

A warehouse, built in the heart of Milan in the Novecento Italiano style, the local version of art nouveau, is where *Interior Design* Hall of Fame member Patricia Urquiola has installed her namesake studio.

It occupies the lower two levels, and she and her family reside above. They moved here because she feared she wasn't spending enough time with her daughter, now 9 years old. "I'm trying to eliminate the distance between us," she says. "Before, I didn't see her until nighttime. Now, she can see me all afternoon, through the windows, while I'm working." (Her older daughter is studying in London.)

The studio, at 5,400 square feet, accommodates two groups of employees. Seven people design products for Italian companies, of course, and international ones. Moroso she's worked with since she founded her studio in 2001. There's also B&B Italia, Flos, and Kartell. One of her first U.S. clients, Haworth, she calls "my bold American adventure, my lovely American dream. Americans are very open. They have an incredible aptitude for change." Meanwhile, the architecture team ranges from 20 to 35 people, depending on the amount of projects on the boards—which, right now, is a lot. Hotels in Milan and Como, eight stores worldwide for Missoni, residences in London and Tel Aviv, and a restaurant at Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar, are just a few of her current commissions.

A major renovation was required at the Milan warehouse after Urquiola and her partner, Alberto Zontone, bought it. Beneath an existing skylight, the once-gritty walls are now finished in white stucco, the floors have been redone in white resin or cement tile, and balustrades in white-painted steel mesh run alongside a staircase and the mezzanine, where she shares an office with Zontone. She reconfigured the top level as an apartment with an idyllic roof garden. Because of the location, at the rear of a courtyard behind a similar building, there's blissfully no noise from the street. What else but perfection would one expect from this prolific wonder woman? —Arlene Hirst

work/life balance

*Professional
and personal are
one and the same
for Milan-based
Patricia Urquiola*

Patricia Urquiola stands in her namesake studio, near her Gandia Blasco ottoman, Mangas, and her Kartell dinnerware, Jelly.

"I don't have any hobbies—my work is my hobby"



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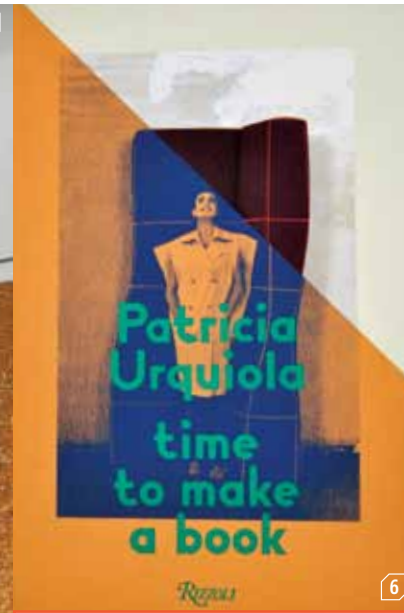
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1. Urquiola's Fat Fat-Lady Fat table for B&B Italia sits on the mezzanine's cement floor tile.
2. A staircase descends from the mezzanine to the studio's main level.
3. Her Maia chair for Kettal and her family's Jack Russell terrier, Lola, bask amid the 2,000-square-foot roof garden's viburnum and ornamental grasses.
4. Favorite objects, including a 3-D printed doll and a rubber crocodile, line her office's shelving.
5. Nearby, her Husk sofa for B&B Italia meets Waste No Waste, the mixed-media artwork she made for an exhibit at Milan's Nilufar gallery.
6. She says the title of her book for Rizzoli International Publications is ironic, because she never has time for anything.
7. On her desk rests a prototype for Openest office lounge furniture, her first project for Haworth.
8. Two prototypes for an unproduced swivel chair sit in front of the desk of her partner, Alberto Zontone.
9. Love Me Tender is her latest collection for Moroso.

FROM TOP: PATRICIA PARINEJAO (4); COURTESY OF MOROSO

PATRICIA PARINEJAO

interiordesign.net/shoptalk-urquiola15 for a behind-the-scenes video with Cindy Allen



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