

THE WHITE BOX

Peaceful and pristine, Piero Lissoni's ideal refuge provides a neutral stage for his favourite collectibles from around the world

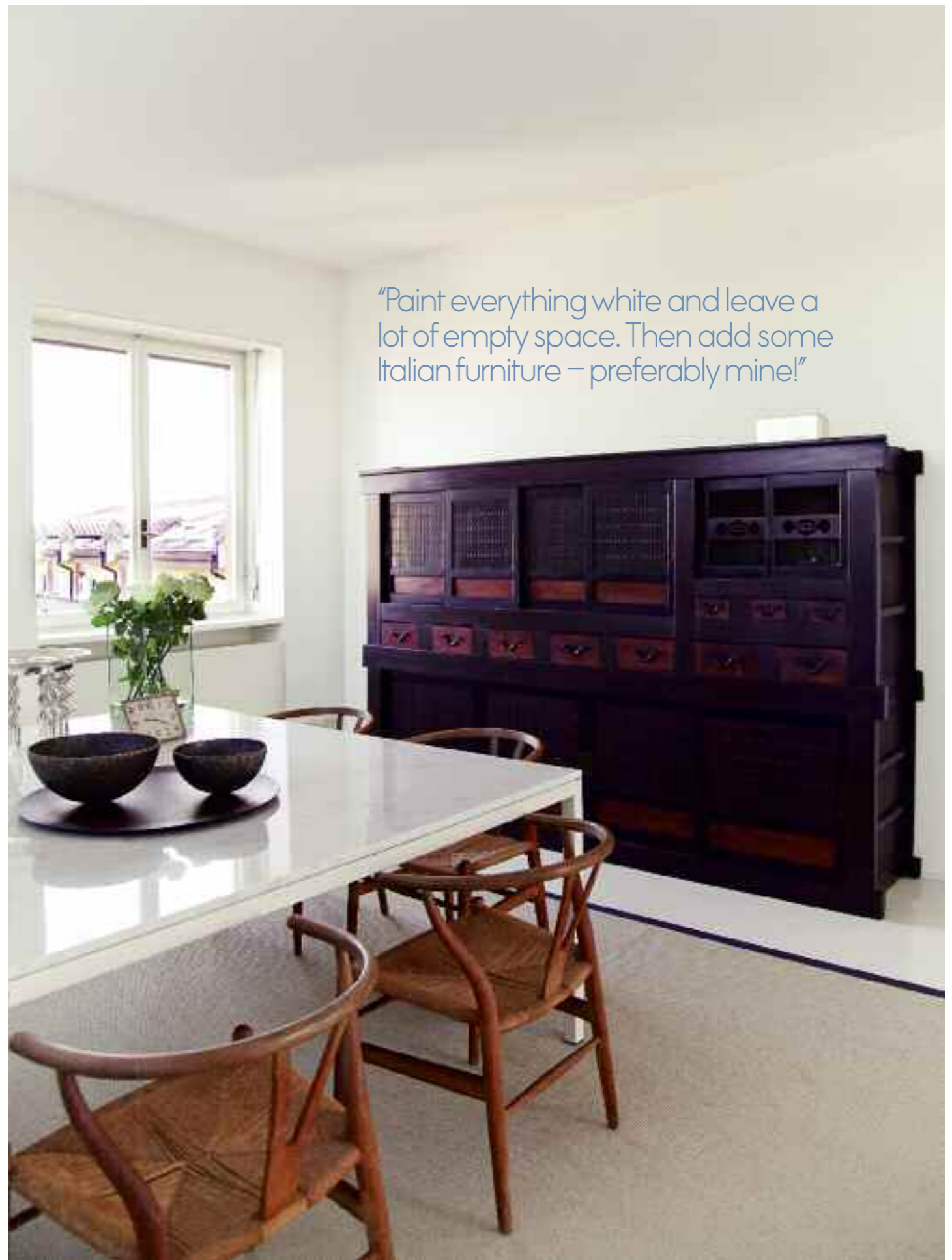
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Two apartments joined together enable the luxury of an immense, light washed living room. Filled with 20th century design icons that Piero adores, like the Arco lamp by Achille and Pier-Giacomo Castiglioni, the plush space is punctuated with bursts of colour



Another view of the living area. The sleek, vintage leather PK22 seaters by Poul Kjaerholm balance the cushy contours of Le Corbusier's LC2 armchairs, while the rug creates a play of textures and adds warmth on cool evenings

Right The dining zone is an ode to Piero's passion for combining elements of different cultures - modern Italian and German furniture is juxtaposed against an antique Japanese sideboard used for storing tableware



"Paint everything white and leave a lot of empty space. Then add some Italian furniture - preferably mine!"



The custom made Lissoni bed is the unrivalled focus in the inner sanctuary of the master bedroom. Sparse and simplistic, two cushions break the palette as sunlight streams in through the window

Left, Clockwise from Top Left An antique Indian Mogul marble chair in a part of the lounge contrasts the post-modernist outlines of Ultrafragola,

a neon light mirror by Ettore Sottsass for Poltronova; The asymmetrical lines and coloured plates of Ettore Sottsass' Gli Specchi di Dionisia mirror adds a new dimension to the living room; Memorabilia from around the world on a shelf near the entrance; Both, the Boffi kitchen and Alessi Pina coffee pot that sits atop the stove are by Peiro

T rue to his Italian heritage, soft spoken architect and designer, Piero Lissoni's approach to design is influenced by his country's prevailing humanistic and holistic school of thought. Connectivity is a major concern, and gives his work a completeness that is philosophical and goes some way in explaining its magic. Blending old and new, Piero combines restoration and modern extensions and introduces elements from different cultures, an impulse he has applied to the decoration of his own apartment in Milan.

What design principles dictate your abode?

There was no objective or general deliberation because I am not stylistically precise, only clean in my approach. I took away some walls and painted everything white, creating a purified and natural box as a completely neutral setting. Then I filled it with different pieces that are important to me personally – pieces I love from China, Japan, Africa and some by Scandinavian designers. But it is not a museum. I would not like to live in a museum.

Comfort or style – the more important factor?

Well, the second, of course. However, style and personal comfort come from inside. You cannot divide them – if you like something, you feel good about it. They are the same idea. For example, I have two armchairs, LC2 by Le Corbusier. They are so beautiful, I adore them. Sitting in them is something else, though. Let's say you have to adapt yourself a little bit to them!

Home means...

A major part of us is defined by our inner self. Don't accept living in stereotyped labels – Baroque, minimalism or whatever. Life and living means your love, friends, history, dreams, culture – it's a very complex idea. For me personally, home is a place to return to. I don't want to return anywhere else.

If you had to give us guidelines, what would they be?

For my style it is easy. Paint everything white and leave a lot of empty space. Then add some Italian furniture and objects – preferably mine! People should show their personality and stand by it. Do not do everything in a mechanical way. ♦

