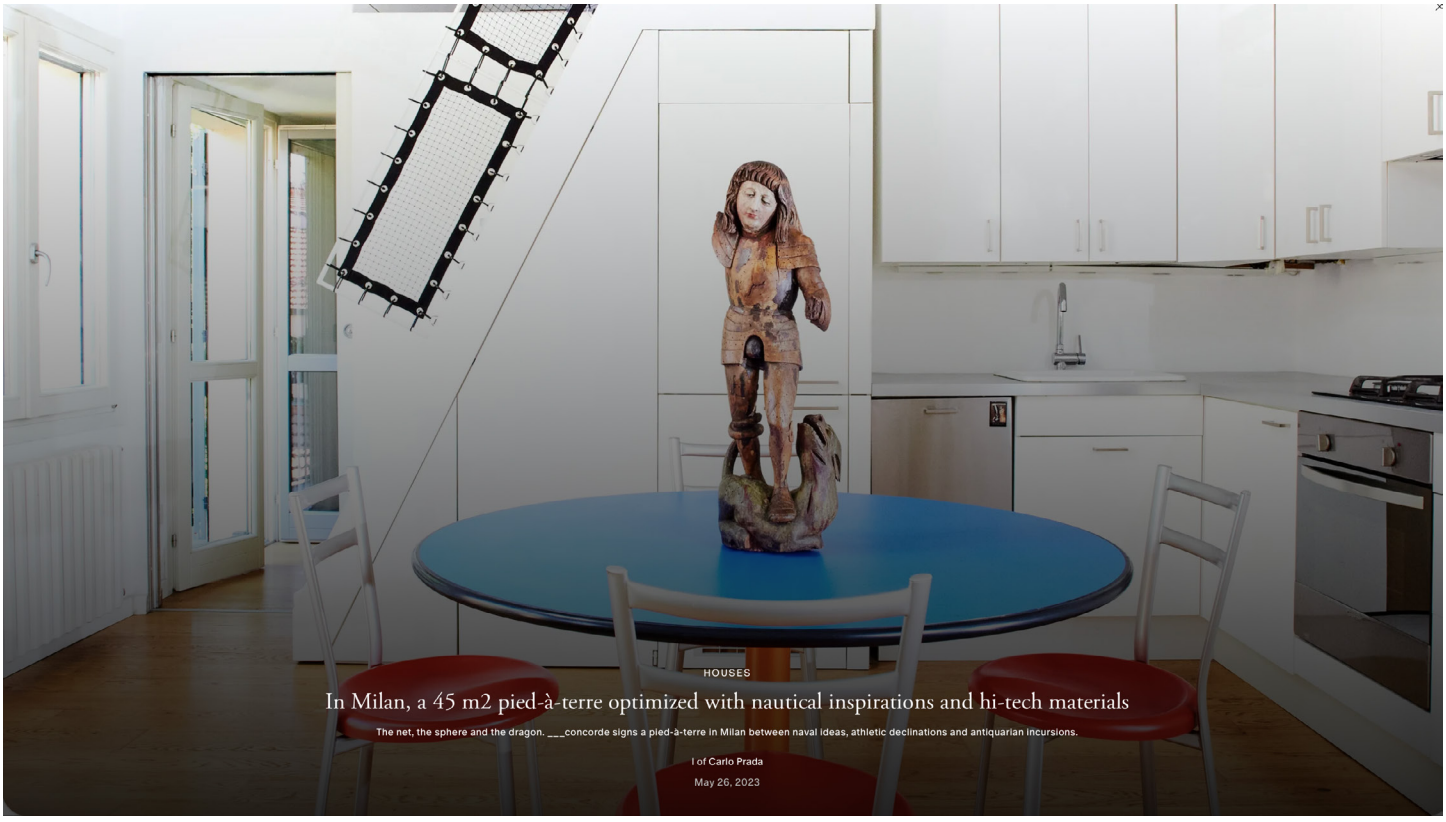
Carlo Prada, “In Milan, a 45 m2 pied-à-terre optimized with nautical inspirations and hi-tech materials”, *AD*, 26 May 2023.

AD



HOUSES

In Milan, a 45 m2 pied-à-terre optimized with nautical inspirations and hi-tech materials

The net, the sphere and the dragon. ___concorde signs a pied-à-terre in Milan between naval ideas, athletic declinations and antiquarian incursions.

by Carlo Prada

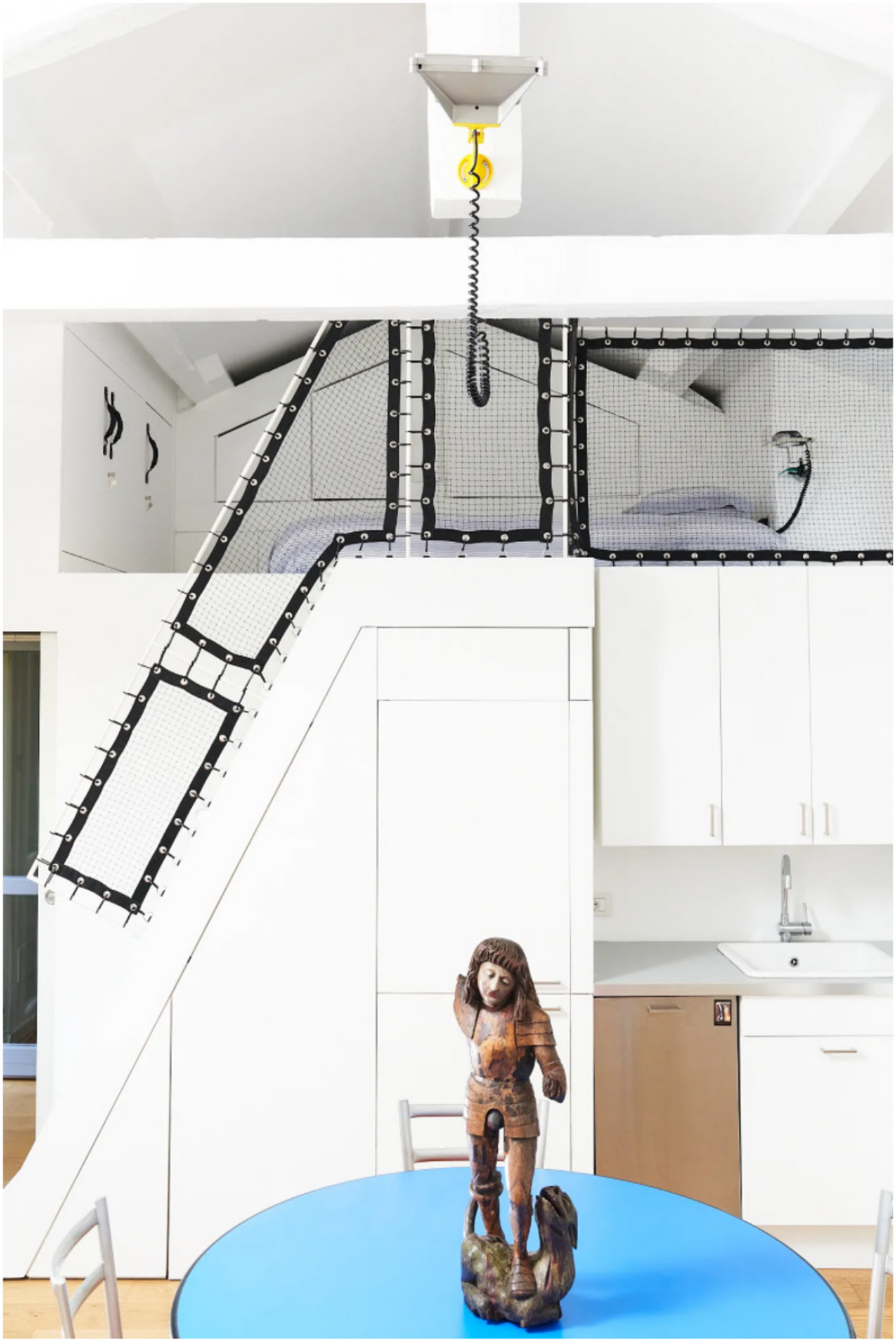
May 26, 2023

Milan by railing, Navigli area. Lively exchange district, where finding a quiet corner seems like a bet. Then, behind one of the many doors, **a well-kept courtyard, overlooked by residences and architectural firms**. It is here that the owner, stationed in London, decided to establish his second domicile. A strategic position that would allow him to participate in that reality animated by bars and restaurants but, at the same time, to escape the frenzy of the nightlife by silencing it once he crossed the threshold of the house. In a city like Milan, where every empty space can prove to be precious, **how to optimize the scarce forty-five meters of this pied-à-terre** located on the second floor of a fifties building?



Concorde round table; Freesbee chairs by Lucci Orlandini for Calligaris; Strip sofa by Cini Boeri for Arflex; Concorde's dresing table; wooden sculpture depicting Saint George and the dragon, southern Germany, early 16th century. Photo Federico Floriani

___**concorde** has taken up the challenge and imagined the small square footage available from scratch, appealing to the key principles of its aesthetic manifesto: using **hi-tech materials**, often with extra-domestic purposes of use, applying them to the private sphere and **giving the environment a decisive**, urban **layout**, sometimes athletic when not childishly playful. There were two starting points: **the architrave** and **the** connecting **staircase** to what was originally intended to be a storage room.



Concorde round table; Freesbee chairs by Lucci Orlandini for Calligaris; Lingotto wall lamp by Renzo Piano for iGuzzini; wooden sculpture depicting Saint George and the Dragon, southern Germany, early 16th century. Photo Federico Floriani

The first, which resembles the tympanum of a temple or the inverted keel of a ship, virtually divides the apartment in two. Over here, **the living area with an open kitchen** and a round dining table, made by the studio by recycling the column foot of Driade designed by Antonia Astori. Around, Lucci Orlandini's *Freesbee* seats for Calligaris: vividly colored discs intended to break the optical white of the environment, while aluminum and plastic cool the parquet floor. As a sofa, the iconic *Strips* by Cini Boeri with modular modules, flanked by a steel *side table* with a mesh shelf, always signed ___concorde. Above the living area, in the center of the architrave, a Lorenzo Piano lighthouse with a spiral cable and lemon yellow attachment, which the architect created in 1994 for the Lingotto in Turin.

Beyond this structural partition, ___concord has also exploited the **maritime theme** for the coating of the steep staircase that leads to the **sleeping area**: the parapet is in fact completely covered with fall-resistant mesh panels, a trademark, stamped on the metal balustrade through nickel-plated eyelets and plastic ties. The triangular shape of the architrave is duplicated in the **custom-made wardrobe** that flanks the bed, equipped with kayak handles and which, like all other flush wall compartments, is intended to collect personal belongings.



Custom steel bookcase NM3; Ettore Sottsass desk for Olivetti; Kikka Active ergonomic armchair; Ferdinand Porsche Jazz lamp for Paf. Photo Federico Floriani

To isolate the bed, from which **you feel a bit like aboard a catamaran**, we opted for an almond-shaped rubber puzzle mat, one of those used in the gym. Electric blue, like the table top that can be seen on the lower floor. The adjoining room instead, separated from the area just described by a retractable sliding door, houses the study. The supporting element of the latter is the custom-made **NM3 steel visible bookcase** whose screws, fuchsia, recall the anodized ones of motorcycles and the color of the yoga seat intended for the Olivetti desk by Ettore Sottsass.

The living cell thus conceived is **airy and consistently organized**. And if the perception is that of an environment between the late nineties and the two thousand, ___concord contrasts it with the insertion of **another theme dear to the study**, founded in 2020 by Nelly Hoffmann and Carlo Prada: the **medieval one**. In fact, a wooden sculpture from the sixteenth century stands out on the table, depicting **St. George taming the dragon**. After all, even taming forty-five square meters requires a good dose of heroism.



Foto Federico Floriani

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Tavolo rotondo Concorde; sedie Freesbee di Lucci Orlandini per Calligaris; scultura lignea raffigurante San Giorgio e il drago, Germania meridionale, inizio XVI secolo.