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A sinistra, nel soggiorno, i divani *Esosoft* di Antonio Citterio per Cassina richiamano le venature gialle del marmo Sky Jade che riveste la parete del vano scala. Poltrone *Cité* di Jean Prouvé, Vitra; tavolino *Kyoto* di Gianfranco Frattini, Poltrona Frau; tavolino di servizio *Awa* di Naoto Fukasawa, B&B Italia; lampada *Equatore* di Gabriele e Oscar Buratti, FontanaArte; tappeto blu di Paola Lenti. In apertura, il fronte della villa: incastonata nella roccia e immersa nel verde, si apre sul patio con piscina a sfioro. Protagonista dello spazio esterno, la scultura in bronzo di Matteo Pugliese alta tre metri. Lettini *1966 Adjustable Chaise Longue* di Richard Schultz, Knoll. ● *Left, in the living room, Antonio Citterio's Esosoft sofas for Cassina recall the yellow veins of the Sky Jade marble that clads the wall of the stairwell. Cité armchairs by Jean Prouvé, Vitra; Kyoto coffee table by Gianfranco Frattini, Poltrona Frau; Awa side table by Naoto Fukasawa, B&B Italia; Gabriele and Oscar Buratti's Equatore lamp, FontanaArte; blue carpet from Paola Lenti. At the beginning, the front of the villa: embedded in the rock and immersed in greenery, it opens onto the patio with an infinity swimming pool. Protagonist of the external space, Matteo Pugliese's three-metre-tall bronze sculpture. Richard Schultz's 1966 Adjustable Chaise Longues, Knoll.*

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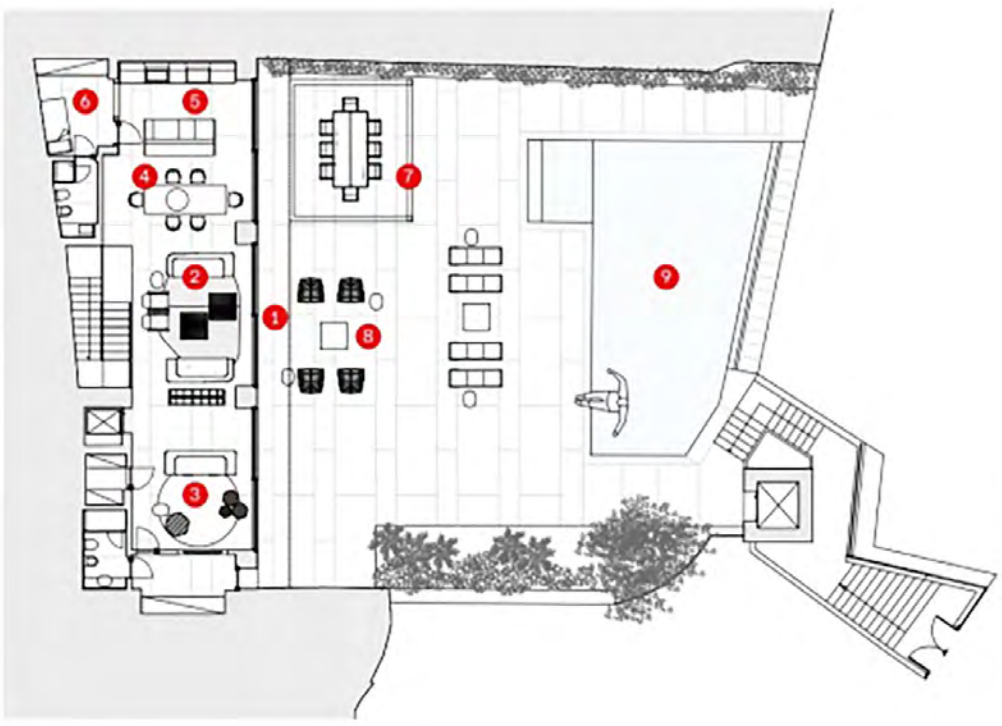
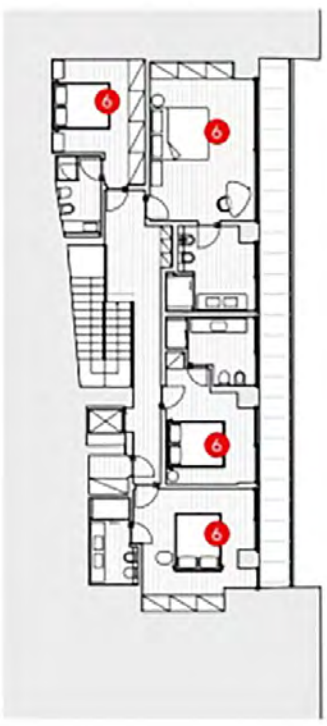
Sopra, veduta della villa: lo sviluppo orizzontale e le trasparenze annullano il confine tra interno ed esterno. Nella pagina accanto, la libreria *Veliero* di Franco Albini, Cassina, separa il soggiorno dalla zona TV. Divano blu *Esosoft* di Antonio Citterio, Cassina e pouf *Berry* di Paola Lenti in giallo. • *Above, view of the villa: the horizontal organization and transparency eliminates the barrier between inside and outside. Facing page, Franco Albini's Veliero bookshelves, Cassina, separate the living room from the TV area. Antonio Citterio's blue Esosoft sofa, Cassina, and yellow Berry pouf from Paola Lenti.*

Ground-floor plan



First-floor plan



Project
Villa Cinzia
Architect
Buratti Architetti
Location
Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy

1. Entrance
2. Living room
3. TV room
4. Dining room
5. Kitchen
6. Bedroom
7. Outdoor dining area
8. Outdoor living area
9. Swimming pool

0 1 5 m

Sopra, il continuum visivo tra soggiorno, patio, piscina e mare. Pouf *Picot* di Paola Lenti. Nella pagina accanto, l'approdo della scala al primo piano: il marmo riveste le pareti del vano a tutta altezza, mentre il pavimento di legno bianco, più confortevole e adatto alla zona notte, sostituisce il Lapitec utilizzato al piano terreno. • *Above, the visual continuum between living room, patio, swimming pool and sea. Picot pouf from Paola Lenti. Facing page, the landing of the stairs on the first floor: marble clads the walls of the stairwell all the way to the ceiling, while the floor of white wood, more comfortable and better suited to the sleeping area, replaces the Lapitec utilized on the ground floor.*

• *The villa at Santa Margherita Ligure, between the Monte di Portofino and the blue of the Gulf of Tigullio, designed by Buratti Architetti for a couple of art collectors, is only visible from the sea. "Every room in this summer residence holds an uninterrupted dialogue with the horizon," says the architect Gabriele Buratti, founder with his brother Oscar of the Milan-based practice. "The house is surrounded by walls of rock on three sides, while the fourth, the only open front, faces onto the bay. The view is filtered by the patio and the infinity swimming pool, on whose edge a huge bronze sculpture by Matteo Pugliese seems to be falling backwards into the water. It is a strong and poetic presence that conjures up the joyful plunges and carefree days of childhood."*

Built from scratch, the house is laid out on two levels plus a furnished roof-garden. On the ground floor, the ample open-plan space of the living area is divided into three sections: entrance and living room in the middle, dining area with kitchen on one side, TV area with changing room on the other; on the upper floor, four suites with marble-clad bathrooms complete the sleeping area. The stairs are a work of sculpture around which turn the various spaces. The first flight, with steps of white Sky Jade marble with acid yellow veining (the stone that also clads the three walls of the stairwell), is followed by a second with white wooden steps, in a continuity of material with the floor on this level, and a stepped underside of supermirror steel. "Everything is reflected in there: the sea, the furniture, the people, the stairs themselves. It's like in the sculptures of Jeff Koons and Anish Kapoor: the reflective metal distorts reality and the perception of the viewer. It's a play of formal inversion and dilatation of space, a bit of magic that transforms it and turns it into something else," explains Buratti. "Central to the design then is the theme of white, which dominates as a material even more than as a colour. It evokes the holidays, linen clothing, the lightness of warm summer evenings, and pervades both the outer shell and the inner one."

Architecture, interior design and furniture design are interwoven in a coherent narration that embraces maritime imagery through the palette. The functional containers are built into the white walls of the architectural box, while the furniture sails around the space, tinged with the deep blue of the sea, the yellow of the sun and the pale tones of the wood of old boats and deckchairs worn by salt spray. The table and storage unit of the dining area are both custom-built from wood and blue in colour, and the outdoor table is finished with yellow ceramic. Around them are works of contemporary art on the wall and designer pieces. "Each element has its own value, a unique character, like a small objet d'art," concludes Buratti. And the art here is not just something to look at, but an excuse to feel well: in company, with bare feet, while the light permeates the spaces and the sea calls, from just over there. ■

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