

# *A Peaceful Path*

In the midst of Milan  
Giampiero Peia and  
Marta Nasazzi find repose

text: Jen Renzi photos: Nathan Kirkman





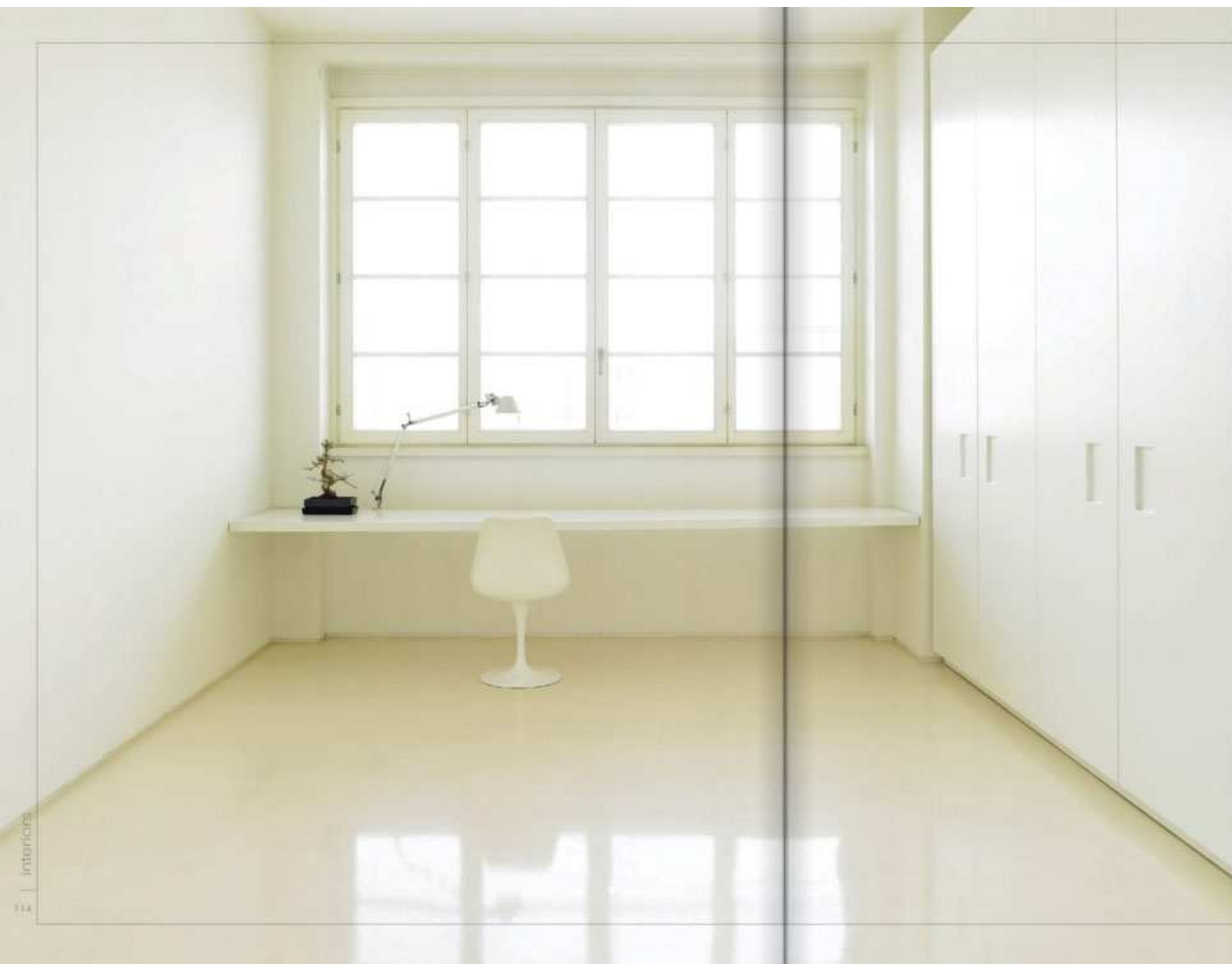
GIAMPIERO PEIA AND MARTA NASAZZI SPEND more time sleeping on planes than in the serene surrounds of their Milan loft. Any given week may find the itinerant couple jetting to far-flung locales—Shanghai, Qatar, Ghana, Benin. And not, alas, on holiday: the couple, partners in the Milanese architecture firm Peia Associati, are the creative visionaries behind large-scale commercial and residential projects across the globe, from luxury apartment complexes to high-end showrooms for brands like BMW and Living Divani. “We work a lot,” Nasazzi confesses.

This restful, meditative retreat reflects the couple’s embrace of Buddhism “...as a philosophy, not a religion,” Nasazzi explains. Marked by the spirituality of negative space, every aspect of the home is a thoughtful counterpoint to their fast-paced professional life, alleviating their hectic travel schedule and inspiring decompression. Indeed, it lies southwest of the city’s historic center—a mere five-minute cab ride from the Milano Linate airport. “The location is fantastic—both for us and for our clients, who fly in from all over the world,” notes Nasazzi. Moreover, their office is in the same building, one flight below. “At first, I worried about not having a boundary between home and work, but now I appreciate the convenience,” not to mention the car-free commute because, “Milan, you know, is one big traffic jam!”





THE OPEN PLAN FOR THE LOFT RESEMBLES A WHITE box gallery, with creamy poured resin floors, ecrupainted walls, a sandstone-clad bath and stark kitchen cabinetry. But unlike the pale walls that frame the formal qualities of contemporary art, the couple's space is dedicated to the familiar and subtle pleasures of everyday life. Small stones, the intimate corners of sleep and thought—are all arranged in a revered cacophony. "The neutral backdrop sets off the furniture, so you can read their lines," Nasazi explains. "The objects take on a sculptural presence." Indeed, the pale palette emphasizes contemporary furnishings, such as the living room's silver leather beanbag, Marcel Wanders floor lamp and low-slung sectional by friend and frequent collaborator Piero Lissoni. Surprisingly, instead of fading into a neutral void, Eero Saarinen's Tulp chairs become pronounced against the monastic canvas. The whitewashed envelope, Nasazi adds, is also more conducive to redecoration, as Venini vases, embroidered throw pillows and contemporary artwork are frequently added and subtracted. "When you change your life, you also change the objects around you, no?"



ADDING AN ELEGANT CONTRAST TO THE AUSTERE surroundings, a raised teak plinth deck extends the full length of the loft like an indoor terrace. The platform starts at the kitchen—where vintage bentwood Thonet chairs bracketing the stainless-steel counter form a breakfast nook—then winds through the living room and into the master suite. “It’s a technical space, really,” says Nasazzi. “We hid all of the gas and plumbing lines underneath.” The raised floor becomes a surround for the master bath’s sunken soaking tub—designed, like all the fixtures, by Peia for the Italian manufacturer Cisal. Daringly, it’s also within view of the kitchen—barely visible through a billowing white curtain that can be drawn for privacy.

Beyond, the couple’s bedroom is a case study in quietude: containing only a low, dark-stained four-poster bed, an aqueous Marcela Bormac photograph and a hand-tufted linen carpet. At night, a backlit glass step near the walk-in closet emits a soothing glow. But the most evident manifestation of the loft’s anti-materialist and life-embracing spirit is the second bedroom. For now, the room is blissfully empty, sheltering another Tulp chair and a pensive topiary, but both believe it’s destined to become a nursery. With one foot in the clouds and another firmly planted on the ground, it embodies the ultimate luxury for a pair of harried designers: a peaceful state of mind ■ Peia Associati, 30, Via Cadolini, Milan, Italy, +39 02-6598647 [peiaassociati.it](http://peiaassociati.it)