

CITY CENTRE DESIGN STUDIO

An architecture firm in the centre of Rome revisits the classic concept of a studio

Firm: Brain Factory - Architecture & Design
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Designer: Marco Marotta
Photography: Marco Marotta

The main open space is articulated around a central calcestruzzo aluminium partition.



An architecture firm is a workshop of ideas and a laboratory for experimenting with creativity and attention to detail. This is what inspired Brain Factory's designers to plan their own workplace around the classic concept of a studio as a lived in space for creativity.

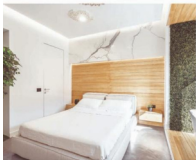


Top left: Greenery and the natural texture of customised woodwork offsets the clean lines of the studio space.

Left: In the living area a wooden ceiling offsets the hard flooring. Shelves inset into the wall are lined in matching wood.



Above: A living area can double up as an informal meeting area, visually screened off from the work area by a central partition wall.



The co-working space in the centre of Rome is also a 130 square metre apartment which is fully accessible to the firm's clients. The design choices, the furnishings and the use of skilled craftsmanship are not just visible to the visitors, but also tangible.

The interior of the studio was completely redesigned to provide spaces which are distinct yet which flow together visually. The space just inside the entrance is marked by a green patch with birch trees with lights suspended among the branches. The trees back onto large, full height satin-glassed windows which allow natural light to flow all the way inside while effectively screening the kitchen behind.

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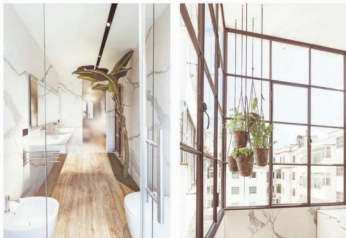
The visual 'cone' defined by LED lights set into poplar panels focuses attention on the centre of the studio: a large open space articulated around a central partition in calcatta stoneware. Wall cupboards covered in greenery, backlit shelves in extruded aluminium, glass covered walls, invisible doors, customised woodwork, and industrial lights hung on wire frames are details that draw the eye. The custom-made table in the main workspace is fashioned from thick planks of wood that still carry the irregular outline of the tree from which they were cut, lending a feeling of nature which offsets the straight lines, right angles and sharp corners of high design.

Top left & top: The bedroom reinterprets an ancient concept of space use - the bath is set between the window walls, overlooking a view of Rome.

Bottom left: The monochrome walk-in wardrobe provides plenty of storage space.



The bedroom reinterprets an ancient concept of the use of space. Rather than being in the wet room, the bathtub is in the bedroom itself, nestled between two walls covered in plants and next to a window which looks out onto a view of Rome. A separate shower room is given a green 'lift' by a strategically placed banana tree. The principal materials used throughout are microcement, calcatta stoneware, and natural poplar – a mix of functional and natural that balances functional utility and aesthetic sensitivity. As a counterbalance to the formality, elements of green have been inserted through the space: birch trees, banana trees, creating a sense of well-being for those who live and work in the studio.



Above: The kitchen enjoys natural light thanks to the full height optimised glass windows screening it off from the entrance area.

Left: The shower room has a warm, natural feel with a wooden floor and a banana tree. The large mirror extends narrow spaces, making it feel larger.

Right: Greenery is a feature throughout the studio. Here, hanging potted plants brighten up the laundry area.

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