

ELLE DECORATION

THE
STYLE
MAGAZINE
FOR YOUR
HOME
MAY 2018
£4.80

THE SECRET OF
SIMPLE
LIVING

STEP INSIDE THE WORLD'S
MOST SERENE HOMES

BEAUTIFUL
SPRING BUYS
OUR EDIT FROM THE
HIGH STREET & ONLINE

SPA STYLE AT HOME
BATHROOM SPECIAL

THE BEST OF ITALIAN DESIGN



SOOTHE YOUR SENSES

Let the muted tones of this Italian home convince you that you don't have to forego colour and fun to live the simple life

Words PIP MCCORMAC
Photography FABRIZIO CICCONI/LIVING INSIDE
Styling FRANCESCA DAVOLI



Living room A dusky shade of duck-egg blue – try Farrow and Ball's 'Parma Grey' – gives this home its cosy feel. The mohair sofas are vintage designs by Willy Rizzo and similar rugs can be found at Golestan. Stockist details on p213 ►



There's a tendency to think minimalism means a lack of colour. That only white surfaces, uncluttered by signs of family life – photographs, mementoes, stacks of mail discarded on your way through the front door – can be classed as truly minimal. But isn't it time for a perception shift? Could the term perhaps be redefined to mean not a lack of things, but a mood that we can all create – one of calm, homely comfort?

That was the thinking behind including this home just outside the pictureque Italian city of Bologna in our simple living edit. Because, even though its owners Valentina Muggia and Giuliano di Paolo have not held back on displaying their beloved items, the choice of soft, pared-back colours – greyish tones of blue, green and white – shows artful restraint. As a result, rooms that could have felt busy or cluttered strike a more tranquil tone. 'We placed great importance on the influence that colours and craftsmanship can have on our emotions

and wellbeing,' says Valentina, who runs Borgo delle Tovaglie, a home accessories company, with Giuliano. 'We could never imagine ourselves living in a house with empty walls,' adds Giuliano. 'The small details of our home enrich us and make us feel full of poetry.'

Poetic is indeed a fitting way to describe the ambience of this house, with its gentle, romantic lighting and textures. 'I love the atmosphere that lamps create,' Valentina says, referring to the collection of original 1950s designs that pepper each room in her home, giving off a cosy, diffused glow.

'We love to create environments that are characterised by contrasts,' adds Valentina, alluding perhaps to the aspect of this home that makes it such a masterpiece of minimal design, despite its owners' refusal to adhere to any of the usual rules of that aesthetic. Here, the rich bustle of everyday family life exists in a space that also allows room to rest and recharge. borgodelletovaglie.com



Den Adjoining the kitchen, this is a peaceful space with sage green walls – try Neptune's 'Moss' paint for similar. The rug is an antique find and the formica-topped side tables from Borgo delle Tovaglie complement its pattern
Kitchen A cedar worktop sits above bespoke cabinetry made of oxidised iron. The dramatic ceiling light is a prototype from Valentina's latest collection for Borgo delle Tovaglie
Stockist details on p213 ►



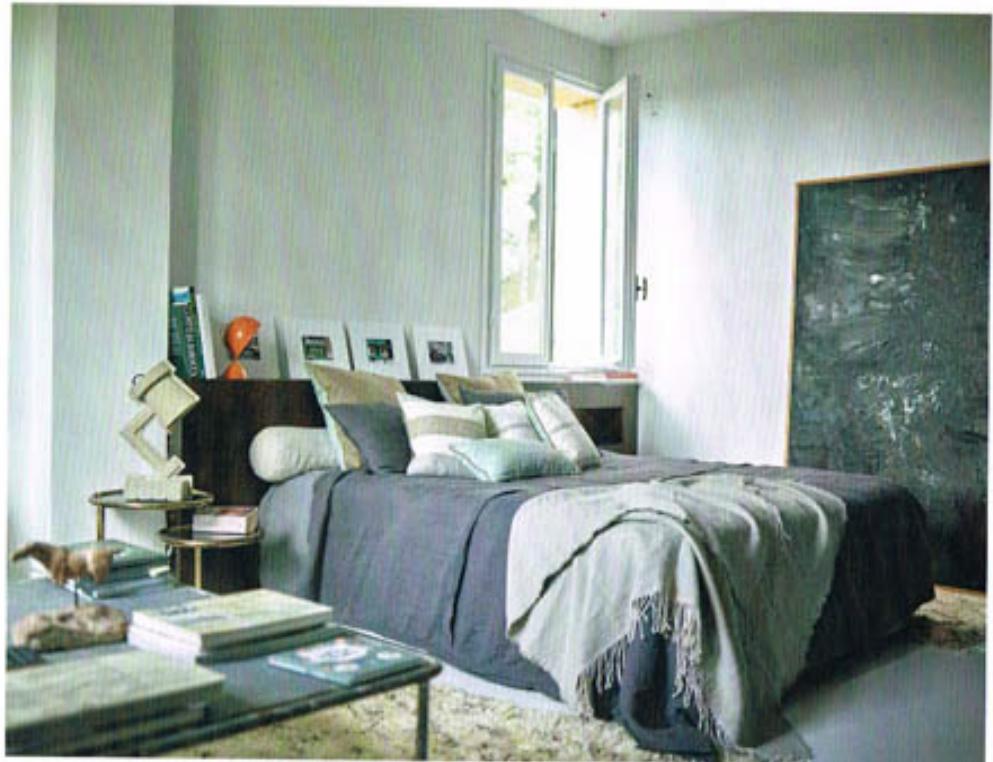
MINIMAL COULD BE
REDEFINED TO MEAN
NOT A LACK OF THINGS,
BUT A MOOD THAT WE
CAN CREATE – ONE OF
CAIM, HOMELY COMFORT



Above Vintage Beni Ourain rugs soften the look of this small seating area beside the bedroom. The pendant light is the 'Moon Lamp' by Verner Panton. Stockist details on p233 ►



'WE COULD NEVER IMAGINE OURSELVES LIVING IN A HOUSE WITH EMPTY WALLS. THE SMALL DETAILS OF OUR HOME ENRICH US AND MAKE US FEEL FULL OF POETRY'



Detail, far left The hall features a large painting by Gabriele Talarico of the owners' children
Bathroom This compact space has a vintage feel, with a basin set into a reclaimed wooden unit and muted harlequin-patterned wallpaper by Valentino
Bedroom Bedlinen from Berga delle Treaglie is layered to create a sumptuous look. The small artworks above the bedhead are by Italian painter Vincenzo Bendini. Stockist details on p213