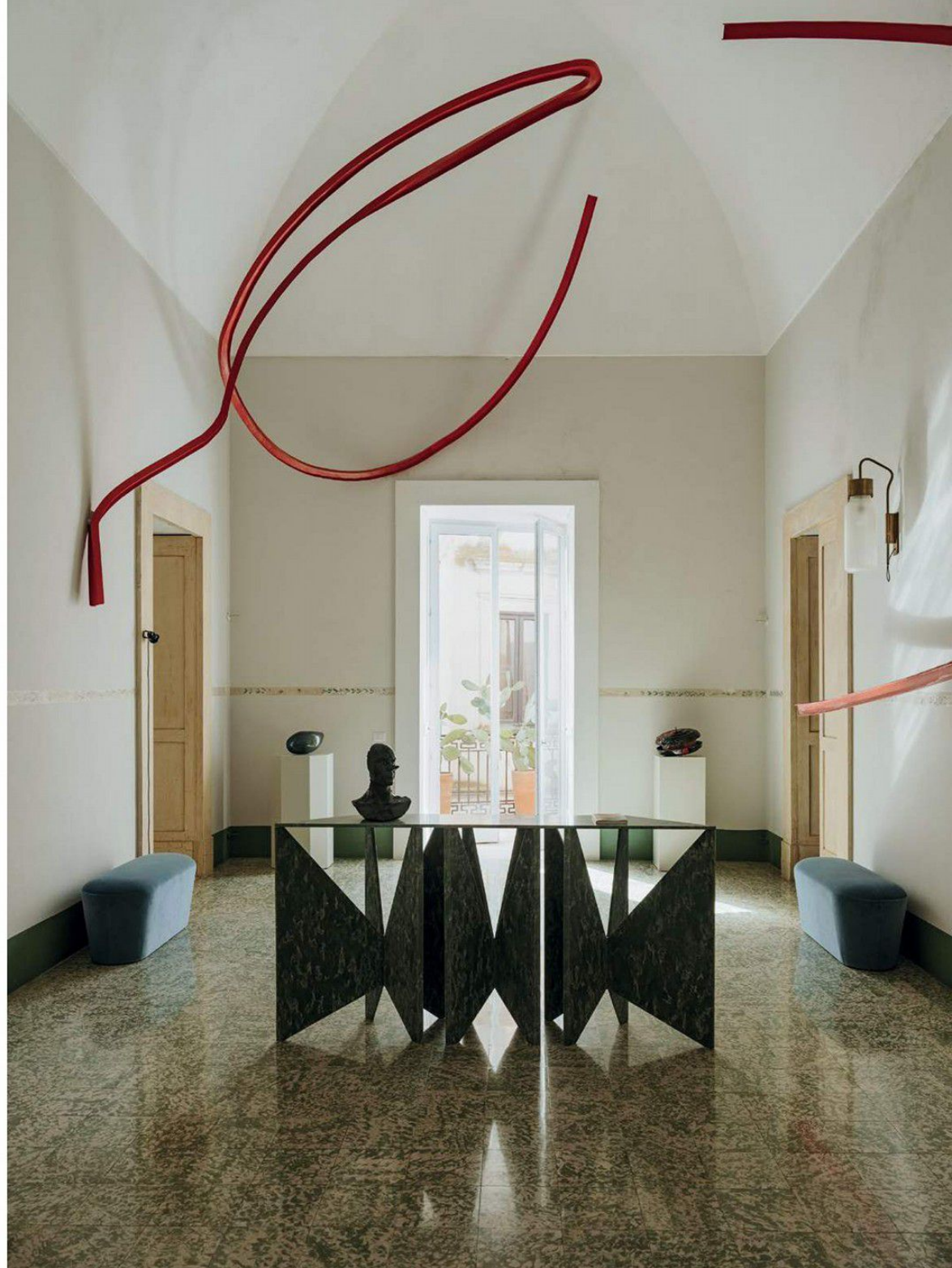


# SLEEPING BEAUTY

## *Kissed by the Light of Salento*

Walking the deserted, dusty streets of this baroque town in the deep south of Puglia, you feel like time has been forgotten, and the last foreign footsteps to walk these worn limestone floors could be a century ago. But this is the end of September. If we had visited a month earlier, there would have been a different scene. Puglia is one of the world's hotspots, and the unchanged towns swell in the summer months attracting a well-heeled crowd from all around the world.





Ten years ago was a different story. Puglia was a place for northern Italians to find the sun in August, and towns like Galatina were yet to be discovered. Antonio Ludovico Scolari and Christian Pizzinini are two eclectic souls with two different viewpoints of the world. Brought together by love and a love for a nomadic life, they live between Milan and Galatina. Surrounded by invaluable pieces and contemporary artefacts, their passion for art and design turns into a creative journey made of light and the celebration of beauty. Not content with only collecting pieces, and with lives animated by a constantly revolving collection of people, Christian and Antonio love to share their home with guests.

Meeting fifteen years ago in Brescia, Antonio's hometown, they spent three years working together at Christian's press office in Alta Badia, in the Dolomites. A short stint in Paris was soon replaced by the sun in Puglia. A dear friend introduced them to the marvellous baroque architecture typical of this region, and for a second time, they fell in love.

What brought you to Galatina?

*Antonio:* At first, we discovered Nardò, one of the ancient villages of Salento. We wanted to put our ideas into a place not yet known and we stumbled upon an apartment in the historical centre that led us to experience what later became our decorative project, an unstable blend of contemporary style and local dimensions. After furnishing the apartment with the bare minimum, we lived there for just twelve days. An architect, Emiliano, fell in love with the house after reading about us in an article about digital nomadism. And that was that. That was ten years ago, and since then we have never looked back.

*Christian:* Shortly after, we came across the opportunity to buy one half of Palazzo Mongiò dell'Elefante. The building had remained uninhabited for seventy years. The baroque charm of the building, the impressive square footage and the contrast between the architecture of two main floors seemed perfect to welcome our design collection.

In just six months we had it restored with the purpose of preserving the internal virtues, the cement tiles and the internal-door decorations. The first space to regain life was the entrance hall on the ground floor, at the entrance of the old stables, towered by impressive star vaults. Limiting the interventions to the minimum we managed to let the original allure shine, preserving its identity and enhancing the majesty of the spaces.

Galatina, which we like to call "Sleeping Beauty", placed in the ever so slightly "Gattopardo" Salento, is a wonderful and fascinating treasure chest that encloses the charm of an ancient duchy; we genuinely think its beauty has to be seen at least once in life and we found it in Palazzo Mongiò dell'Elefante.

Where did you get the idea of opening your home to guests?

*Antonio:* On the one hand, it's a shame to keep a 600 square-meter house all to yourself, and on the other, it helps with the bills (he laughs); as everyone knows, buildings

