

THE VINSON VIEW

Quality maniac and master shopper Nick Vinson on the who, what, when, where and why



MUST-SEES BY MILAN'S MAESTRI

By Angelo Mangiarotti

Church of Mater Misericordiae (1957), via Conciliazione 24, Baranzate; Casa a Tre Cilindri (1959), via Cavigrate 27; apartments (1960), via Quadronno 24; Milano Repubblica metro station (1990).

By Luigi Caccia Dominioni

Casa Caccia Dominioni (1947), Piazza Sant' Ambrogio 16; via Santa Maria alla Porta 11 (1960); Convento di Sant'Antonio dei Frati Francescani (1963), via Carlo Farini 10; Galleria Strasburgo (1966), via Durini.

By Piero Portaluppi

Casa degli Atellani (1921), Corso Magenta 65; Planetario Hoepli (1930), Corso Venezia; via Tommaso Salvini 1 (1930); Casa Villa Necchi (1935), via Mozart 14.

FANTASTIC FOUNDATIONS

Fondazione Studio Museo Vico Magistretti
via Conservatorio 20, vicomagistretti.it

Fondazione Achille Castiglioni
Piazza Castello 27, fondazioneachillecastiglioni.it

Fondazione Franco Albini
via Telesio 13, fondazionefrancoalbini.com

01 What gives Milan its design mojo

The city's late greats and new talent vie to wow Picky Nicky

For me, Salone del Mobile, held each spring in Milan, starts with the tiresome task of going through invitations and just under 400 e-vites. I sift the must-sees from the must-nots and make a day-by-day plan. With my list, I can easily skip the *crappola* (there is sadly plenty of that) and see the best. Instagram is handy for editing the list further (overexposure is a turn-off) or adding in stops that I may have overlooked.

This year's highlight was a project celebrating 400 years of ceramic production in Arita, a town on Kyushu Island, Japan. Masterminded by Teruhiro Yanagihara, creative director of pottery company 1616/Arita, and Scholten & Baijings, it brought together 10 potteries and 16 designers under one umbrella brand – known as 2016/. As a presentation, it ticked all the boxes: great story-telling, exceptional products, dynamic displays and a very nice spot for lunch where you got to try out the merchandise.

Over the course of week, I met a few frequent visitors to Milan who had never been before during Salone, so had never seen the city so alive. Their enthusiasm for Milan at its most vibrant – and open – reminded me never to take it for granted, and a few unplanned stops reminded me why design is at its heart.

I queued for a good part of the morning (something Picky Nicky does not normally

do) to visit the apartment of late Milanese architect Piero Portaluppi in the Casa degli Atellani. Although parts of the main house and gardens are always open to the public, Portaluppi's apartment was opened exceptionally for just four days during Salone. That's me in the sketch above, chatting with Portaluppi (as I imagined him) beside his superb heptagonal fireplace. Of course, if Wallpaper* had been around during his time, we would have snapped him up as a guest editor, commissioned him to participate in Wallpaper* Handmade, or both.

He built many beautiful buildings across the city, including the Casa Villa Necchi in 1935, famous for its role in Luca Guadagnino's 2009 film *I Am Love*. I first visited as a guest of Giorgio Armani in 2008 – he was one of the patrons of its restoration by Fondo Ambiente Italiano (FAI) – and Wallpaper* featured it in a May 2009 Milan special (W*122).

My final stop was Portaluppi's 1925 Albergo Diurno Venezia, a subterranean delight that included barbers', manicure and pedicure stations, a travel agent's and public conveniences. Abandoned for at least a decade, it is now managed by FAI, which has recently opened it to the public for a limited time. I am hoping that one of Milan's fashion houses will help restore it and bring it back into use. ★
portaluppi.org; fondoambiente.it; 1616arita.jp



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Chic retreat no.1

Experience Brutalist beauty in the Huis Van Wassenhove, outside Ghent. Built in 1974 by Juliaan Lampens, it can be rented via the Dhondt-Dhaenens Museum. museumdd.be



03

Chic retreat no.2

John Pawson's Life House in Wales sleeps six and has a contemplation space buried in the hillside, plus a calming music selection. living-architecture.co.uk