

Contemporary classic

A RENOVATION PROJECT IN THE BUCOLIC SETTING OF THE TIBER VALLEY IN CENTRAL ITALY RECREATES THE TIMELESS APPEAL OF A RURAL FARMHOUSE WHILE ADDING A CONTEMPORARY TOUCH THROUGH A JUDICIOUS CHOICE OF MATERIALS AND FINISHES

by Roberto Negri

THE NEW BUILDING CONSISTS OF A TWO-FLOOR SQUARE CENTRAL VOLUME CONNECTED TO ANOTHER TWO SINGLE-LEVEL STRUCTURES, A VERANDA AND A PERGOLA.

Perched on a limestone hill in the Tiber valley in the central Italian region of Umbria, Amelia is a historic town overflowing with vestiges of its past, including Renaissance buildings and churches and numerous ruins dating back to Roman times. The charming atmosphere of the old town centre is complemented by the view of the surrounding countryside dotted with old stone farmhouses, one of which was recently at the centre of a renovation and expansion project. The owners wanted to maintain the traditional characteristics of Umbrian rural constructions, so this was the philosophy that guided the design and material choices. The result is a splendid two-floor farmhouse complete with an annex and a swimming pool located on the downslope side of the main building.

The new property consists of a two-floor square central volume connected on either side to two single-level structures, one with a double-pitched roof housing the living area and the other with a single-pitched roof for the guest sleeping quarters, as well as a veranda and pergola on the sides facing the valley. An Umbrian natural stone laid using the opus incertum technique was chosen for the facing of the exterior wall, along with terracotta tile thresholds and an entrance door framed by a basalt portal. The annex is a single-level square-shaped structure with a double-pitched roof and a wooden porch on the side facing the valley, in this case plastered and painted in earth tones. "For the choice of interior finishes, we looked for a solution that would allow us to adopt modern





PRIVATE COUNTRY HOUSE

PROJECT
SERGIO MELCHIORRI

PHOTOS
LUCIANO BUSANI

CERAMIC SURFACES
FIORANESE
WWW.FIORANESE.IT

YEAR OF COMPLETION
2020



 Go to the Project Gallery for other non-urban residential in Italy and worldwide



THE PROJECT MAINTAINED THE TRADITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF UMBRIAN RURAL BUILDINGS, AN APPROACH THAT ALSO DETERMINED THE LAYOUT AND CHOICE OF MATERIALS.

SPACES
non-urban residential

APPLICATIONS
floor and wall coverings

ceramic surfaces

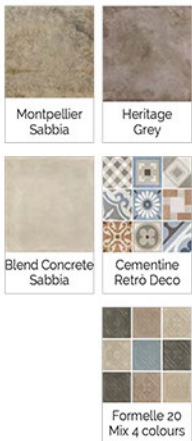
Fiorenese porcelain tile
Montpellier
Heritage
Blend Concrete
Cementine Retro
Formelle 20

technical characteristics

water absorption (ISO 10545-3): compliant
modulus of rupture and breaking strength (ISO 10545-4): compliant
deep abrasion resistance (ISO 10545-6): compliant
coefficient of linear thermal expansion (ISO 10545-8): compliant
thermal shock resistance (ISO 10545-9): compliant
frost resistance (ISO 10545-12): compliant
chemical resistance (ISO 10545-13): compliant
staining resistance (ISO 10545-14): compliant

certifications

LEED, EMAS, ISO 14001





materials while maintaining traditional warmth and appeal,” says architect and project manager Sergio Melchiorri. “We found sand-coloured porcelain tiles from Ceramica Fioranese’s Montpellier collection to be the best choice for the interior flooring inside the farmhouse, their irregular colour enhanced by the combination of three different sizes in striking contrast to the geometric regularity of the rooms.” Given the material’s good anti-slip properties (compliant with Italian Ministerial Decree no. 236 regarding the elimination of architectural barriers), it is also suitable for use in outdoor areas, blurring the distinction between the interior and exterior in terms of materials and colour and enhancing the sensation of being immersed in nature. Several other Fioranese collections were also used in the project. In the guest bathroom, Formelle_20 collection tiles in four colours and a variety of decorations were chosen to ensure a seamless transition between the shower floor and wall. In the upstairs bathroom, the planed wooden floor planks were combined with the sand-coloured Blend series, while the corner washbasin and shower are decorated with the Cementine_Retrò cement tiles chosen in a variety of colours and geometries. This modern take on traditional terrazzo tiles perfectly sums up the spirit of the project. In the annex, the use of the Heritage collection in the colour grey and four sizes has produced the same result as in the farmhouse itself, combining a traditional sensation of warmth with a more contemporary look in terms of heterogeneous colour and geometry. The same series in smaller sizes was used for the walls in the kitchenette and shower.

THE INTERIOR SURFACE COVERINGS REPRODUCE THE COLOURS AND TEXTURES OF TRADITIONAL MATERIALS, BUT WITH A CONTEMPORARY TWIST THANKS TO ORIGINAL COMBINATIONS OF COLOURS AND SIZES



RELATED ARTICLE

Nature is a need

WWW.CERAMICA.INFO/EN/NATURE-IS-A-NEED/