

**DEFERRARI+MODESTI**  
**APARTMENT FOR A YOUNG COUPLE**

PHOTOS BY ANNA POSITANO



# **DEFERRARI+MODESTI APARTMENT FOR A YOUNG COUPLE**

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## **PRESS OFFICE**

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# 1

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## PRESS RELEASE

27 May 2020

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A FLUID AND OPEN SPACE ENGAGES DIFFERENT LEVELS THROUGH FURNITURE, MATERIALS AND COLORS THAT INTIMATELY RELATE THE ENVIRONMENTS. A STAIRCASE, CONCEIVED AS A MICRO-ARCHITECTURE THAT HIGHLIGHTS THE ASCENT STAGES, IS THE FULCRUM OF THE HOUSE. JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY OF PRATO, ITALY ON THE TUSCAN HILLS RICH IN WOODS AND VEGETATION, DEFERRARI+MODESTI HAS DESIGNED THE INTERIORS OF THE APARTMENT FOR A YOUNG COUPLE PASSIONATE ABOUT TRAVEL AND MOUNTAIN CLIMBING.



3

The project involves the interior spaces of a villa situated in the lush hilly context that, developing behind the city of Prato, opens up to the view of the Florentine plain and the mountains of Calvana. Here the studio DEFERRARI+MODESTI of Javier Deferrari and Lavinia Modesti has created a domestic environment that plays with the differences in height present in the valuable original building of the 1980s to create an interior characterized by lively and detailed spatial connections but also, at the same time, able to define autonomous zones each enjoying its own privacy.

The clients are a young couple. He's a chemist, PhD student at the CNR (National Research Council) in Italy. His family has an important printing plant in Prato, specialized in photoengraving and well established in the rotary textile printing market. She is Italian-French and descends from the family of Parisian perfumers, the Gellé Frères. Her great-grandfather was the painter George Lecaron. She studied Japanese, lived between Italy and Paris and then moved to Japan where she perfected her linguistic training. They both love to travel, are sports enthusiasts and climbers.



DEFERRARI+MODESTI

The sophisticated spatial connection that characterizes the project by DEFERRARI+MODESTI is not only accomplished through interventions on the structure of the walls. It is in fact the design of an integrated furnishing system that connects different areas of the house, giving each one its own identity. The living area consists of four large connected areas: the living room, the reading and music corner, the dining room and the kitchen. The piece of furniture therefore performs various tasks: it is a bench, a container, a music record display, a bookcase, a divider between different areas. The cabinet is made of open-pore ash wood lacquered in blue, to highlight not only the color but also the veins of the material. It has inserts and open elements in matt lacquered wood with a touch of electric blue.

The bookcase, which is the focal point of the room, is made of teak wall panels. Horizontal milling helps to integrate the shelves made of painted sheet steel which give a sense of lightness and solidity. The cabinet under the bookcase, with concealed drawers, acts as a bench and container. An element, designed to store music records and to put a selection on display, acts as a divider with the dining area. In the project by DEFERRARI+MODESTI technical details have been concealed and tend to disappear. The main feature remains the spatial composition and all the technological solutions are never celebrated.

*“In our projects technical details disappear.  
The main elements thus become the  
composition and the space. We follow with  
scrupulous care the selection of materials and  
details, we work closely with artisans to identify  
the solutions that seem most suitable to us and  
then we bring them back into our own idea of  
architectural space.”*

Javier Deferrari

In the living room area there is a wall furniture that, thanks to a system of vertical sliding and tilt doors, makes you discover the bar cabinet inside. The use of integrated lighting and the mirror on the back give prominence and value to the matt mustard-colored lacquered wooden cabinet, which contrasts with the blue color of the ash wood components. The contrast between the colors highlights the bar nook and brings it out. Here, as in the dining room area, there are Eames chairs combined with carpets and paintings chosen to match the architectural sensibility



for

DEFERRARI + MODESTI

with the owners' passion for Far Eastern culture. If, in fact, in the reading area there is a print by Chinese artist Wensi Zhai, in the dining room we can recognize a silkscreen print by Enzo Mari, for whom Lavinia Modesti worked as an assistant.

*“In Enzo Mari’s studio I learned passion and an obsessive attention for every phase of the project. He taught me to see the process as a whole but also in every detail. To have a broad yet very focused gaze. I learnt to develop a project as if in a spiral, going forward and then going back, broadening my gaze.”*

Lavinia Modesti

The dining room, characterized by a long table and touches of gray that counterpoint the blue and wood, is encircled by a long cabinet that serves as a container and shelf. Here, separated by an island with stools, stands the kitchen which, like the rest of the furnishings of the house, has been completely custom designed. In this case the furniture is made of matt lacquered midnight blue wood, the kitchen consisting of a system of drawers with foldaway handles at the bottom and a wall unit at the top.

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The staircase is the real fulcrum of the house, the point where the different levels are connected, highlighting the various passages of altitude. The staircase becomes a sort of micro-architecture inside the house, a playful space to live in. Circulation element, but also rest area, reception area, container cabinet, filter and separation device, frame for climbing. Like other furnishings, the staircase also offers elements of surprise; gradually, as it unfolds, the structure becomes lighter and changes its appearance. The first ramp consists of a monolithic wooden element faced in teak, an element that anchors the staircase to the ground and invites one to walk down it safely. While in the second ramp the staircase seems to dematerialize thanks to the slender powder-coated iron structure, up to the last portion where the staircase is made of painted perforated sheet metal. The staircase, from being extremely solid, becomes permeable to light and movement and, as it ascends, it almost seems to float in a void.

*“The function of the staircase is central to the house. Not only does it represent the connection between the various levels and zones, it becomes the fulcrum and the element of spatial articulation. The staircase also speaks of one of the most vivid passions of its owners.”*

Javier Deferrari

In this informal and welcoming house, characterized by a strong presence of wood and natural materials, the living area is defined as a fluid space. The same materials and the same sensitive approach also apply to the most intimate area of the house, which is located behind a flush-to-wall door. Here are two bedrooms and two bathrooms. The upper floor is used as a living/study area and accommodates an additional bathroom, as well as a large terrace overlooking the surrounding green landscape.

This house speaks of the passions of its owners and the intellectual background of its designers. Moreover, it offers a new testimony to the skills that DEFERRARI+MODESTI have demonstrated in recent years in projects for commercial venues, such as the Brac Bookshop in Florence or the installations at the PALP and the Piaggio Museum in Pontedera. In these cases - as for example in the projects developed for the industry, among which the recently completed Targetti concept showrooms in Florence, Shanghai and Changzhou - a lively creativity is constantly counterpointed by the ability to define exact and controlled solutions at every stage of their production. This apartment in Prato, Italy can be looked at as a small manifesto through which Javier Deferrari and Lavinia Modesti identify spatial and qualitative criteria on which to base the continuation of their brilliant career.



Photo: Anna Positano

image

for

DEFERRARI + MODESTI

# 2

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## DATA AND CREDITS

*of the project*

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***Project name***

Apartment for a young couple

***Project location***

Prato, Italy

***Project designers***

DEFERRARI+MODESTI

[www.deferrari-modesti.com](http://www.deferrari-modesti.com)

Facebook: @deferrarimodesti

Instagram: @deferrarimodesti

***Project design team***

Javier Deferrari, Lavinia Modesti

***Client***

private

***Contractor***

GBR Servizi s.r.l.

***Carpentry works***

Legn'artè snc

8

***Project size***

170 square meters

***Schedule***

Schematic design, design development and construction documents: July 2018 - June 2019

Construction start: June 2019

Complete: February 2020

***Photographer***

Anna Positano

[www.theredbird.org](http://www.theredbird.org)

***Press office***

Image MEDIA AGENCY

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Photo: Anna Positano

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## DEFERRARI+MODESTI

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*DEFERRARI+MODESTI was founded in 2010 in Florence, Italy by Argentinian-Italian duo Javier Deferrari and Lavinia Modesti. Multidisciplinary studio specialized in architecture, exhibition design and interiors, with experience in Italy and abroad.*

*Lavinia Modesti was born in Pisa in 1979. She graduated in architecture cum laude at the University of Florence in 2005, having Enzo Mari as an independent thesis advisor, and immediately afterwards she started her professional activity in Milan, working as her assistant. His professional experience continued with a collaboration with Actar-Arquitectura in Barcelona and Boeri Studio in Milan.*

*Javier Deferrari was born in Buenos Aires in 1978. After starting his studies in architecture at the Universidad of Buenos Aires, in 2002 he moved to Milan where he graduated from the Politecnico. In 2006, after an experience in South Africa, he started a collaboration with RRC Architetti in Milan, working on residential projects in Italy and abroad. In 2008 he began working at Stefano Boeri's studio, in particular on the rehabilitation project*

*for the former Military Arsenal at La Maddalena.*

*Since 2010 Javier Deferrari and Lavinia Modesti have been running the DEFERRARI+MODESTI studio, working together on interior architecture projects (bars, restaurants, residences, company showrooms), museum and trade fair installations and product design. Their team takes care of all aspects of the project: from the initial concept to the construction, developing every phase of the design process. Each project is developed according to the individual needs of the client. From the study of the brief, the geographical context, the history of the place, the demands of the client, a unique concept with its own distinctive philosophy is born.*

*DEFERRARI+MODESTI works on projects at different scales and its research ranges from the definition of new spatial solutions to research on materials, to the careful development of every construction detail up to the choice or custom design of every single piece of furniture. Xgon, the system of porcelain tiles designed by Javier Deferrari and Lavinia Modesti for Mirage, was selected*

*for the ADI Design Index 2015 (ADI is the Italian Association for Industrial Design) and was a candidate for the 2016 edition of the prestigious Compasso d'Oro prize. In 2017 their project for the Brac bookstore - cafe in Florence received the special mention of the "Bar e Ristoranti d'autore" award promoted by in/arch with Archilovers, Università degli Studi di Roma Tre, Artribune and the patronage of ADI. In the same year the studio is selected for the exhibition "Next Future. 45 Italian designers under 40" curated by Luigi Prestinenza Puglisi and Monica Scanu.*

*DEFERRARI+MODESTI develop projects both for private clients and for companies, associations and institutions including Targetti, Marca Corona, Mirage, Museo Piaggio, Ex.T, PALP. Since 2017 Javier Deferrari and Lavinia Modesti have been teaching as coordinators and faculty in the three-year Interior and Furniture Design course at IED (Istituto Europeo di Design) in Florence.*

[www.deferrari-modesti.com](http://www.deferrari-modesti.com)

# 4

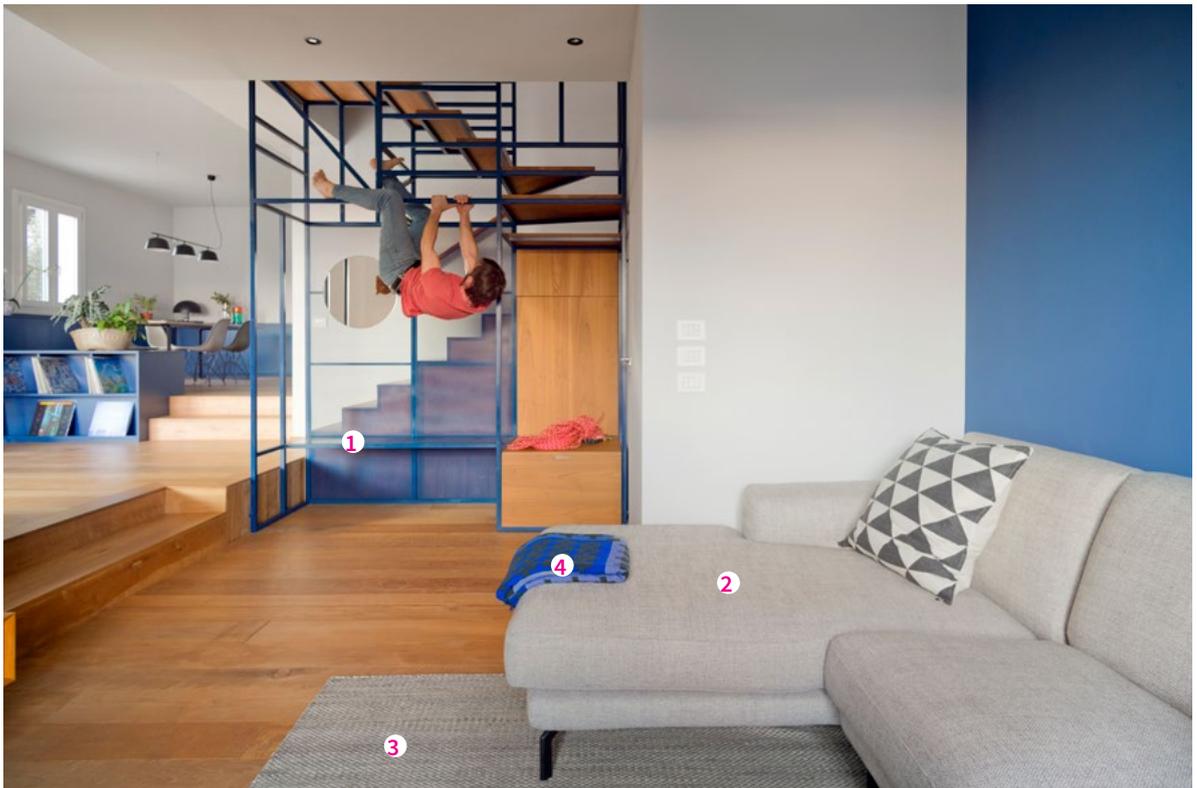
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## IMAGES FOR THE PRESS

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**PH 2776**

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Living room. Photo: Anna Positano.

1. *iron staircase* | made to measure upon design by DEFERRARI+MODESTI
2. *couch* | brand: Maison du monde, model: City
3. *carpet* | brand: HAY, model: Moiré Kelim, 170cm x 240 cm, Grey
4. *blanket* | brand: HAY, model: Plus 9 Grey

**Please note: This image is available for both paper and online publications.**



#### PH 2757

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Living room. Photo: Anna Positano.

1. *iron staircase* | made to measure upon design by DEFERRARI+MODESTI
2. *carpet* | brand: HAY, model: Moiré Kelim, 170cm x 240 cm, Grey
3. *coffee tables* | brand: HAY, model: Slit Table Round Mirror; brand: HAY, model: Slit Table Round High Light yellow
4. *basket* | brand: MUUTO, model: Restore, Grey
5. *couch* | brand: Maison du monde, model: City
6. *cabinet* | made to measure upon design by DEFERRARI+MODESTI

**Please note: This image is available for both paper and online publications.**



#### PH 2634

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Living room. Photo: Anna Positano.

1. *couch* | brand: Maison du monde, model: City
2. *cabinet* | made to measure upon design by DEFERRARI+MODESTI
3. *basket* | brand: MUUTO, model: Restore, Grey

**Please note: This image is available for both paper and online publications.**



PH 2642

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Photo: Anna Positano.

*1. iron staircase* | made to measure upon design by DEFERRARI+MODESTI

**Please note: This image is available for both paper and online publications.**



PH 2647

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Photo: Anna Positano.

*1. iron staircase* | made to measure upon design by DEFERRARI+MODESTI

**Please note: This image is available for paper publications only.**



### PH 2569

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Bookcase area. Photo: Anna Positano.

1. iron staircase | made to measure upon design by DEFERRARI+MODESTI
2. carpet | brand: HAY, model: Moiré Kelim, 170 cm x 240 cm, Grey
3. chair | brand: VITRA, model: Eames Plastic Armchair DAW

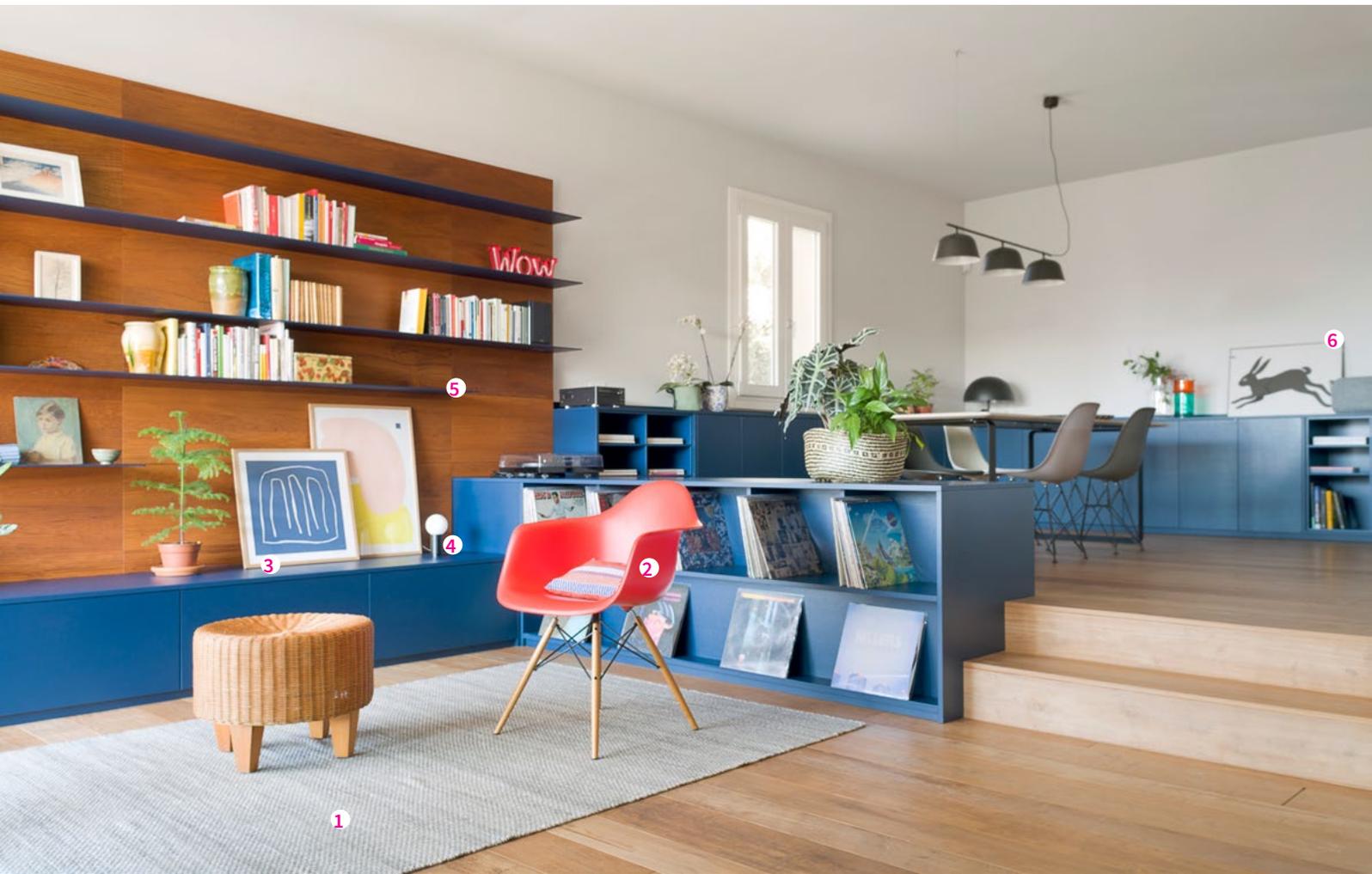
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### PH 2573

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Bookcase area. Photo: Anna Positano.

1. carpet | brand: HAY, model: Moiré Kelim, 170cm x 240 cm, Grey
2. chair | brand: VITRA, model: Eames Plastic Armchair DAW
3. pictures | Leise Dich Abrahamsen, "Conclusion", 50 cm x 50 cm; Wensi Zhai, "Warm Sad", 50 cm x 70 cm
4. illuminazione | brand: HAY, model: Turn on table Lamp, Black
5. bookcase and cabinet | made to measure upon design by DEFERRARI+MODESTI
6. silkscreen printing | Enzo Mari, "Lepre"

**Please note: This image is available for both paper and online publications.**





PH 2549

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI.  
Apartment for a young couple, Prato,  
Italy. Photo: Anna Positano.

*1. bookcase and cabinet* | made  
to measure upon design by  
DEFERRARI+MODESTI

**Please note: This image is available  
for paper publications only.**



PH 2546

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI.  
Apartment for a young couple, Prato,  
Italy. Photo: Anna Positano.

*1. bookcase and cabinet* | made  
to measure upon design by  
DEFERRARI+MODESTI

**Please note: This image is available  
for paper publications only.**



#### PH 2611

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy.  
Photo: Anna Positano.

1. *bookcase and cabinet* | made to measure upon design by DEFERRARI+MODESTI

**Please note: This image is available for paper publications only.**

#### PH 2619

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Bookcase area. Photo: Anna Positano.

1. *carpet* | brand: HAY, model: Moiré Kelim, 170cm x 240 cm, Grey
2. *chair* | brand: VITRA, model: Eames Plastic Armchair DAW
3. *pictures* | Leise Dich Abrahamsen, "Conclusion", 50 cm x 50 cm; Wensi Zhai, "Warm Sad", 50 cm x 70 cm
4. *bookcase and cabinet* | made to measure upon design by DEFERRARI+MODESTI

**Please note: This image is available for both paper and online publications.**





PH 2722

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Kitchen. Photo: Anna Positano.

1. kitchen | made to measure upon design by DEFERRARI+MODESTI

**Please note: This image is available for both paper and online publications.**



PH 2734

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Kitchen. Photo: Anna Positano.

1. kitchen | made to measure upon design by DEFERRARI+MODESTI  
2. flooring | reclaimed teak parquet

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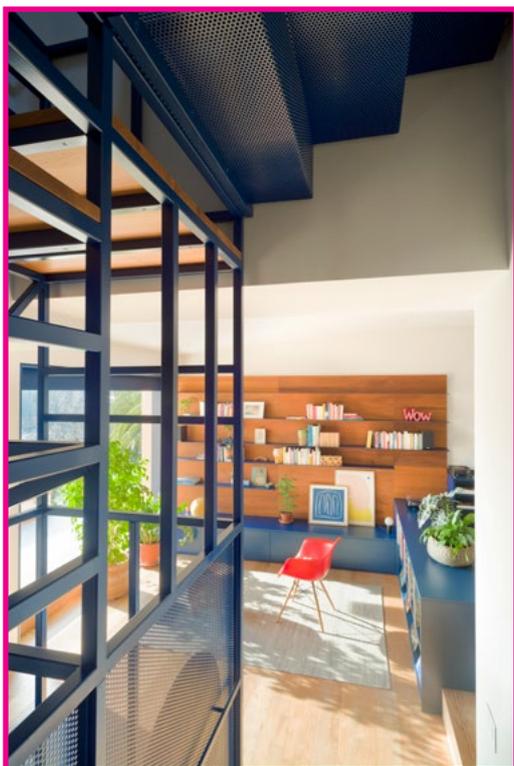


PH 2738

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Sala da pranzo. Photo: Anna Positano.

1. *table* | brand: MUUTO, model: 70/70 Table, 225 cm x 90 cm
2. *sedie* | brand: VITRA, model: Eames Plastic Side Chair DSR
3. *illuminazione* | brand: MUUTO, model: Ambit Rail Lamp, Black
4. *vaso* | brand: HAY, model: Moroccan Vase L Green

**Please note: This image is available for both paper and online publications.**



PH 2738

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Photo: Anna Positano.

**Please note: This image is available for paper publications only.**



**PH 2623**

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Bookcase area. Photo: Anna Positano.

- 1. *carpet* | brand: HAY, model: Moiré Kelim, 170cm x 240 cm, Grey
- 2. *chair* | brand: VITRA, model: Eames Plastic Armchair DAW
- 3. *pictures* | Leise Dich Abrahamsen, "Conclusion", 50 cm x 50 cm; Wensi Zhai, "Warm Sad", 50 cm x 70 cm
- 4. *bookcase and cabinet* | made to measure upon design by DEFERRARI+MODESTI

**Please note: This image is available for both paper and online publications.**



**PH 2805**

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Photo: Anna Positano.

- 1. *carpet* | brand: HAY, model: Moiré Kelim, 170cm x 240 cm, Grey
- 2. *chair* | brand: VITRA, model: Eames Plastic Armchair DAW
- 3. *silkscreen printing* | Enzo Mari, "Lepre"

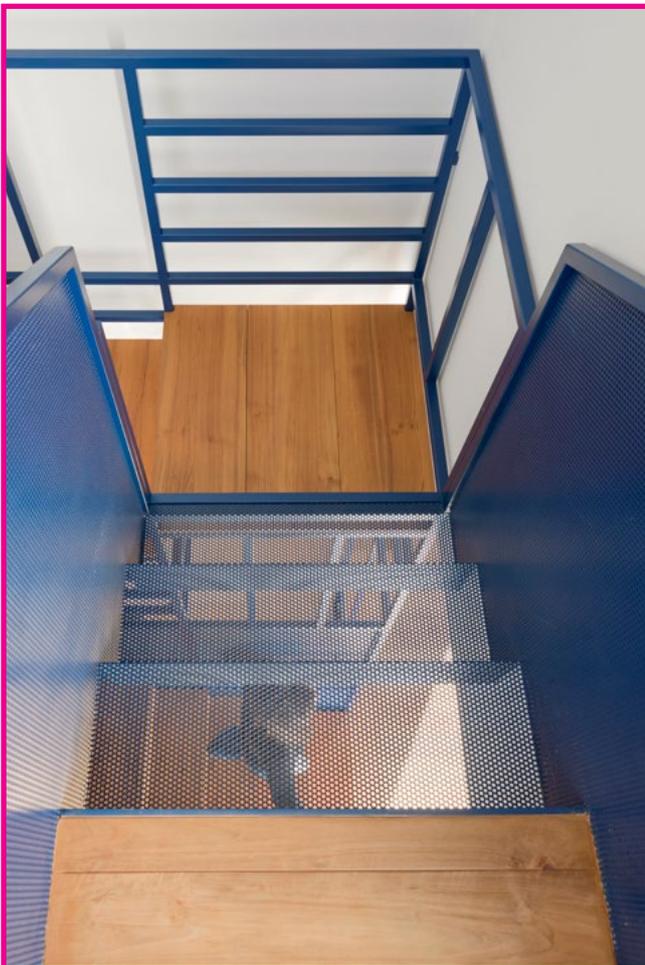
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PH 2682

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Photo: Anna Positano.

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PH 2694

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Photo: Anna Positano.

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PH 2675

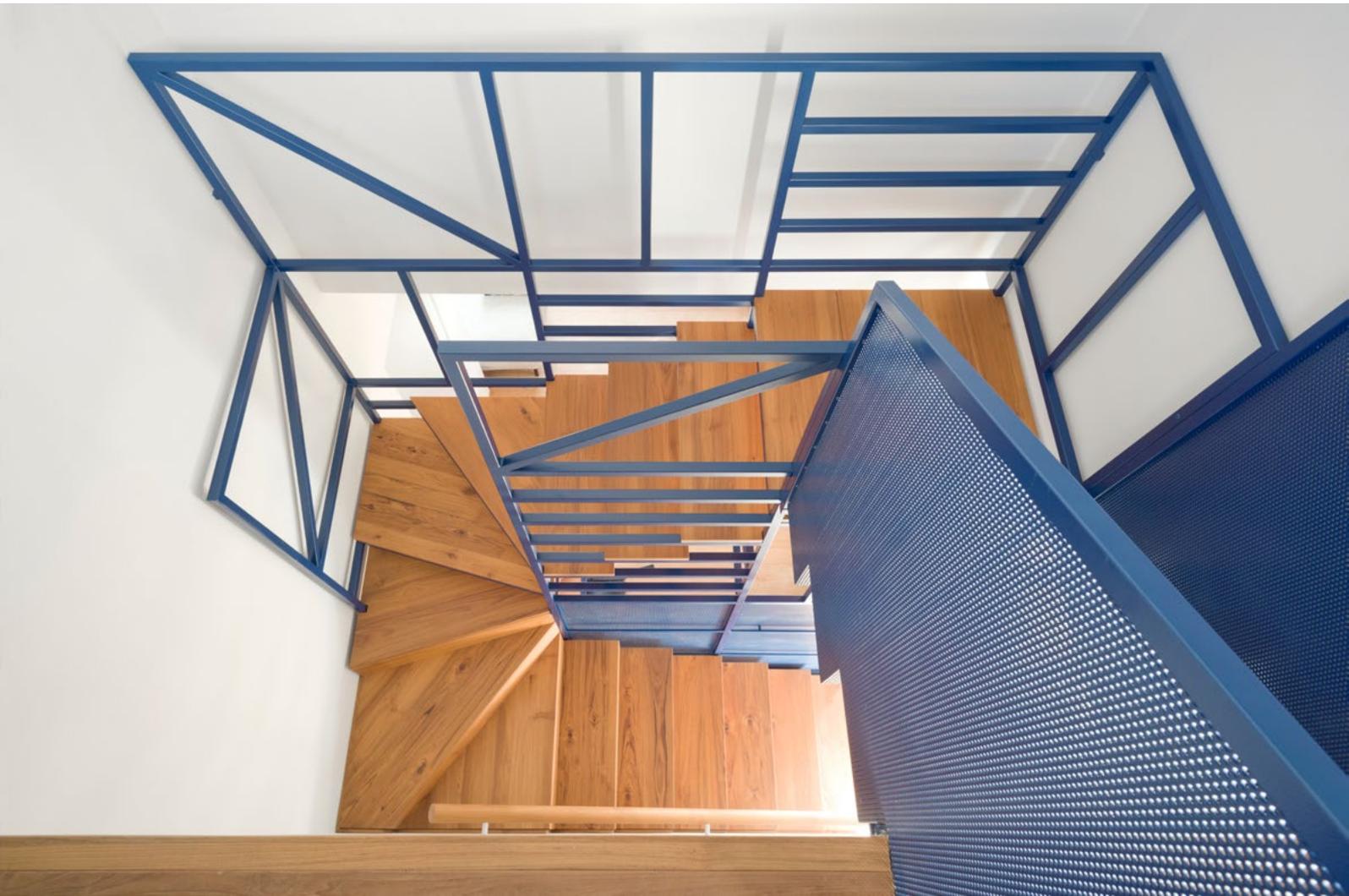
Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy.  
Photo: Anna Positano.

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PH 2695

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Photo: Anna Positano.

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PH 2710

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Photo: Anna Positano.

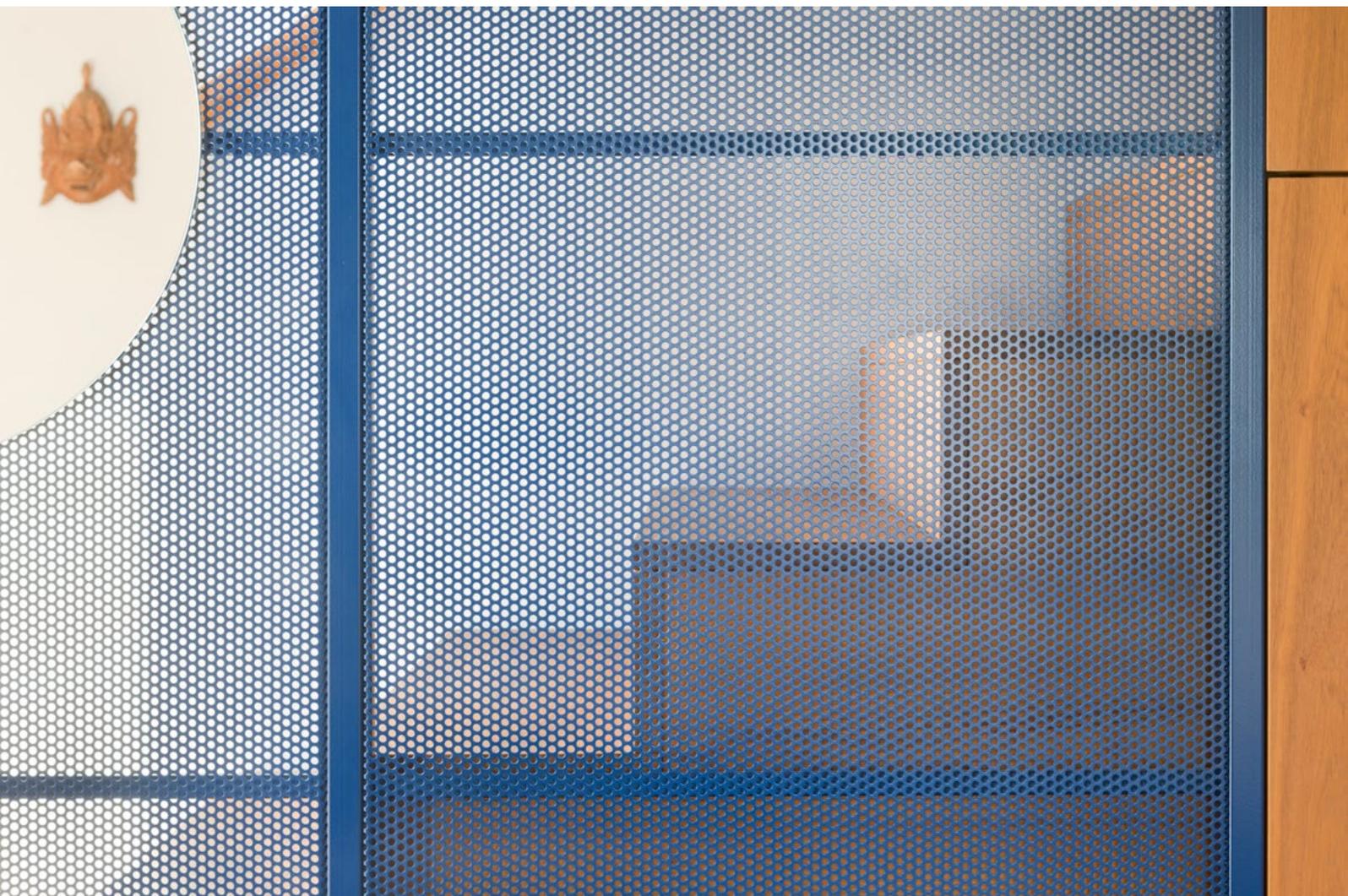
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PH 2666

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Photo: Anna Positano.

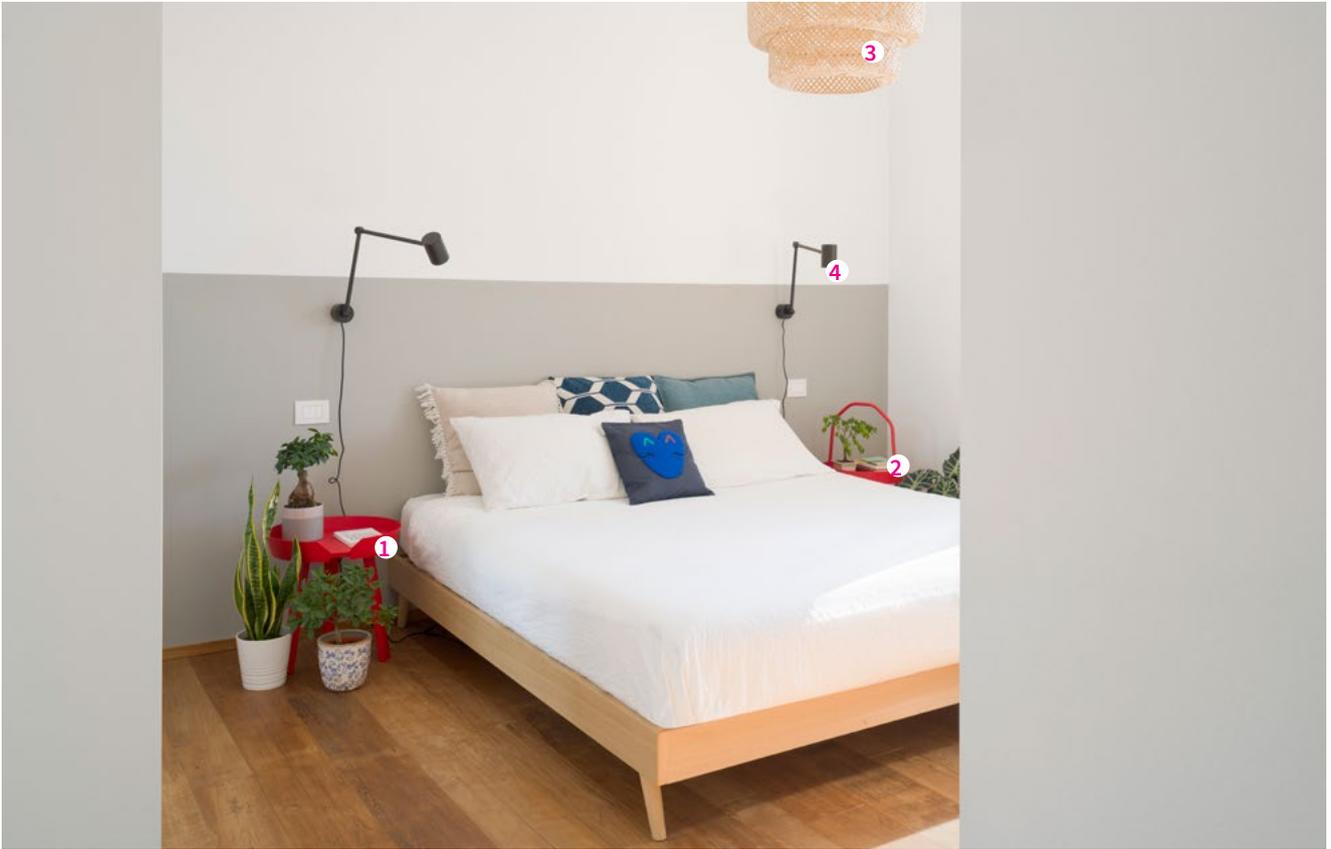
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**PH 2714**

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Photo: Anna Positano.

**Please note: This image is available for both paper and online publications.**



**PH 2601**

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Bedroom. Photo: Anna Positano.

1. *side table* | brand: MUUTO, model: Around Coffe Table Small, red
2. *side table* | brand: IKEA, model: Burvik, Rosso
3. *suspension lamp* | brand: IKEA, model: Sinnerlig
4. *wall lamp* | brand: IKEA, model: Nymåne

**Please note: This image is available for both paper and online publications.**



**PH 2794**

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Bedroom bathroom. Photo: Anna Positano.

1. *sink* | brand: ex.t, model: GUS, freestanding, nero
2. *tiles* | brand: 41ZERO42, collection: Pietre41, Triple Black, 40 cm x 80 cm
3. *tiles* | brand: 41ZERO42, collection: Pietre41, Mosaic Black, 30 cm x 30 cm
4. *faucet* | brand: Zucchetti, model: Sleek
5. *wall lamp* | brand: ZANGRA, model: white porcelain lamp 001
6. *accessory* | brand: MENU, model: Bath towel bar, Black

**Please note: This image is available for both paper and online publications.**



#### PH 2751

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Main bathroom. Photo: Anna Positano.

1. sink | brand: AZZURRA, model: NUVOLA 75, 75 cm x 40 cm
2. tiles | brand: 41ZERO42, collection: OTTO Naturale, Bianco, 60 cm x 60 cm
3. tiles | brand: EQUIPE CERAMICAS, collection: Country, Blanco Mate, 6,5 cm x 20 cm
4. faucet | brand: Zucchetti, model: Sleek
5. wall lamp | brand: ZANGRA, model: black ceramic lampholder
6. accessory | brand: MENU, model: Bath towel bar, Black

**Please note: This image is available for both paper and online publications.**



#### PH 2749

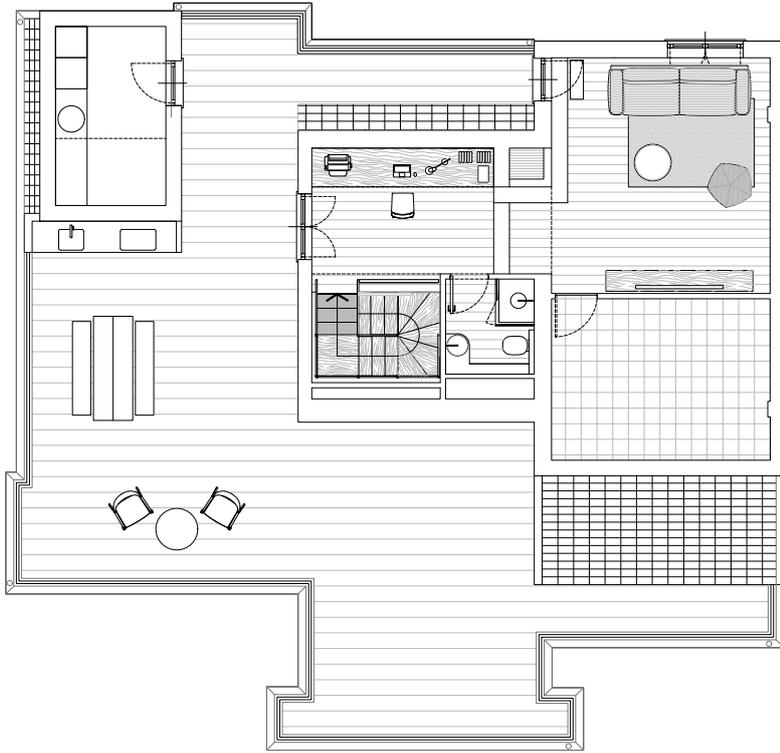
Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Main bathroom. Photo: Anna Positano.

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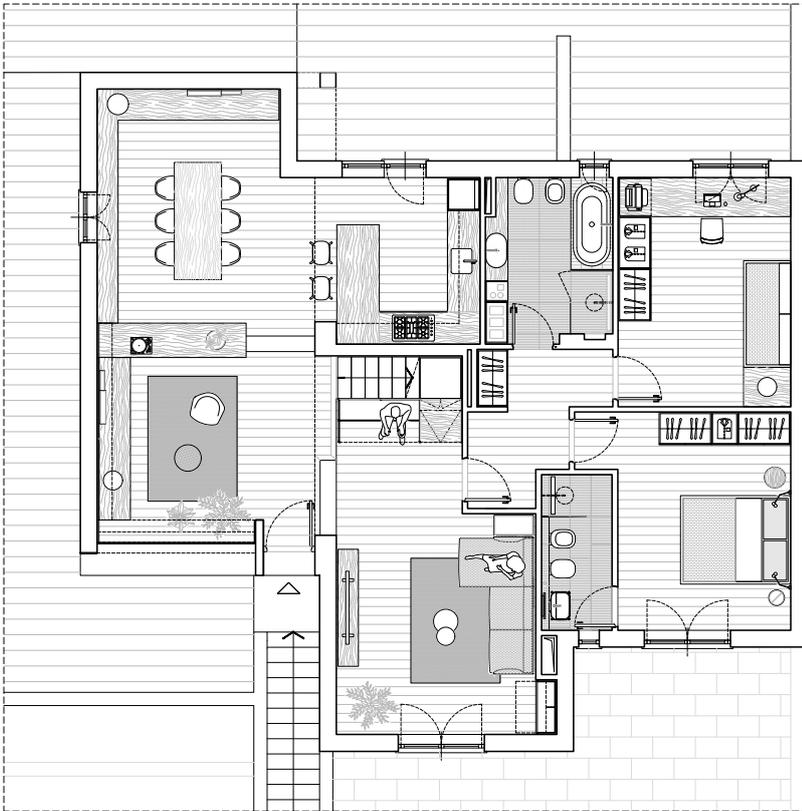
DW 00A

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Furnished plants.

**Please note: This image is available for both paper and online publications.**

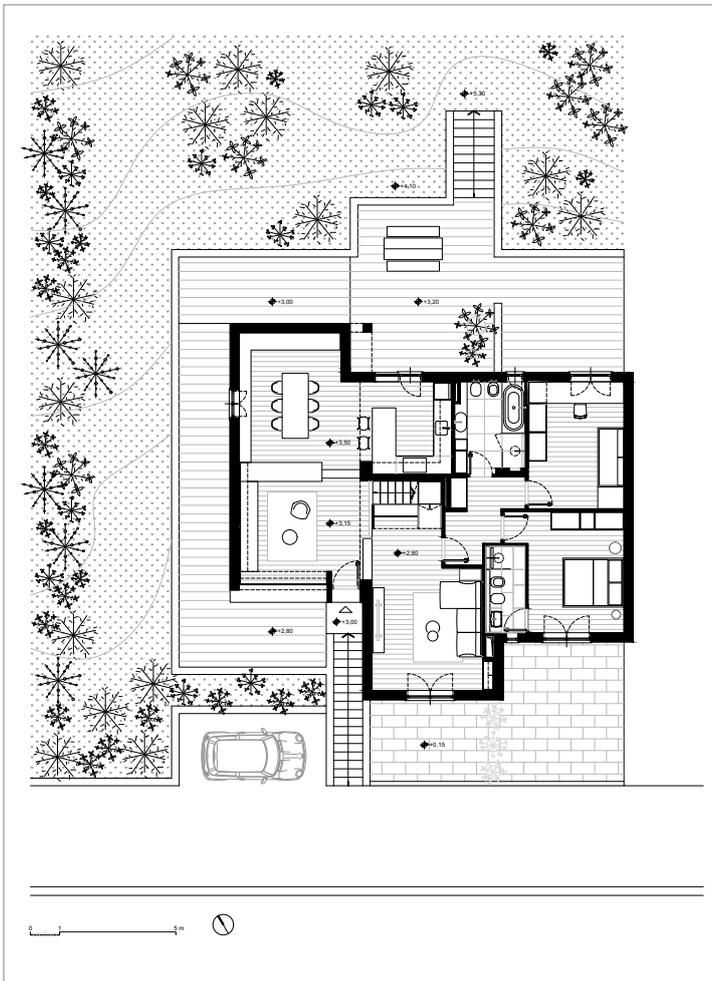


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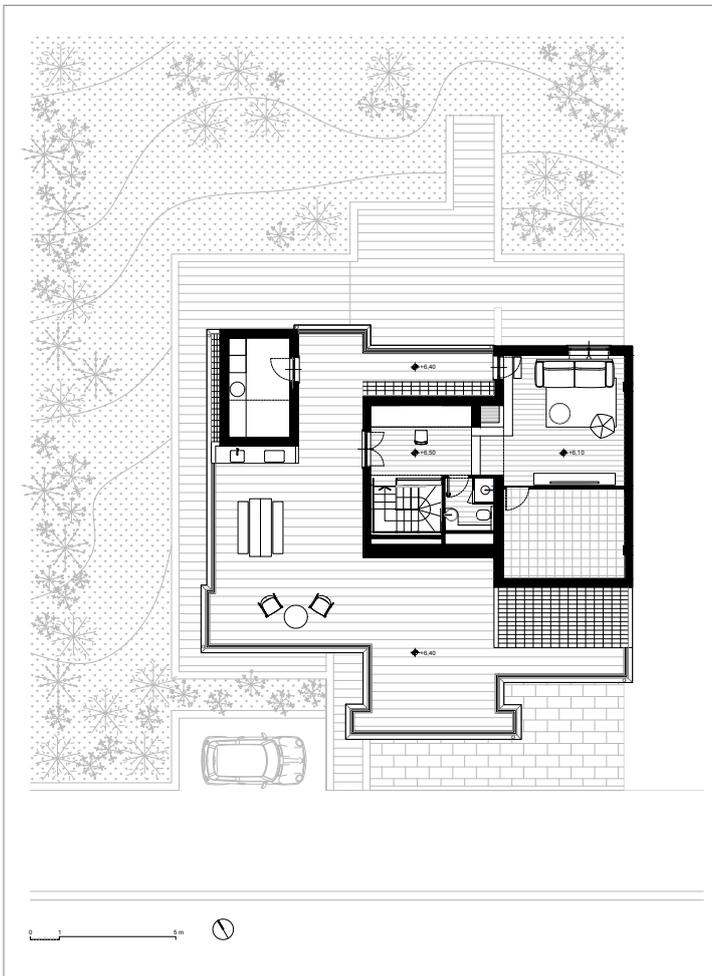




#### DW 01

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Entrance floor plan.

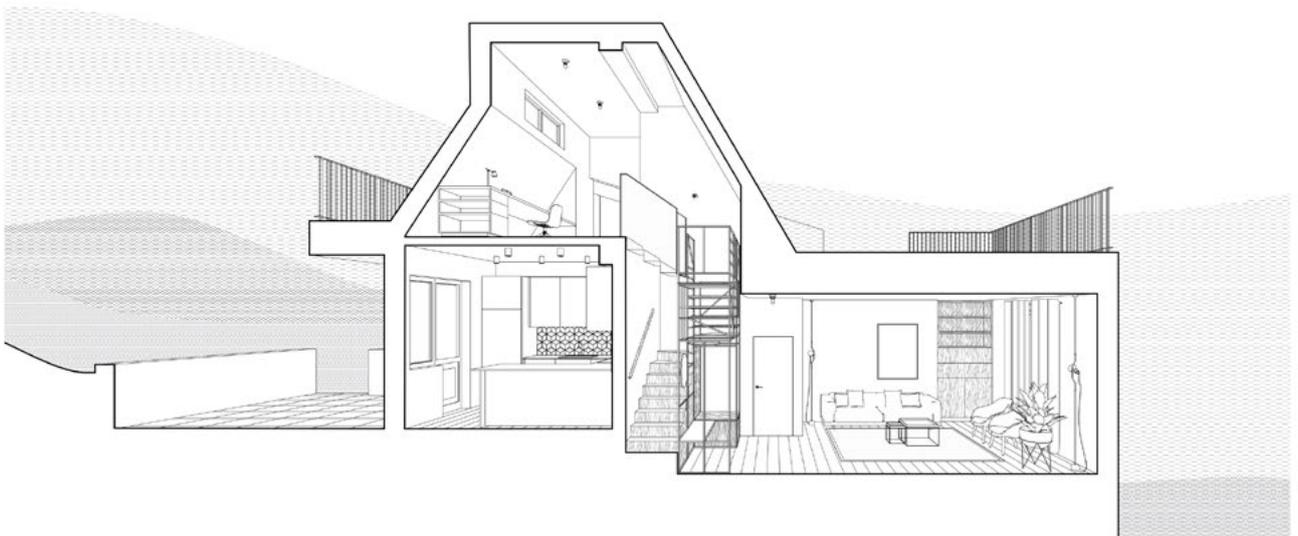
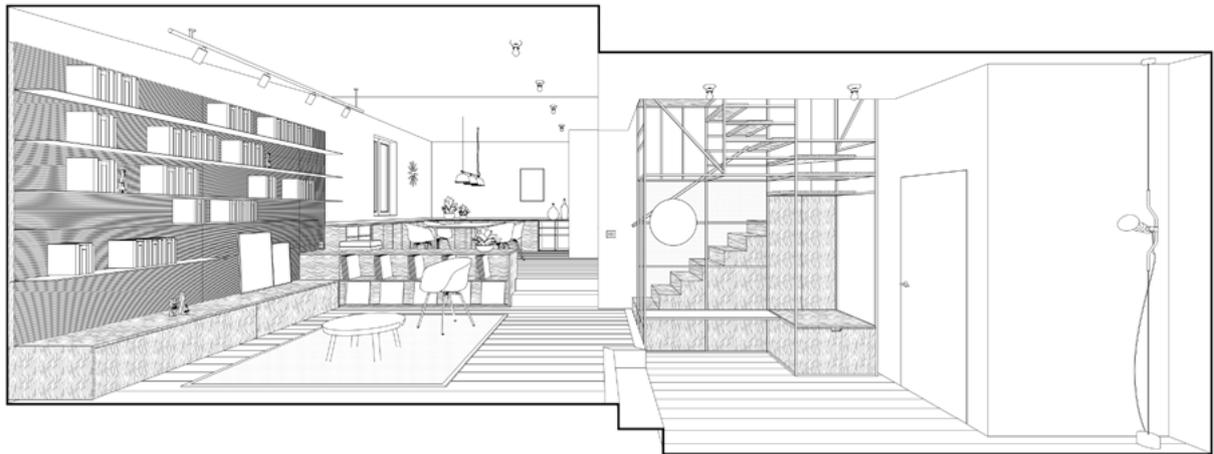
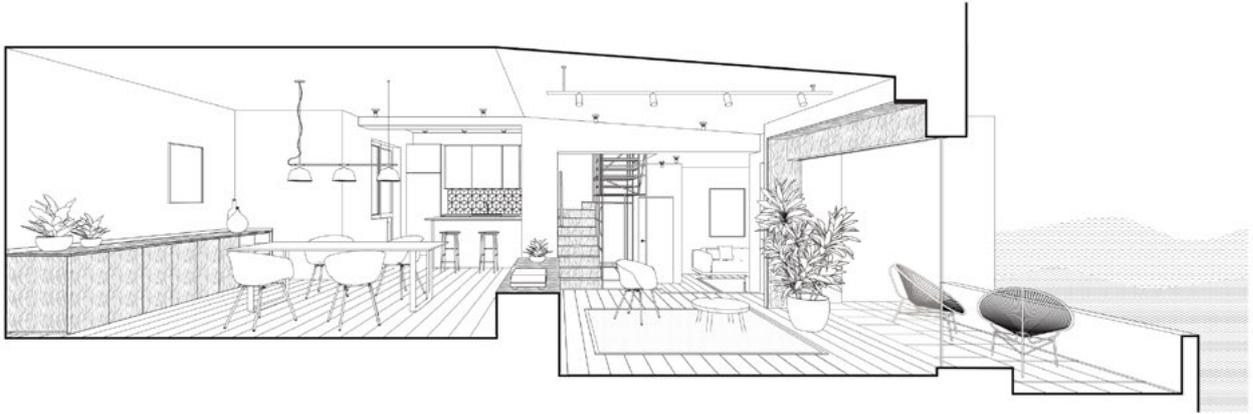
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#### DW 02

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Attic floor plan.

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DW 03, DW 04, DW 05

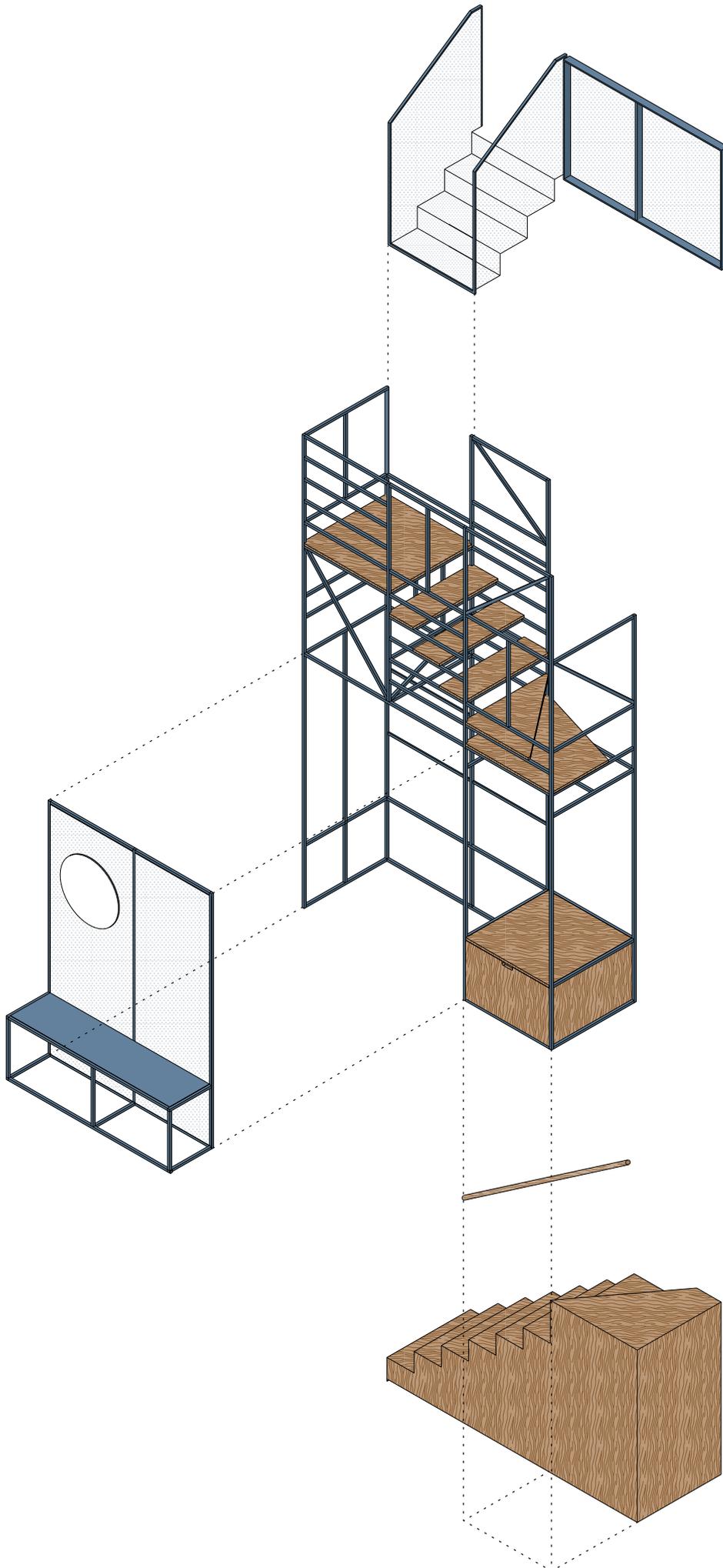
Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Apartment for a young couple, Prato, Italy. Sections.

**Please note: These images are available for both paper and online publications.**

DW 06

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI.  
Apartment for a young couple, Prato,  
Italy. Staircase axonometry.

**Please note: This image is  
available for both paper and online  
publications.**





**PH PO 0974**

Caption: DEFERRARI+MODESTI. Lavinia Modesti and Javier Deferrari.

**Please note: This image is available for both paper and online publications.**

## **PRESS OFFICE**

For additional information, to receive high resolution images and to set up an interview with the architect you may contact:

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**f t in**