

# STYLE HIGH

Modern design icons meet an authentic Alpine look in  
Silvia and Andrea's fabulous family ski retreat



Photography Helenio Bãrbetta / Living Inside \* Styling Chiara Dal Canto / Living Inside \* Words / Steven Efstathiou



### MAIN LIVING ROOM

With its vast expanse of glazing and soaring double-height ceiling, this space is as jaw-droppingly gorgeous as the Alpine views outside.

**Get the look** The bespoke Murano glass and bronze chandelier is by Italian brand VeniceM. The fireplace, designed by Annalisa Mauri, is clad in Cor-Ten steel with metalwork by Fratelli Rusconi. The Utrecht armchairs are by Gerrit Thomas Rietveld for Cassina. The rug is from Tappeti Contemporanei in Milan. The floor lamp is by Viabizzuno. For a similar curtain fabric, try Rubelli.

# WITH ITS STARTLING VIEWS OF SNOW-COVERED ALPINE

peaks, Silvia and Andrea's mountainside retreat puts other ski chalets literally in the shade; a stunning location to not only enjoy the winter slopes, but also for the couple's family to enjoy a Christmas break in high – very high – style. Astonishingly, this beautifully conceived building, nestling in its surroundings as though it has always been part of the landscape, is just three years old. 'We were inspired by the architecture of the entire old Savoie region, which at one time also included some of Piedmont, where I was raised in Italy,' says Silvia. This influence is highlighted through the use of ancient timbers and stone for both the interiors and exterior of the house.

When Silvia and husband Andrea first came to view the site, it was nothing more than a green field 'with a couple of silver birches in the middle', as Silvia recalls. 'We were so lucky because we discovered this place within months of starting our search. As keen skiers Andrea and I knew Chamonix well, but this location was even more important

for us because we wanted an easy-to-reach destination from across Europe as travel is intrinsic to both our careers. Also, we'd like our daughters to have plenty of options for study and work in the future,' says Silvia. 'Transport links are ideal and compared to other ski resorts in the Alps, Chamonix offers a great mix of public services and facilities, as well as excellent entertainment and shopping. There's also a true international community here.'

While based in their main home in Milan, Silvia worked alongside architect Annalisa Mauri to draw up plans for the chalet, which, naturally, had to be constructed from the foundations up. 'Our brief to Annalisa was for a comfortable, easy-to-use building, teaming elegant, contemporary fixtures with a touch of classical mountain style,' says Silvia. The idea was to source reclaimed timber for the structural elements, such as the beams and roofing, while securing the core with reinforced concrete. The double-height living area was an integral part of the design. 'I oversaw all of the work once the site was excavated,' adds Silvia, 'and continued to supervise right until completion, even though I was pregnant with Anna [the couple's youngest daughter] for the final four months of the project.'

In all, it took a little over 18 months for construction to be finished. 'Then we drew on Annalisa's expertise to help fit out the chalet,' says Silvia. Reclaimed oak flooring and cladding is a constant theme throughout the house, while more on-trend touches, such as the steel lining the chimney breast and supporting the floating staircase, add an industrial element to the look. Practical considerations are well to the fore, too – the ski/boot room and bedrooms and bathrooms on the ground floor give the family the chance to change in comfort once they return from the slopes, so freeing the living spaces up above of any clutter. These latter rooms also offer a measure of privacy, as the upper floors are not overlooked by any of the neighbouring properties.

The kitchen is one of Annalisa's designs, chiming in with the decor downstairs with its waxed-iron extractor hood and African black marble worktop. Italian excellence is evident wherever you look: ranging from the stunning, custom-made chandelier hanging in the double-height living area to the chic seating, subtle soft furnishings and stylish accessories. The bedrooms and bathrooms are also masterclasses in modern minimalism, showcasing standout pieces while keeping the schemes pared back and pristine. Furnishings were sourced from a mix of well-known brands, small independent companies and second-hand shops, and some pieces were designed by Annalisa and made to order.

In keeping with the low-key ethos of the decor, Silvia doesn't go overboard when dressing the house for the Yuletide festivities. And who would, knowing that the sparkling and snowy slopes of the Alps can provide all the Christmas cheer one could need. 'It's just perfect,' says Silvia. 'I've been skiing since I was four and now my daughters can enjoy my passion, too. I know they're going to love this place as much as I do...'

To see more of Annalisa Mauri's architectural and design portfolio, visit [annalisamauri.it](http://annalisamauri.it)



## HALL

The pendant contrasts brilliantly against the oak flooring and cladding. **Get the look** The vintage Venini pendant was bought at auction – try 1stdibs for similar. The reclaimed larch door was made by Luxury & Rustic by Brondello Erminio.



## KITCHEN

Stained-oak cabinets, black marble worktops and sink, and a sculptural waxed-iron extractor hood make a striking combo.

**Get the look** The kitchen was designed by Annalisa Mauri and built by Alessandro Sormani for Esse81. The waxed-iron extractor hood was created by Fratelli Rusconi. The hob is by Gaggenau. The tap is by Zucchetti.

## HOME PROFILE

**THE OWNERS** Silvia Rovere, CEO of a property management company, her husband Andrea, a banking executive, and their daughters Margherita and Anna, plus Audrey the dog.

**THE PROPERTY** A chalet in Chamonix, France, built in 2015. On the ground floor is the entrance hall, boot room, three en-suite bedrooms, a bathroom and garage. In the basement is a living area, media room, kitchenette, laundry room, utility room, wine cellar, gym, guest bedroom suite and sauna. The first floor comprises the kitchen/breakfast room, dining area, living room with mezzanine living area and the master bedroom suite.



### DINING AREA

Part of the main living room and enclosed by reclaimed cladding and rafters, this space has a snug, embracing atmosphere. **Get the look** These are Motek chairs by Luca Nichetto for Cassina. This is the Royal chandelier by Mario Nanni for Viabizzuno. The glassware is by Iittala. The artwork is by Mimmo Rotella - Christie's occasionally auctions his work.





## MEZZANINE

A few bookcases have turned this area of the main living room into a library. The open staircase allows for views of the alpine scenery. **Get the look** The farmhouse table is antique - try The French House for similar. The chair on the mezzanine is the Louisiana by Vico Magistretti for DePadova.



↑ **MARGHERITA AND ANNA'S BEDROOM**

An artfully crafted wood bed blends seamlessly with the chalet's timber structure. The balloon lights punctuate the scheme.

**Get the look** The bed was designed by Annalisa Mauri and made by Alessandro Sormani for Esse81. The bedding is by Ivano Redaelli. These are Memory wall lights by Boris Klimek for Brokis.

↖ **MAIN BEDROOM**

The picture windows throughout the chalet were designed to look like frames to make the views appear like artwork.

**Get the look** This is the Maxalto Lucrezia-Erik bed by Antonio Citterio for B&B Italia. The bedding is by Ivano Redaelli.

← **MARGHERITA AND ANNA'S BATHROOM**

The architect showed her eye for detail by sourcing this reclaimed stone basin, then designing a vanity unit to suit.

**Get the look** The vanity unit was made by Alessandro Sormani for Esse81. Find a similar basin at The Stone Sink Company. This is Pipe brassware by Marcel Wanders for Boffi.



## MASTER EN SUITE

Stylish contemporary fittings make bathing a breeze.

**Get the look** This is the Sabbia bath by Naoto Fukasawa, with Aboutwater bath/shower mixer by Piero Lissoni, all for Boffi. These are Leis ceiling lamps by Peter Zumthor for Viabizzuno.

