



HEAD FOR THE HILLS

PHOTOGRAPHY MONICA SPEZIA/LIVING INSIDE WORDS ANNA BISAZZA

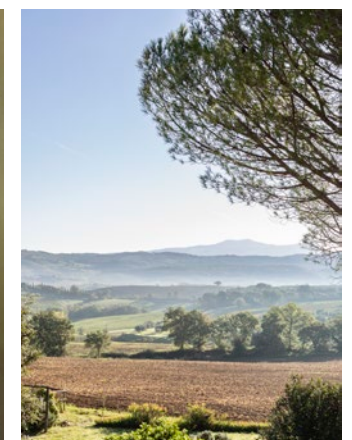
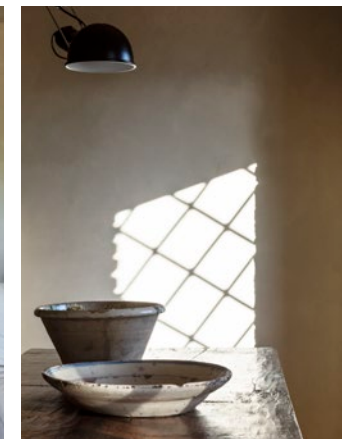


With countryside views of Tuscany, a restored and remodelled granary is the perfect rural bolthole



GRAIN EFFECT

Barbara and Mario Catoni from Florence kept the integrity of the property and used a soft grey blue (a popular colour locally) on the doors and windows. Inside, the fabric and materials of the building were conserved while the couple expressed their personalities with a clever mixture of iconic design pieces that range from Castiglioni lamps to white Le Corbusier soft-cushioned armchairs and colourful ethnic textiles (opposite)



MATERIAL GAINS

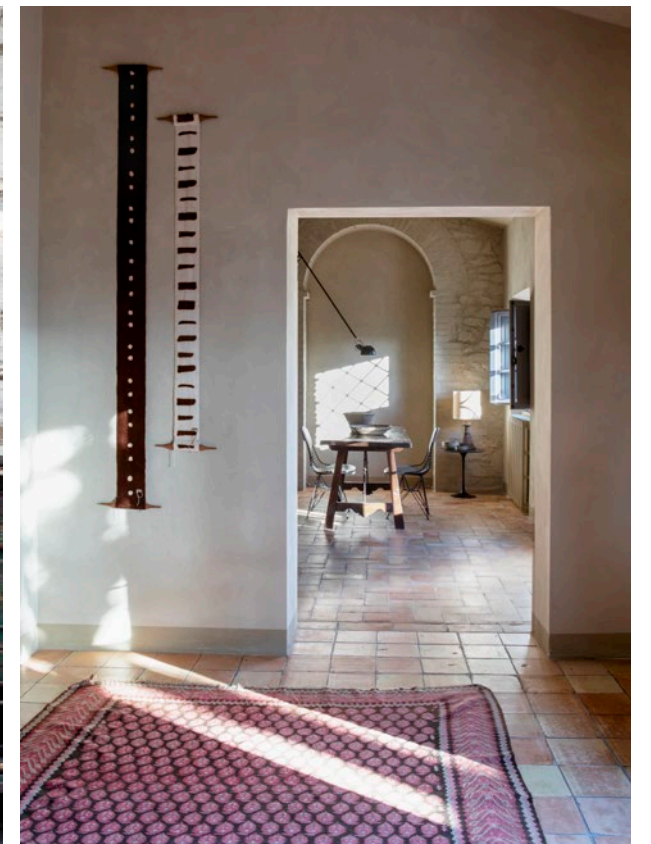
A warm, smooth cement was used for the new kitchen's worktops, which form a continuous simple run, part-separated by a wall (opposite). "We didn't want these spaces to feel excessively modern," Mario says. "The bottom cabinets are made with repurposed wood from a large old door we got from a junk-dealer friend. The resulting look is polished but not too far from the original aesthetic"





CLEARLY ESSENTIAL

At one end of the building, an old shed that was used to house farming machinery and tools was enclosed with glass and iron doors and a cement floor (opposite). It is a handy multifunctional space that the owners now use for everything from cleaning tools after olive-picking in autumn to restoring furniture. "We love the seasonality of country living where spaces adapt to the necessities at each time," says Barbara, who fondly remembers her grandparents' farm, their lives marked by work in the fields





DAWN TO DUSK

Throughout the house, intricately woven and appliquéd textiles such as kilims, rugs and bedspreads create splashes of vibrant colour against the terracotta floors and softly plastered walls. All the rooms mix antique finds with modern or vintage pieces such as this old Moroccan bedspread, bamboo 1930s lamp and a Pugliese vase. The large field in front of the house, which gives onto cyprus-lined hills, is a constant reminder of the seasons, as it transforms from the brilliant vermilion of blooming poppies in spring to the warm yellow of the wheat ready to harvest at the end of summer (opposite) 🌻

