problem into a strength." In fact, this choice enabled to free the south area of the apartment and take advantage of the large windows facing the mountains. There, the new project placed

the most frequented spaces of the house: the dining and living room, the master bedroom and a guest area. The central zone between the corridor and the south area hosts the kitchen and the bathrooms and is 'permeable' at different points thanks to connecting passages and views. "So that you can enjoy the mountains from anywhere in the house", says Zanetti.

The two bedrooms (one for the owners and one for the guests) are located at the end of the flat, which is the quieter and more private portion of the house. Furnishings and colours are well integrated in the new layout. All wooden furnishings are tailor-made and zero kilometer, as they have been locally sourced from highly skilled swiss artisans. Some of them, like the wardrobe cabinet, are embedded into the wall. As for colours, the choice was to link black with a very classical red tone. "It's RAL 3020 red- the one of the Swiss flag" says Zanetti.



HERE. A detail of the the bookcase by ZDA, that includes also a space for firewood.



HERE. Detail of the master bedroom.



**HERE:** The office area looks at the mountains thanks to one of the openings sculpted in the wooden partition wall. Chair CH24 produced by Carl Hansen & Son.



# UZ

Umberto Zanetti

He obtained a degree in civil engineering at the Politecnico in Milan, Italy. He lives and works in Milan where in 1982 he opened his own studio - ZDA Zanetti Design Architettura - specializing in architectural design, interior design and industrial and graphic design. He has designed and carried out various projects in Italy and abroad (the U.S.A, France, Belgium, Switzerland e Russia) pertaining to residential buildings, retail outlets and offices. The projects in St. Petersburg and Moscow (Russia) have been selected for the IN / Arch Award "Best Italian project abroad" 2014 and as a finalist for the 2015 Italian Architecture Gold Medal. In the Milanese hinterland of Cascina Merlata, the "Up Town" residential district project won the Confindustria Ceramica international award "ceramics and the project-2019". In addition to the design activity, he also is exhibition curator and essayist.

## THE EDITOR'S CHOICE



**LIGHT IN THE NIGHT**  
Designed by Kristof Pycke  
Produced by Kreon  
(Diapason model).



**SWISS RED**  
Designed by ZDA Zanetti Design  
Bathroom accessories in steel.



**MADE IN ITALY**  
Designed by Achille Castiglioni  
Produced by Flos  
(Noce lamp model).



**FROM SCANDINAVIA**  
Designed by Hans J. Wegner  
Produced by Carl Hansen & Son  
(Y-CH 25 Chair model).