

BIG DREAM IN A LITTLE TOWER

"A secret meeting place" for Fattoria di Maiano - Fiesole (Florence)
designed by Simone Micheli



Property and client | **Conte Francesco Miari Fulcis - Fattoria Di Maiano**
Project for interior design and lighting | **Arch.Simone Micheli**

Category | **Historical residence**

Planning | **2015**

Realization | **2017**

Place | **Via Benedetto da Maiano 11 - Fiesole (Florence) - Italy**

Photo by | **Juergen Eheim**

Private External Area | 100 sqm

Tower height | h.15

Internal Area | 65 sqm - 4th floors

Ground Floor | 16 sqm - day area

First Floor | 16 sqm - living

Second Floor | 16 sqm - suite with bath

Third floor | 16 sqm - wellness center

Courtyard | 100 sim



Property and client | Conte Francesco Miari Fulcis - Fattoria Di Maiano

Yesterday Like Today: The Timeless Beauty of Maiano's Tower

In 1844 Sir John Temple Leader, a wealthy Englishman who was the son of a London industrialist and loved to travel, moved to Florence with his wife Maria Luisa de Leoni. Temple Leader bought the land a few miles outside of the city on the hills that extended between Fiesole and Florence close to the ancient hamlet of Maiano. He embarked on a series of projects that revalorized the area: reforesting and restoring around 80 hectares of deserted stone-quarries, rebuilding the Castle of Vincigliata, expanding the Villa of Maiano (the set of the movie "Room With a View"), restoring "Villa I Tatti" (today a campus of Harvard University), and enlarging the village. He created a romantic park on the banks of the Mensola creek where, near the quarry "of the columns", he created a pond and transformed stonecutters' paths into wonderful secret trails.

These special places had welcomed many important visitors in the past, including Leonardo Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Benedetto and Giuliano da Maiano, Boccaccio, Vasari, and Lorenzo il Magnifico, but they had been forgotten until Sir Temple restored them to their past splendor.

The Romantic park, now called "Of the Queen", was named after Queen Victoria of England after her visit there on April 12, 1883 when it was officially inaugurated. The ancient quarry was named after the precious columns of the Cappella dei Principi of San Lorenzo in Florence, which was built entirely of the stones from the quarry. Many masterpieces have been created by important ancient masters who used stones extracted from the quarry.

When Temple Leader passed away reconstruction work continued uninterrupted under the guidance of the Stori-Corsini family, which bought all of the farms, the village, and the Villa of Maiano. The Stori-Corsini understood the potential and unique beauty of the place. In 1961, Lucrezia Corsini married the Venetian Count Giacomo Miari Fulcis and inherited the entire property of over 300 hectares, continuing its development. For the past 25 years the Fattoria di Maiano has been an organic farm that is an attractive pole for experimentation and research that combines agricultural production with hospitality, activities, sports and top-quality restaurants.

The Genesis of the Tower of Maiano Recovery Project

An ancient nineteenth-century neo-gothic tower, commissioned by Sir John Temple Leader between 1870 and 1894, is now located near the Pond of the Columns.

The tower is characterized by a wonderful fairy-tale appearance. It was long uninhabited, secret, and hidden. It was, nonetheless, essential to the landscape.

In 2015, thanks to the vision of Architect Simone Micheli and Earl Francesco Miari Fulcis, an ethical, clever project came to life: the BIG DREAM IN A LITTLE TOWER.

Their intention was to restore the use of this secret meeting place, transforming the tower into a fascinating, elegant and refined suite, a material transposition of a new, emphatic, tangible conception of luxury. It is a space where art, cooking and relaxation blend together, with the aim of creating an experimental place and timeless work of art, capable of generating an effective and extensive communication, transforming itself into a pole of attraction that captures one's imagination. The project was presented during Milan Design Week in 2015 through the mobile application, which took visitors on a virtual tour of the project, from the Pond of the Columns, to the Fattoria of Maiano. The visitor was able to virtually explore the entire project, living an emotional experience. The exhibition was a huge success during the days of the Fuorisalone, and gradually, step by step, Simone and Francesco's vision was transformed into a real recovery operation for the ancient tower.

"My intention with regard to the recovery of the tower is to offer an experience that will remain a strong memory. That is my universal approach to architecture: to make sure that my works express a density of emotions and meanings, capable of penetrating the deepest parts of an individual, giving them the opportunity to live a full and unconventional everyday life." Simone Micheli

A bold and ingenious idea brought this project to life, which is designed to leave its mark in the memory of each visitor, returning a jewel of rare beauty to the territory and allowing visitors to be fully immersed in a lovely temptation suspended between the past and the future.

Thanks to the intelligent and precious participation of selected internationally renowned companies that helped realize the idea, it will be possible to enjoy a new, authentic work of art.

Timeless beauty of Maiano's tower

Simone Micheli has designed the interiors of Laghetto delle Colonne's Tower, better known as Maiano's Tower, transforming it into a welcoming and enduring work of art. The tower is wrapped in a fascinating aura, offering the visitor a sensational, dream like and super-dimensional experience. The tower becomes an imaginary place that offers its customers a different perspective and the possibility of understanding and reflecting on the deepest meaning of experience, freeing the mind from its day to day habits.

"The project of Maiano's Tower is characterized by a synesthetic and multi-sensorial approach that connects the user to the work." Simone Micheli

The tower, surrounded by the green of Romantic Park and reflected in the water of the pond below, is a harmonious and central element in the structure of the landscape that allows the visitor's imagination to wander unbounded. The geometric lines that characterizes the outward appearance of the tower are softened by the aging past and by the vitality of the surrounding nature. From the outside and the interior of the tower there isn't a clear limit but a continuous exchange without end.

The ancient tower is converted into an extreme luxury suite where past, present and future are immediately integrated. Similarly, the lights and shadows are merged into a play of regards that captures the sight and human senses; it creates new, dynamic, unfathomable areas in the space.

The walls of the structure show the sign of time, the furniture that Architect Simone Micheli made especially for the occasion are essential, fascinating, pure and perfectly fit with the rest of the environment, causing a timeless break in the cycle of everyday life.

On the ground floor is an elegant and welcoming kitchen; it's a clean and pure area in which the senses are stimulated and the guest is encouraged to experience flavors and aromas. The kitchen is equipped with all of the comforts that create the ideal atmosphere to prepare excellent dishes.

An ancient, safe, spiral staircase leads to the first floor. Here a welcoming living area allows you to relax and to find your lost harmony. Minds are put at ease, the sofa gently welcomes the body. The surfaces reflect in the mirrors, deforming the space, the outside enters through a reflection of images.

A little balcony over the pond offers the visitor a breathtaking landscape making it an essential part of the experience. It also contributes to a luminous, fluid, seductive and extremely comforting aura of beauty.

On the second floor the environment becomes essential and perfect to host a client in a candid suite room with a geometric designed bathroom. This space kindly lulls the guests from the night through the next morning. The fragments of mirror on the walls reflect the contrast between the past and the present, and the present and the future; the furniture is characterized by fluid and soft forms, and the limpid lighting creates a sharp temporality in which the only existing perception is the present: this moment.

Transparency, open-space and clearness characterize the bathroom area; in this room perspectives are enhanced.

Going even higher we reach the third floor, dedicated to wellness and relaxation. The space is completely dedicated to restoring the balance between mind and body.

Each piece of furniture is characterized by soft lines and the violet of the chairs communicates a sense of energy and vitality. The multifunctional turkish bath and a dedicated area with herbal teas, characterizes the space and become the essential parameters of a virtuous contest reinforced by the rugged walls and the intrusion of the original wooden paneling and carpentry.

A minimal and contemporary design style staircase leads to the exterior; here it is possible to find a comfortable solarium-space that envelopes the visitor, as he continues the wellness experience he started with his entrance in the tower.

This last soft-touch brings to an end a luxury refined experience lived during one's journey in the tower.

This work of art expresses its being as a place-work, distinguished by a combination of beauty and functionality.

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TECHNICAL SHEET

GROUND FLOOR

-White-lacquered wooden windows | all floors | Vitali Windows & Doors

-Recessed "Pixel Plus" adjustable 17W - 2000 Lm. - Led Warm White - CRI80 - Spot Optic (18°) | body in die cast aluminium | ground oor, 1st and 2nd oors | iGuzzini Illuminazione

-Touch" switch series -Switches, front plates and automation | all floors | AVE

-Kitchen: front surfaces made with brushed r solid wood with horizontal veining, opaque white-cream RAL 9001 lacquered nishings. It is composed by a linear wall furniture-block where fridge/freezing and integrated hob are inserted. Doors have both handles and push&pull opening. Day area, with supporting surface and sink, is constituted by a peninsula shaped block with led illumination and folded manufacturing panels. Holes and pro les are made in aluminium with shiny inbox nishings. Working surfaces are made by white solid surface | Callesella Contract, design Simone Micheli

-"Infinito" chrome handles | ground floor and 1st floor | Pamar, design Simone Micheli

-Kitchen sink "Water Units" Collection and tap with shower "Lot" Collection | Dornbracht design Sieger Design

-(EX) Round table, diameter of 140 cm, die-cast white cream RAL 9001 lacquered aluminum structure with crystal surface | Casprini, Design Jorge Pensi

-"Wire chair" seating collection in coated tube and steel wire, white cream RAL 9001, for indoor and outdoor | Casprini, design Simone Micheli

-Mirrors with white graphics | Vetreria Bazzanese, design Simone Micheli

-“Doodle” Suspension lamp, in a nickel finish. Each element is entirely hand-crafted and connected with cable | Terzani, design Simone Micheli

1° FLOOR

-Lined Sofa with macro-head, Eco Leather upholstered with nice stitchings that make the covering beautiful and that underline the tailor made and well- finished details | Touch of Style, design Simone Micheli

-“Diamon” modula pouf available with or without glass surface, Eco Leather upholstered | iFranchi Italia, design Simone Micheli

-Skin collection” ecoleather for sofa, pouf | 1st floor | Gamma - Texilia

-“Doodle” Wall lamp, in a nickel finisch. Each element is entirely hand-crafted and connected with cable | 1st and 3rd floors | Terzani, design Simone Micheli

-Transparent crystal shelf, highly thick | Vetreria Bazzanese

-“Gilda” vase which light | 1st floor | Cyrus Company, design Simone Micheli

-“Bottiglia” Lamp in solid iron, with led light. Diameter 56 cm – h.180 cm, white cream RAL 9001 varnished | Barel, design Simone Micheli

-“Donut” round mirror frame | Vetreria Bazzanese, design Simone Micheli

-Carter TV with glossy lacquered framework and mirror reflection front side by Vetreria Bazzanese | AD design, design Simone Micheli

-White cream RAL 9001 lacquered column furniture, with door and minibar | AD design, design Simone Micheli

-The K ECOSMART minibars thank to the patented Smart System are ultra-quiet and in energy efficiency class A+++ . | Indel B

2° FLOOR

-“Mizu - owing light”, suspended lamp, white crystal. Like waterdroplets, no two Mizu are alike, each crystal shape is unique and made meticulously by hand | Terzani, design Nicolas Terzani

-Bedroom wardrobe. White cream RAL 9001 lacquered wood. Mirrored front surface with acidity graphics by Vetreria Bazzanese and “Hole” handle by Pamar, design James Irvne | Leonardo Laboratorio di Costruzioni, design Simone Micheli

-“SAFE 30 PLUS SMART” Safe Plus Smart combines safety with technology and design | Indel B

-“Cubiko” bed with integrated bed-head and with mattress and night table. White cream RAL 9001 lacquered wooden structure | Sacea - Cyrus Company, design Cyrus Company

-“Clessidra” round table made with forged reinforcing bar, white cream RAL 9001 lacquered wooden surface. 73cm diameters - 45 cm high | Barel, design Simone Micheli

-“Cervo” Accessory in solid iron, width 144 cm – h.180 cm – depth 77 cm, white cream varnished | Barel, design Simone Micheli

-Two-facial wall made with mirror with acidic graphics. It has rails and sliding door to enter into the bath area | Vetreria Bazzanese, design Simone Micheli

-“My Bath” bath furniture made by solid surface with sink, mirror and shelves | ARCA, design Simone Micheli

-Extra clear shower-wall with sliding door | Vetreria Bazzanese, design Simone Micheli

-Sink mixer “Meta.02” Collection and shower-head “Water Modules” collection, thermostatic with taps for showers “Tara” Collection | Dornbracht, design Sieger Design

-“OH” vase and vase’s cover made by white ceramic | Simas, design Simone Micheli

-Collection "Light"- scolpito, full body porcelain 120x120 thickness 4.8 mm | bathroom area | DSG ceramiche

-Resin oor "Dega® Concrete", a non-toxic bicomponent product, combines the aesthetic appearance of cement screeds and micro-cements with the chemical and physical properties of resins | 2nd and 3rd floor | Gobetto

3° FLOOR

-Turkish bath made with white solid surface. It has generator and shower, integrated with bench and led illumination. Crystal door | ARCA, design Simone Micheli

-Supply and installation of steam generator with immersed electrodes specific to steam baths, with steam production of 5 Kg/h, remote electronic control, essences dosage system, special steam outlet nozzle made with stainless steel aisi 316 powder coated, white color | Aquaspecial

-Mixer and shower "Lulu" Collection | Dornbracht, design Sieger Design

-Infusions container-furniture, white cream RAL 9001 lacquered wooden structure | Leonardo Laboratorio di Costruzioni, design Simone Micheli

-JOY straight stairs made with steel and glass. Its particularity is created by the dimensional alternation of the structure, by curving corners, by contrast among vertical crystal surfaces and the horizontal whiten beech-wooden ones | Executive, design Simone Micheli

-"Bamboo" Chaise Longue with combinable forms. Foam structure, pulling-out covering made by lilac and ecru textile | 3rd floor and courtyard | iFranchi Italia, design Simone Micheli

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-Alape sink and mono-command mixer only cold water "Tara" collection | courtyard | Dornbracht, design Sieger Design

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