



# SKI-LODGE LUXE

*There is nothing basic about this Alpine chalet,  
which features a mix of opulent furs,  
dark woods, leather and ethnic touches*

Words **EMMA LOVE**

Photography **FABRIZIO CICCONI/LIVING INSIDE**





**W**hen holidaying with her family as a child, Laura Gasparini became enchanted by the chic Dolomites ski resort of Cortina in northern Italy. Years later, the architect introduced her husband Maurizio, a notary, to the town's charms. 'Cortina is very special,' says Laura. 'At sunset, the pink reflections of the mountains on the landscape are gorgeous. It's a very romantic place.' In 2012, the couple bought a three-bedroom, three-bathroom, 150-square-metre apartment there for themselves and their 13-year-old son Rocco. Three hours' drive from their main home in Bologna, it is the perfect place for winter ski weekends. The family usually stay for the entire month of August.

'I chose this apartment for its position,' she explains, referring to its fantastic views of the three-peak Tofane mountains. 'I was looking for a big, open-plan building without too many

structural restrictions – a space that would allow me to start from scratch. The light, the windows and the view were the most important factors,' she says.

At the heart of the project, which took six months to complete, was Laura's decision to abandon the traditional red-and-yellow toned woods, such as larch and fir, that grace the exteriors of most local cabins. Instead, she chose ash grey and black hues of wood, oxidised by frost and reclaimed from old barns. Timber lines the floors, ceilings and walls. 'It's like a cocooning shell,' says Laura. 'The dark colours of the apartment, mixed with the light pouring in from the big windows, produce a comforting atmosphere. That's what's important. It's not the look of the sofa or the cushions that create a home, but the sensation of the place; how it makes you feel.'

Aside from wood, the cabin is decorated using mainly iron and leather. 'It wasn't necessary to use a lot of colour. I wanted the same vision in all of the rooms,' Laura says. She designed much of the furniture herself, employing local artisans to realise her ideas. Her husband and son had a few specific design requests, too: Maurizio asked for the coats to be hung in the hallway from hooks, rather like meat in a butcher's shop window (see left), while Rocco wanted plenty of shelving to store all of his ski helmets. 'I planned for the apartment to be finished in December, in time for Christmas,' Laura recalls. 'The day before my husband and son arrived, I worked for 24 hours continuously to get it ready. When they walked through the door, I had candles lit and a bottle of wine opened. It was the perfect way to begin the holiday.'

Festive season or not, the family always make the most of their time at the apartment. 'In the mornings we go out skiing, then in the afternoon we read in front of the fire,' says Laura. The best times are those spent relaxing: 'I travel a lot for work and life is so busy that it's nice to have time here to chat with my son.' >



**This page** Looking out over the Dolomite mountains, this home is a skier's paradise  
**Opposite** Reclaimed wood covers all of the kitchen walls and cabinets, while the countertops are made from black stone







**Living room** A black leather and iron coffee table designed by the owner is surrounded by sofas from Meridiani. The cushions are from Borgo delle Tovaglie  
Stockist details on p213 ▶



**This page** The cabin is decorated with a quirky selection of items, including cushions and earthenware dishes from Borgo delle Tovaglie, vintage candleholders and Tibetan paintbrushes  
**Opposite** All of the furniture in the dining room was designed by the homeowner  
Stockist details on p213 ►

THE DARK COLOURS, MIXED WITH  
THE LIGHT POURING IN FROM  
THE BIG WINDOWS, CREATE  
A COMFORTING ATMOSPHERE'





## MY STYLE

**My biggest must-have** in a home is the right atmosphere.

**I would always spend money on** good materials and craftsmanship.

**My favourite memory here** is the Christmas when my husband

and son saw the finished apartment.

**My best piece of style advice** is to view the space while it's empty so that you can understand how the light transforms it.

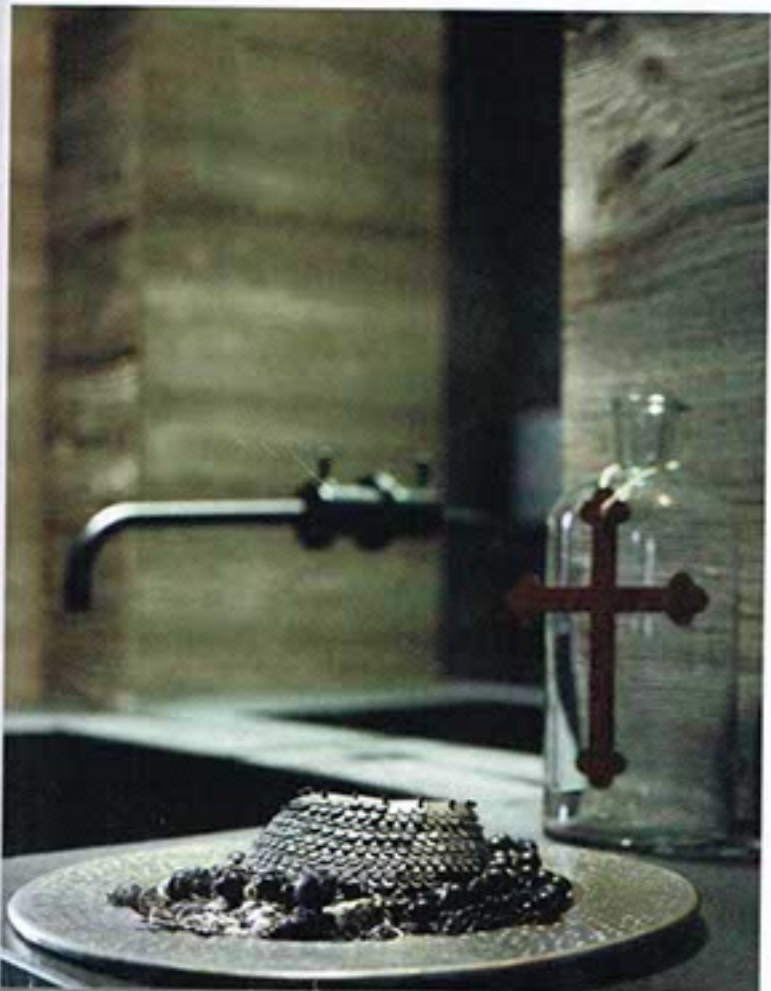
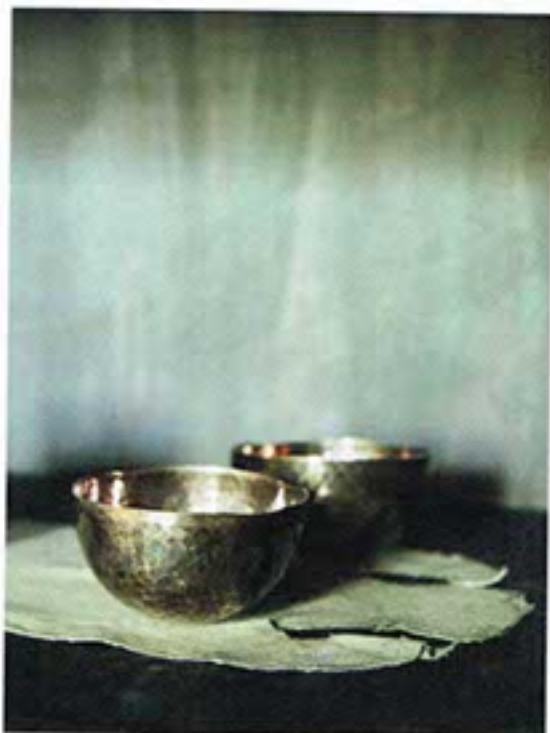
**My home** is the story of my ideas.





**Opposite** An elk horn sculpture is mounted above the bed in the main bedroom

**This page, from top** The bunkbeds in Rocco's room are draped in reindeer throws; copper bowls from Bali sit on a Stingray leather; Indian trinkets and a custom-designed faucet from Vola Stockist details on p213 



#### THE PLAN

- 1 BATHROOM
- 2 MAIN BEDROOM
- 3 BEDROOM AND EN SUITE BATHROOM
- 4 KITCHEN
- 5 BATHROOM
- 6 BEDROOM
- 7 HALLWAY
- 8 LIVING AREA
- 9 BEDROOM
- 10 BALCONY