

One last thing...



World-renowned and known for her forward-thinking designs, Patricia Urquiola talks pushing the boundaries of design and the importance of feeling connected to your home

Words: **Yvette Murrell**

What have you been up to lately?

I'm always keeping busy and like to have lots of projects on the go. Most recently I designed a range of large ceramic slabs with Mutina called Cover. It was the first time I had worked with such a large format, so it was an exciting and challenging project to be part of. The slabs we used are made of a clay material with a gritty texture which creates a base for the patterns to be printed on using a traditional silk-screen method. The patterns are transferred onto the surface by pouring ink over a fine mesh and stencils. The results are irregular but striking, reminiscent of the changing look of the sky and movement of the clouds.

Aside from this, I have also collaborated with bathroom manufacturer Laufen on a new collection of sanitaryware called Sonar. I wanted to push the boundaries of design in the bathroom and created a range of statement washbasins and a bathtub made from Laufen's uniquely smooth and thin ceramic composite material, SaphirKeramik.



Did you always want to work in design?

I wanted to be an architect for as long as I can remember. I studied architecture at Madrid Polytechnic before moving to Milan to complete my studies. It was there I truly fell in love with design, thanks to my incredible teachers Marco Zanuso, Tomas Maldonado, and Achille Castiglioni, who inspired me to think differently. In fact I'm very honoured to be the curator of a new exhibition of Achille's work at La Triennale di Milano in October.

What's your career highlight so far?

I decided to open my own studio in 2001. It was a big step, but looking back, it was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

Describe a typical day...

It really depends on where I am in the world – and I'm usually dashing from an airport to meet a client or visiting a building site, factory, or hotel. But if I'm at my home in Milan, I'll have a slower start to the day by having breakfast with my daughter and husband before heading to my studio to work, followed by a relaxing evening dinner with my family and friends.

What inspires you to come up with new ideas?

Everyday life, whether I'm travelling for work or at home walking around my neighbourhood. I've been fortunate enough to work with lots of interesting people around the world who have shown me so many fascinating things I would have

never seen as a tourist. Art, literature, music, cinema, fashion, it all inspires my creativity, – and really, there is no border between my professional and personal life. The two feed into each other.

What's your golden rule for great home design?

Always look for ways to link your interior choices with your emotions. For me, it's important to feel connected to your home. Only pick things you feel will add value to you and your home, using quality materials like wood, stone, and glass. Be flexible with your vision and don't be afraid to mix and match colours and textures.

How would you sum up your own style in three words?

Passionate, energetic, intense.

patriciaurquiola.com
domusgroup.com
laufen.com

10 second round-up

Favourite place to shop?

Dover Street Market, London.

Perfect way to relax?

Reading a good book.

Favourite food?

Gazpacho.

Favourite music?

Anything by Cat Power.

Favourite era?

The future!

← The Sonar collection from Laufen.

↓ Cover, Patricia's latest collection for Mutina, is available exclusively at Domus.

