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Beauty and surprise

An aesthetic and functional transformation project, conceived by Mecozzi Verdini Architetti for **Palazzo Girona**, introduces monochromatic volumes into this ancient urban residence, now dedicated to B-Luxe hospitality in Ravenna

The entrance portal of Palazzo Guaccimanni Giorgi, featuring a full-arch terracotta relief frame and a small balcony with Istrian stone corbels, located on the main Via Diaz in Ravenna's historic center, serves as a threshold. It immediately sets the tone, hinting at the beauty and centuries of lived history one expects from Italian noble palaces. A significant restoration in the early 2000s unveiled 15th-century frescoes and meticulously preserved Venetian terrazzo floors, 19th-century ceiling and wall decorations, alongside the classic layout featuring a through-and-through entrance hall flanked by two pairs of spacious rooms. Within the 'piano nobile' apartment, thresholds and light proliferate across the expansive main hall, which provides access to both the common and private areas of this residence. It now offers "B-Luxe" hospitality, a term coined by Emanuela Docimo, the apartment's owner. She envisioned transforming the palace's and her family's history into a new chapter of life, entrepreneurship, and hospitality – a vision brought to life through an interior design project realized with the Mecozzi Verdini studio. Five distinct spaces have been reinterpreted through what is ostensibly a "furnishing project," yet it functions more as an "architectural re-reading." This aesthetic, spatial, and functional transformation is achieved by introducing new, custom-made monochromatic volumes. These freestanding

and entirely removable structures are tailored specifically for each room. "This is a distinctly contemporary intervention that deliberately avoids conflict with the existing structure, preserving the integrity of the historic building and its decorative elements," explains Giovanni Mecozzi. "It also subtly references the city and the vibrant hues of its Byzantine mosaics – the gold of San Vitale, the green of Sant'Apollinare in Classe, the celestial blue of Galla Placidia. To avoid trivializing such a powerful visual heritage, we opted for pure abstraction in the new additions, employing highly conceptual colors, with each room featuring a single, distinct shade." Threshold after threshold, surprise after surprise, guests are led into unique and distinct microcosms. The golden hue of the introspection room is both enveloping and calming. Leveraging the room's generous proportions, the intricate golden structure creates new pathways and distinct zones: a meditation space, a wardrobe, a bathroom, and a sauna. Green defines the cinema room, the only one equipped with a TV, while blue marks the reading room. In both, a monochromatic dividing partition cleverly separates the space, creating a 'recto' (the bedroom) and a 'verso' (an area dedicated to self-care, complete with a bathroom, wardrobes, and fitness equipment). Crucially, in these three rooms, the new volumes never meet the ceiling, allowing the exquisite





original decorations to remain fully visible. A refined and deep red characterizes the spacious kitchen, a communal and convivial hub. A brighter, more vibrant red is found in the furnishings that punctuate the main hall, selected in collaboration with Atelier Biagetti. The final threshold, arched and tripartite, draws guests into the veranda overlooking the internal courtyard. This ancient, four-part loggia, a true time capsule adorned with late 15th-century frescoes and contemporary furnishings, now serves as a dining room and a serene, light-filled sanctuary.

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Owner: Emanuela Docimo

Interior design: Mecozzi Verdini Architetti

Main contractor: Edilcostruzioni

Bespoke furnishings: Idea Legno

Selected furnishings, artworks, design pieces:

Atelier Biagetti - Alberto Biagetti and Laura Baldassarri

Lighting: Viabizzuno

Curtains and fabrics: Selezione Arredamenti

Bathrooms: Salaroli

Surfaces and floors: Kerakoll

Carpeting: Centro Moquette

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