



## Magenta Apartment

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Aptitude Studio was founded in 2011 by Tommaso Calini and Alessandra Cervia. The studio is known for its refined and customized working method, which can be seamlessly adapted across various scales thanks to a thoughtful and pragmatic approach. Each project undertaken by the studio emerges as a reflection of the unique spatial and personal needs of its clients—much like a tailored suit, where every detail must be carefully calibrated.

Aptitude studio does not aim to create sterile environments, but rather spaces that are livable and lived-in, where signs of presence, traces of human interaction, and the suggestion of encounters are clearly visible. Their strength lies in its ability to interpret the specific requirements of each project and to listen to clients' needs with discretion and flexibility. Through careful study and rigorous research, the studio explores the underlying meaning of each architectural endeavor. Through empathy, it understands the needs of the people it serves. The word "Aptitude" in English captures the studio's philosophy—an approach rooted in attentive listening that precedes any design response.

This apartment, located in Milan's Magenta district, sits in a striking late 19th-century corner building. Tommaso and Alessandra share a deep sensitivity to the spirit of a place, something they felt immediately upon entering this space—even beneath the lowered ceilings and Sixties-era klinker tiles. It felt like the true soul of the apartment was hidden inside a box within a box. Their mission became to reveal it.

The first step was to restore the vertical volume by raising the ceilings back to nearly four meters. Tearing down walls uncovered original arches, which they chose to highlight as defining features. Although the stucco detailing had long disappeared, the team knocked on neighbors' doors to see what remained in similar units. Finding preserved elements, they created new molds to faithfully replicate the original decorations.

Curved shapes in the architecture were offset by sharper, more geometric ones—like the bold zigzag flooring in the hallway. The furnishings are an elegant mix of curated pieces, with a custom microcement kitchen table. Custom-built elements are everywhere, each perfected down to the finest detail.

[www.apitudestudio.it](http://www.apitudestudio.it)

*Photography: Helenio Barbeta*







