



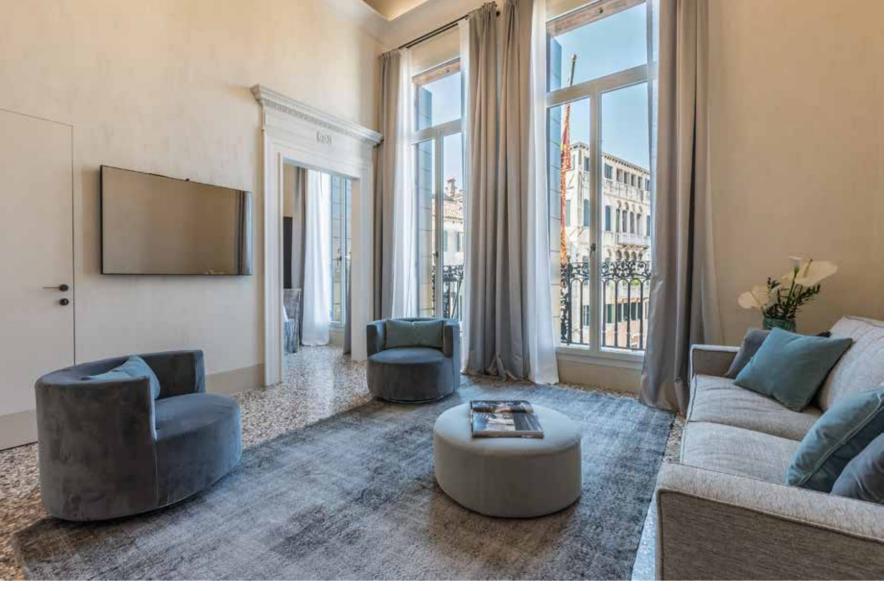
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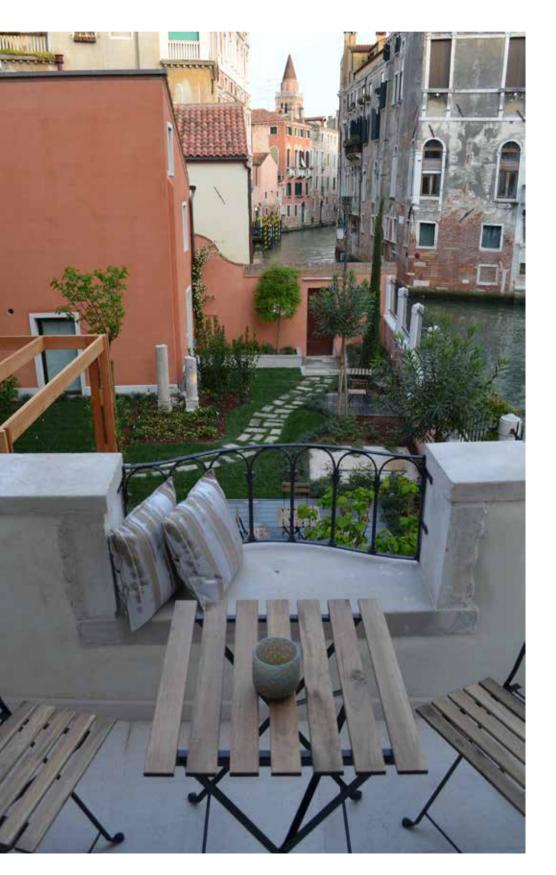












ENGLISH TEXT

titolo inglese

The Hans Verstuyft Architecten studio has signed a daring conservative restoration project in Ghent, matching a vitreous volume to a mid-1800s historic landmark.

Text written by Edda Giancola Photography and styling by Michele Biancucci & Chiara Virgili

Ghent is a port city in the North-Western area of Belgium, where the rivers Lys and Scheldt flow into one another; the city has medieval origins and today boasts a well-known cultural and academic centre.

The Flemish architecture of the Renaissance is well-known, picturesque and refined; this can be deduced from its urban centre that alternates narrow brick façades with "pretentious" Baroque buildings.

The "Maison de Maître" in Ghent dates back to the end of the 19th century and still retains today that legacy of style and elegance that has always distinguished the 19th-century architecture.

The designers' target was to carry out an intervention to restore and modernize the heritage of time, pulling history and modernity together in a balanced way.

The house has been completely "undressed" and the building behind has been partially demolished: it experienced a considerable deteriorating state so therefore it couldn't be renovated anymore. In order to balance the intervention, a new vitreous volume allowed the living area to expand, pushing out until the garden.

The dining room and the hall - typified by refined plaster casts with neoclassical origins and a finely carved marble decorative fireplace - are so much manifested that they lead greenery into the house, by means of a pleasant and refreshing trade. The former garage for carriages has been converted into a kitchen and the ancient entry has become an elegant passageway.

The insertion of glass could represent a "stylistic exception" compared to original materials but its lightness and its neutral look allow cohesiveness, in addition to the opportunity to let the original features emerge.

Abstract modernity and traditional elements share a space which is wearing its "new guise", the one designed ad hoc by the Hand Verstuyft Architecten studio; the original style has been kept unchanged and the introduction of new elements – such as wooden floorings and ceilings – has been conceived as if that material was an integral part of the historical memory of the building itself.

The restoration works preserved its ancient coat that today becomes the soul of the house, lively and outgoing.

The light is another integral part as well as the garden that contaminates the space of everyday life, ensuring peace and wellness.