

SINGAPORE

# Flatler Homes

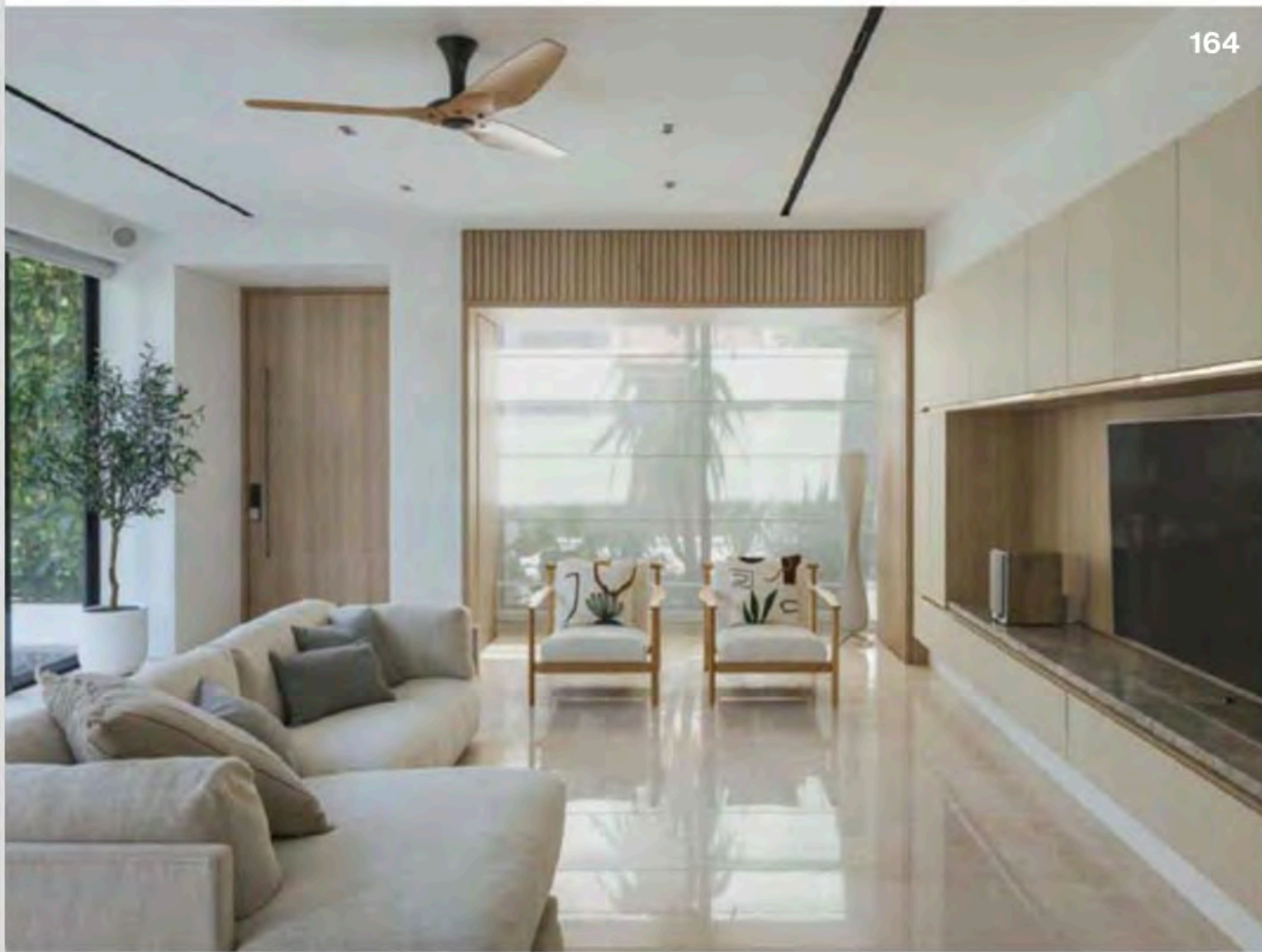
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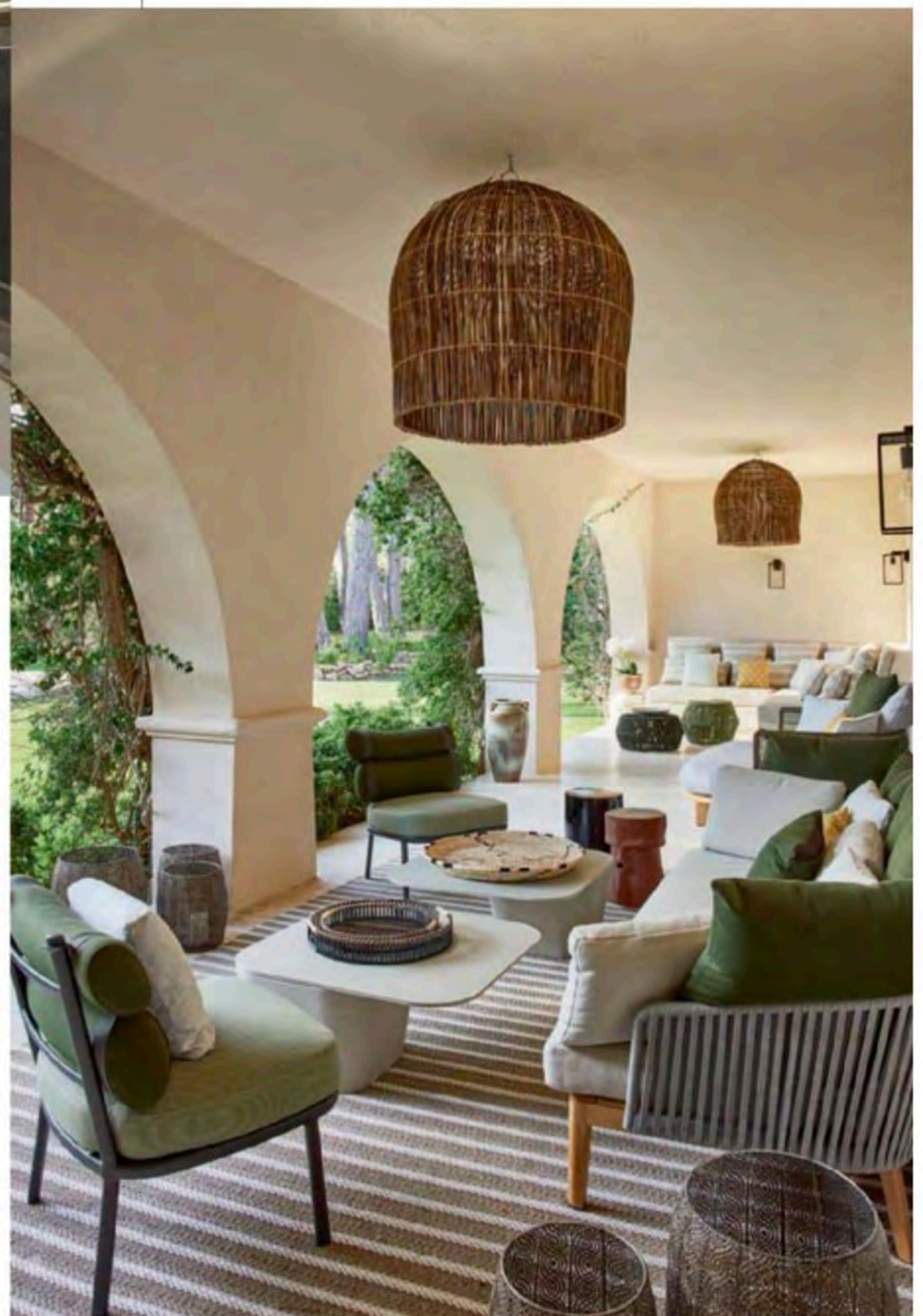
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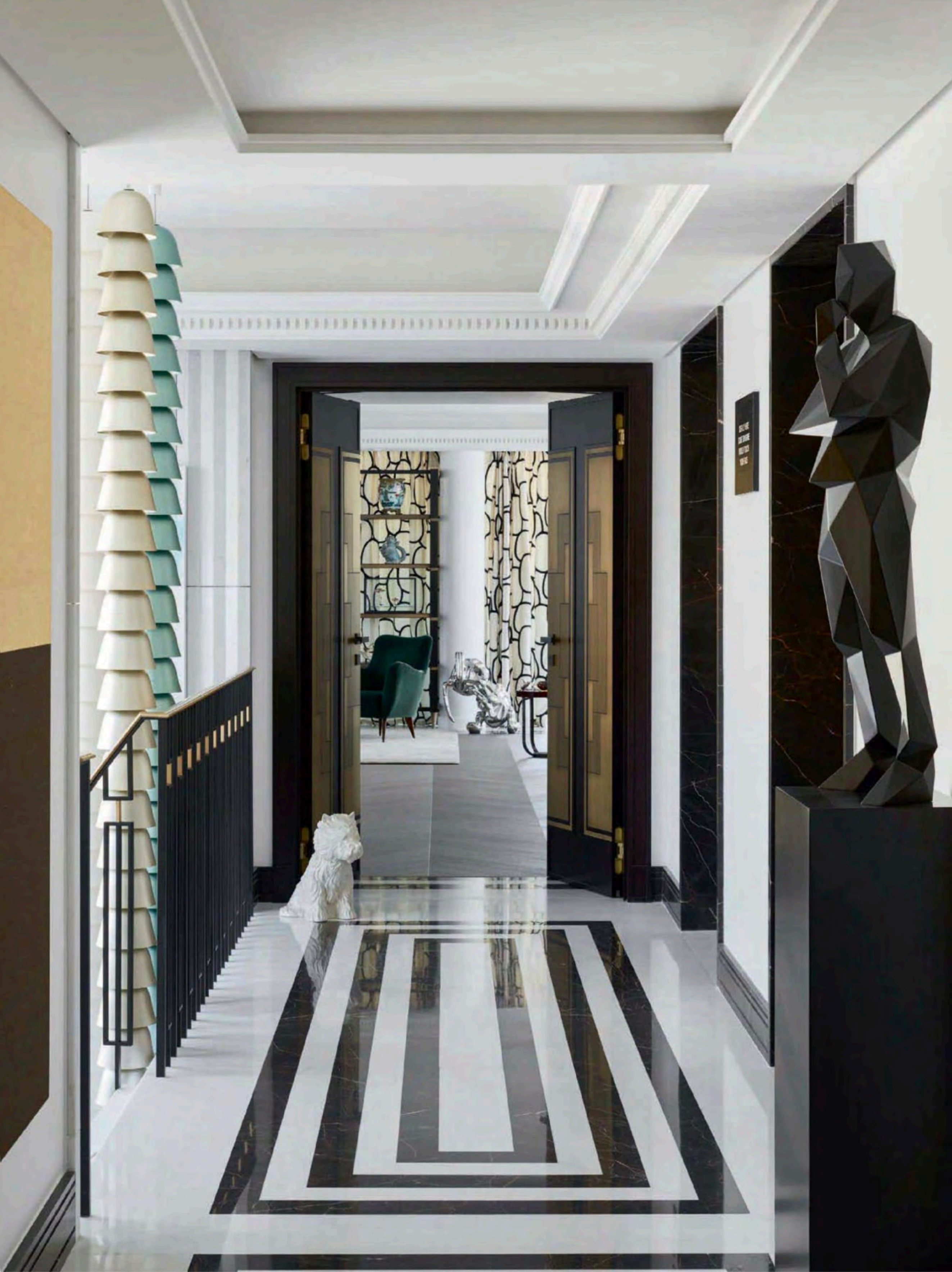
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Parenthesis crafts a modern minimalist interior that's imbued with warmth through its beautifully layered look



**This picture:** A studied mix of gilded elements, geometric motifs and other glamorous touches conveys this Monaco apartment's art deco influences

**Left:** A vintage bookcase by Vittorio Dassi divides the dining zone from the living area in a spacious loft apartment in Italy

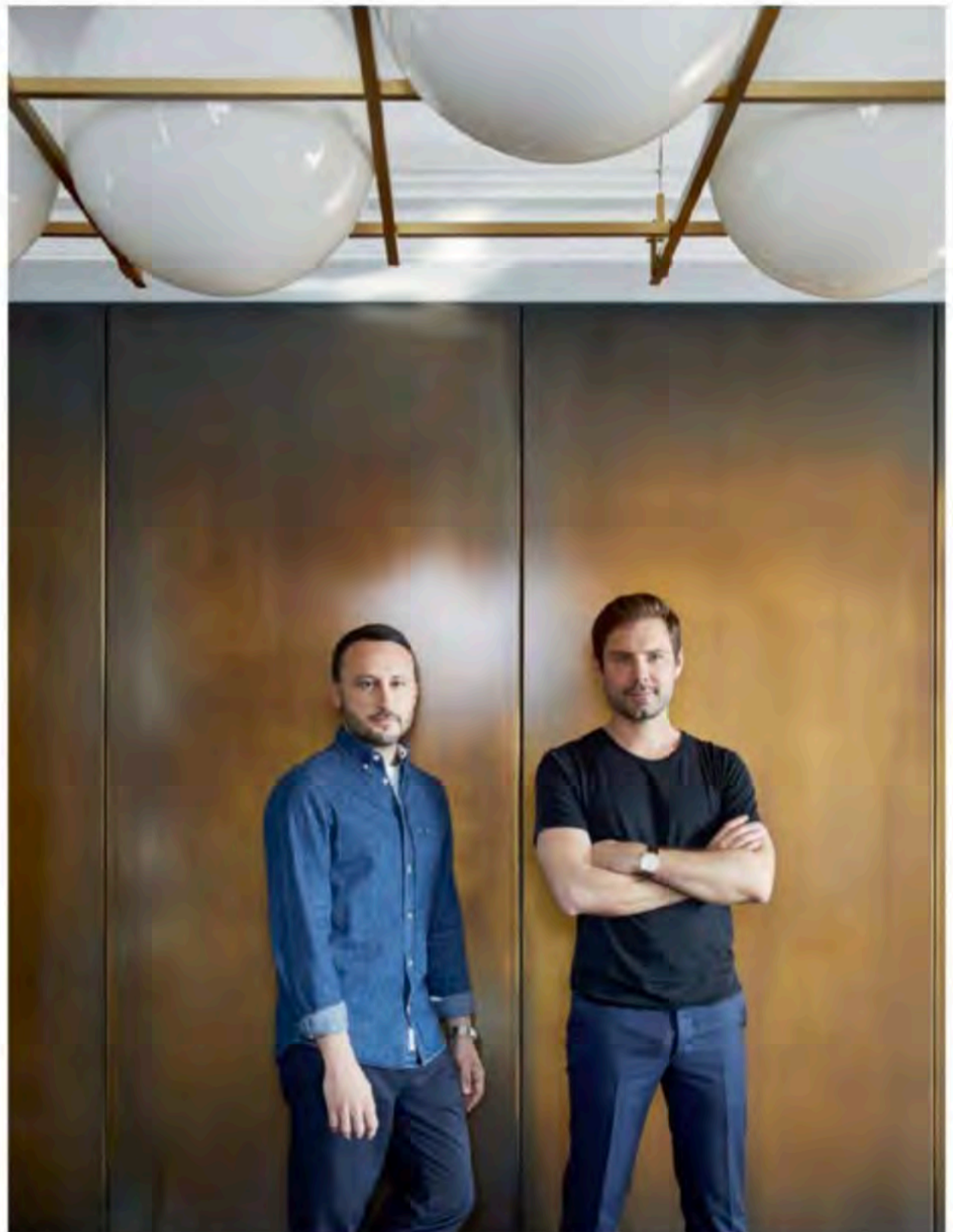


# Artistic Reverie

Taking inspiration from the glamorous Jazz Age and the owners' passion for art and design, this beautiful apartment in Monaco proves to be the perfect canvas to display a family's enviable collection

*By Karen Tee. Photography*

*by Francis Amiand*





**Clockwise from top left:** A portrait painting by Martial Raysse looks out at visitors, next to a wall-hung sculpture by Izumi Kato in the living area; fluted walls flank a painting by British artist Aks Misyuta in the living area

**Previous spread:** The *Puppy* vase by Jeff Koons greets guests at the striking entrance of the home; Christophe Poyet and Emil Humbert, founders of Humbert & Poyet



With extensive coastal views overlooking the beautiful Mediterranean Sea, this four-bedroom duplex apartment in Monaco is already breathtaking in its own right. To turn this 14th-storey unit into a glamorous abode to call their own, the homeowners—a well-travelled family with two teenagers—enlisted Emil Humbert and Christophe Poyet of Paris and Monaco-based practice Humbert & Poyet to impart their imaginatively elegant style to the home.

The main task for the designers was to create beautiful interiors that draw the eye towards the owners' impressive art collection, which includes work from renowned blue-chip artists such as Jeff Koons, alongside pieces by contemporary talents including Xavier Veilhan, Aks Misyuta and Carsten Höller.

“The overall concept was to create a contemporary and playful space, drawing inspiration from the art deco era through the materials, textures and linear forms,” says Humbert, commenting on the strong influences from the art movement that reigned

“The overall concept was to create a contemporary and playful space, drawing inspiration from the art deco era”









during the 1920s. The art deco inspiration can be seen most strongly in contrasting bands of black-and-white Saint Laurent and Calacatta marble flooring, and the various geometric motifs seen on joinery and furnishings throughout, all of which contribute to the home's visual flow.

To balance the playful elements of the family's art collection, the designers chose a neutral colour palette in soothing shades of grey and off-white hues to create a sophisticated mood. These understated tones also serve to highlight the natural light that floods into the apartment from the floor-to-ceiling windows.

Next, it was time to work on bringing the artworks to life through the decor, which Humbert likens to "a game". "The collectors chose the pieces according to the design of the space and the process felt quite playful because it wasn't all defined in advance. It was like a journey of [finding a common] sensibility between the interior design and the art; a real dialogue to allow us to enhance both," adds Poyet.

**This page:** Botanical-themed De Gournay wallpaper applied to the ceiling and walls creates a dreamy atmosphere in this powder room

**Opposite page, clockwise from top left:** Works by American artist Theaster Gates and South African painter Cinga Samson add visual interest to a corner that also features vintage pieces such as the Fauteuil Visiteur armchair by Jean Prouvé and a Brazilian cabinet by Martin Eisler and Carlo Hauner; the stylish bar is furnished with bespoke bar counter seats upholstered in a Pierre Frey fabric; verdant accents in the living room include a pair of Guglielmo Veronesi chairs and a vintage armchair by Gio Ponti



**This page:** Sculptures by Stephan Balkenhol and Jean-Michel Othoniel enliven a corridor that also features paintings by Giulia Andreani and Rob Pruitt

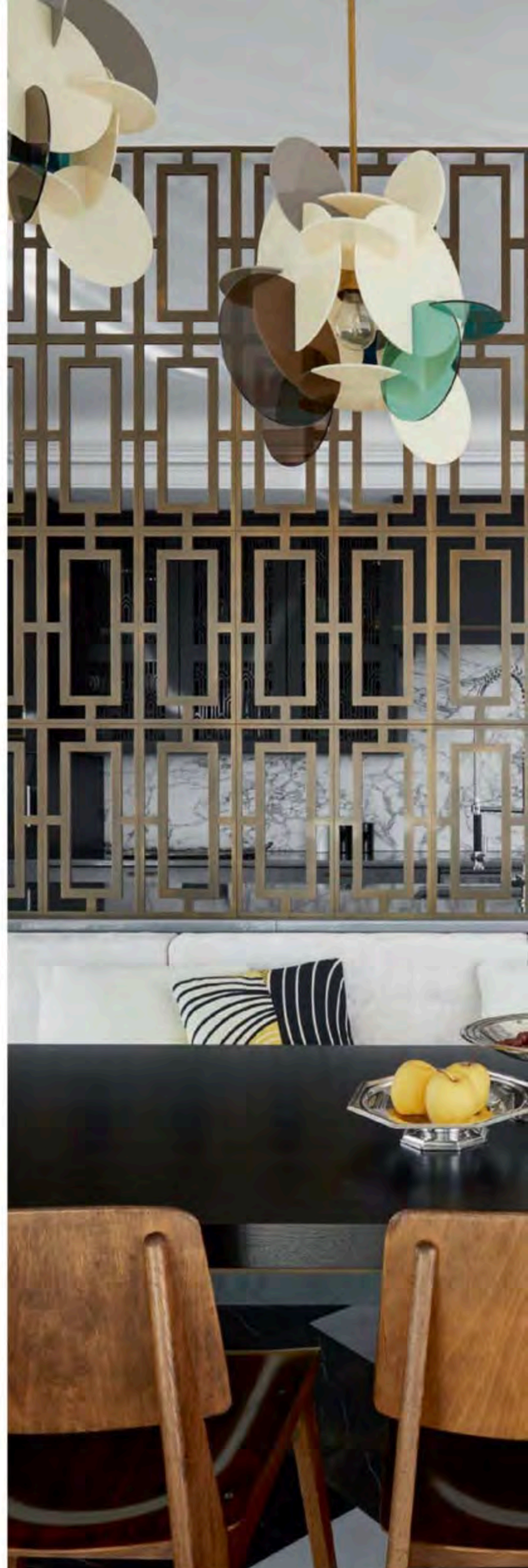
**Opposite page, clockwise from left:** The metal grid screen stands in contrast to the interlocking plexiglass discs of the Diciotto pendant lamps by Vibeke Fonnesberg Schmidt; the dining room features the Shapes Grid/Circle chandelier by Federico Peri, a custom table with a resin surface finished in gold leaf and legs in brushed brass, and vintage chairs by Gio Ponti; an artwork by Neil Beloufa is displayed in the kitchen, which features flooring in a mix of three types of marble—Port Laurent, Calacatta and Grigio Bardiglio

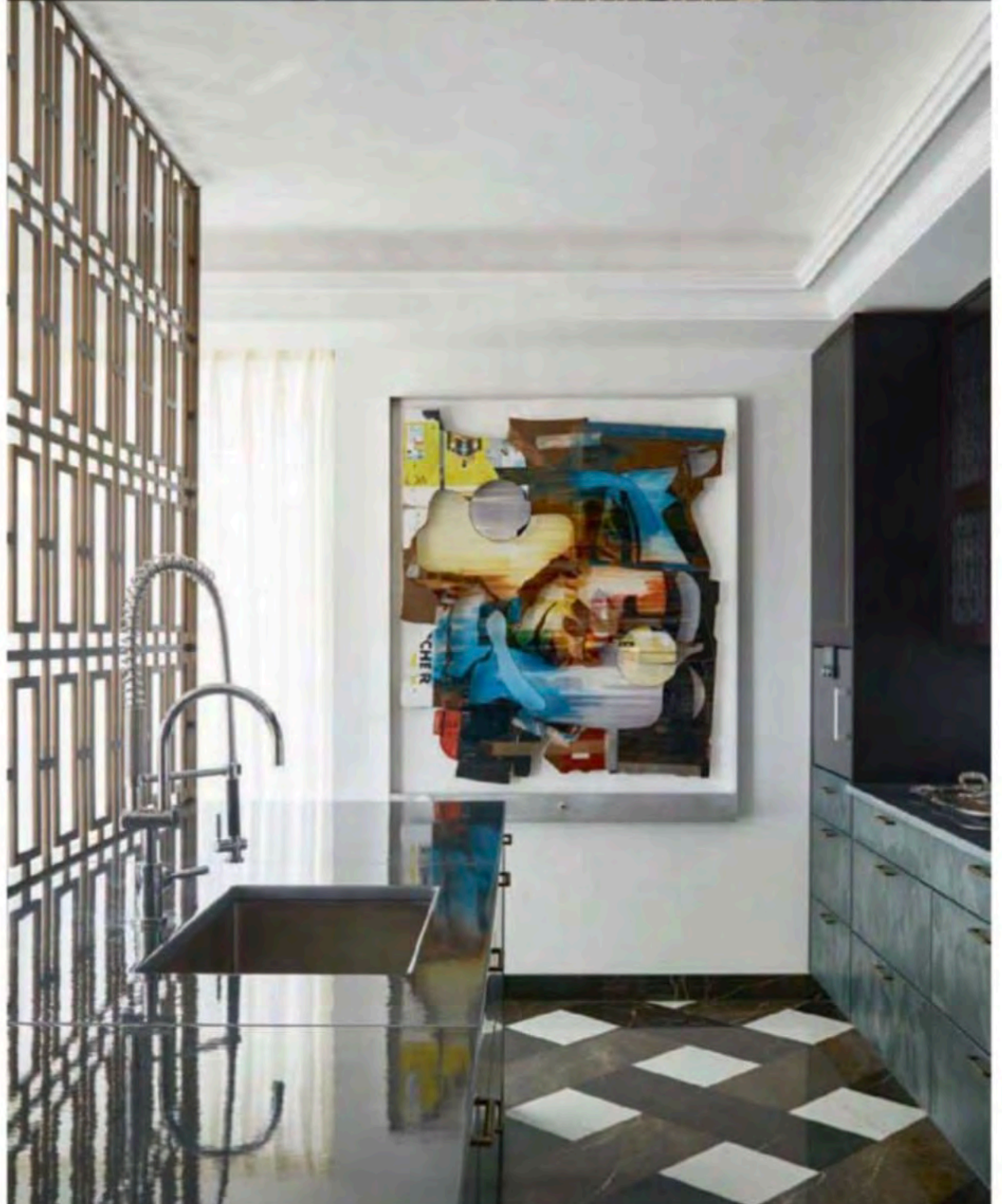
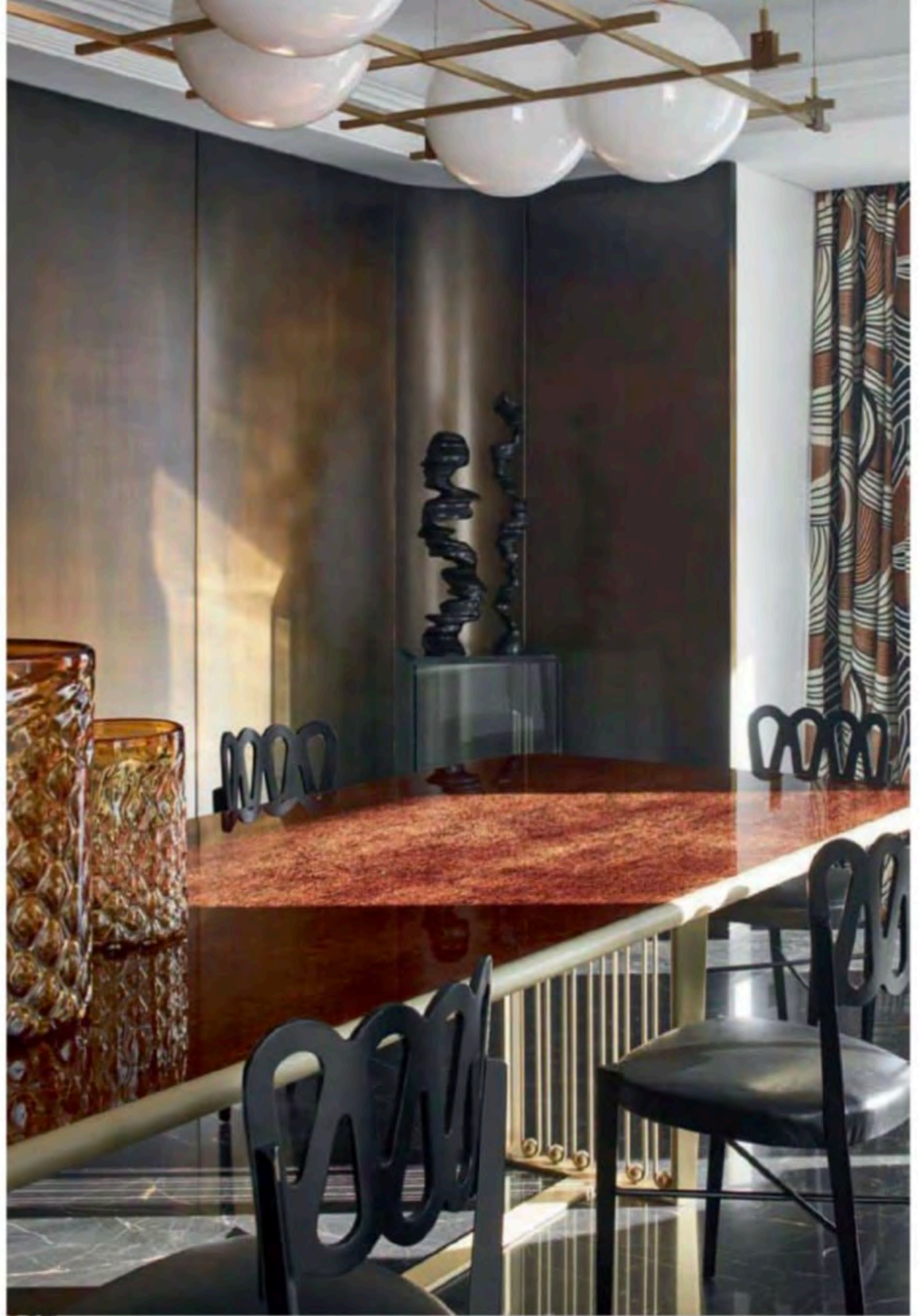
To ensure that the art would make an impact, they carefully deliberated factors such as where certain works would receive the ideal amount of natural light and looked into how the sculptural pieces would reference the interior architecture. One witty juxtaposition can be seen at the staircase landing where Carsten Höller's octopus-shaped sculpture appears to be looking up at the lights above it.

While just about every corner of the apartment is infused with art, this is most evident in the living room, where the art and the furnishings have been masterfully positioned to enhance each other. A painting by British artist Aks Misyuta is flanked by fluted plaster walls. The warm tones in the painting are echoed throughout the space with furnishings such as the custom-made sofas designed by Humbert & Poyet, a 1960 vintage Petalas wooden table by Brazilian architect Jorge Zalszupin and an orange rug from Fashion For Floors. On the other side of the living room, the verdant tones in the *Dragonfly* painting by American artist Hernan Bas complement the hue of the green armchairs.

Humbert & Poyet also designed custom furnishings to display smaller pieces of art. "In the living room, we created a freestanding L-shaped shelving unit to display the owner's eclectic collection of smaller sculptural pieces. We played with backless shelves facing the windows to allow for a dialogue between the interior and exterior as well as to enjoy the view of the city," says Poyet.

In contrast to the light-filled living room, the dining area's dark and moody palette







**This page:** An octopus sculpture by Carsten Höller peers up at the Chaînes Ceramic lighting pieces by Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec

**Opposite page, clockwise from top right:** A headboard upholstered in the Tiger Mountain fabric from Dedar brings a playful touch to the master bedroom; blue ceramic tiles imbue this bathroom with a calming vibe; the bronze wall panels and wall lamps by Humbert & Poyet add a gilded edge to this bathroom

creates an intimate atmosphere. A bronze screen catches the eye, while allowing for a play of light throughout the day, adding to the ambience of the space.

Even with an abundance of treasures to discover in the home, another thing that stands out is that all the bathrooms are designed to be different from one another. “We hate monotony. The apartment is for a family that loves design and each member was involved in the project and the choice of materials. So all the bathrooms are different because it also creates a surprise every time someone enters,” says Poyet.

For instance, in the master bathroom, they incorporated terrazzo tiles as a tribute to Italian architect Carlo Scarpa, who loved the material. In the children’s bathrooms, they used handmade ceramic tiles in a lighter colour scheme to obtain a “fresher and less ostentatious” feel.

It is this alchemy of contrasting materials, unusual choices and various tactile elements that has led to the visual harmony in this unique home. Says Humbert: “We are most proud of the balance between our interior design and their collection—everything works together.”

