CASE

The wallpaper is the protagonist of the house of golf champion Francesco Molinari

by Valentina Raggi

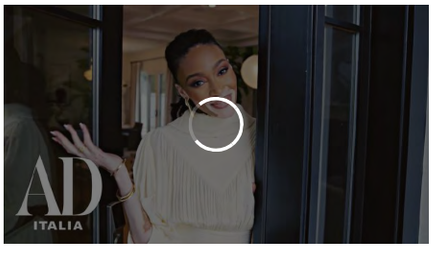
22 February 2024

In the living room, the bottle green dye alternates with fancy wallpaper, with CW Stockwell palms that pays homage to the iconic Beverly Hills Hotel and infuses a typically American elegance to the space. Sisal and wool carpet, solid walnut coffee tables by Rose Uniacke and a 1950s washi paper stem lamp from Noguchi. Next to Ceramicah's table lamps and Serge Mouille's floor, ceiling and wall lights, a pair of armchairs by Gio Ponti, Molteni&C. The bespoke sofa was designed by Tomèf and the cushions of Rifat Ozbek give a touch of exoticism to space. Photo Michael Clifford

Wallpaper is the *leit-motiv* of the Tomèf studio that transforms this villa in Los Angeles.

The house is surrounded by dense vegetation, that green and that dreamlike imagery enter the house in the form of fancy wallpaper and dyes, creating an immediate and holistic dialogue between interior and exterior. **We are in Los Angeles, in the new home of golf champion Francesco Molinari** – the first and only Italian to have won the British Open, the most prestigious and oldest major golf championship – and his family. Molinari had no doubts about the designer to whom to entrust **the restyling of the villa, is Toméf,** the studio founded in London by Tommaso Franchi, who has already worked with the golfer Francesco Molinari and his wife Valentina for the construction of two other houses in the past. The underlying idea was clear and simple: to create a luxurious but relaxed villa. «A very good relationship between designer and client is critical to the success of an interior design project, and this remotely designed house during isolation is a testament to our relationship with the Molinari. We knew their way of life and their tastes, and they trusted us to propose an excellent project and manage it without problems," says the architect who, having already established a solid working relationship on previous projects, understood the tastes and lifestyle of the Molinari, making the collaboration perfect, and the project was fully successful. Also because, not a small note, the Molinari bought the house during the pandemic and, since Tomèf resided in London, the entire project had to be managed virtually, remotely.

VIDEO



Winnie Harlow: Tour of her Hollywood-inspired Los Angeles home

In the living room, the bottle green dye alternates with fancy wallpaper, with CW Stockwell palms that pays homage to the iconic Beverly Hills Hotel and infuses a typically American elegance to the space. Sisal and wool carpet, solid walnut coffee tables by Rose Uniacke and a 1950s washi paper stem lamp from Noguchi. Next to Ceramicah's table lamps and Serge Mouille's floor, ceiling and wall lights, a pair of armchairs by Gio Ponti, Molteni&C. and a fabric-upholstered armchair by Pierre Frey, designed by India Mahdavi. The bespoke sofa was designed by Tomèf and the cushions of Rifat Ozbek give a touch of exoticism to space. Photo Michael Clifford

The fantasy wallpaper the absolute protagonist

What immediately catches the eye, once you cross the threshold of the house, is the refined and studied **chromatic palette of fancy wallpapers and colored paints**. The house is located in the quiet residential neighborhood of Brentwood, between Santa Monica and Bel Air, and is, of course, conveniently located 10 minutes from 3 large golf courses. The house was well structured, but its white interiors lacked character and Toméf was commissioned to work on a complete project that would meet the needs of the family and create a home full of personality and originality. Toméf has carefully chosen a palette of neutral colors, fancy wallpapers and green and blue paintings that recall the exterior and create an intimate and relaxing atmosphere in the rooms, each connoting them in its own way and with a precise color. 'In addition to the Italian background of the Molinari family, the Los Angeles location was a rich source of inspiration for us and we enjoyed bringing the Californian lifestyle in the open air and creating an elegant but characterful family home,' continues Tommaso Franchi, who has expertly mixed Italian influences with Californian accents. Tomèf wanted the project to reflect the Italian identity of the family, but also to refer to the Los Angeles environment, and the nods to the heritage of Los Angeles design were introduced through decorative elements and the inclusion of some much-loved pieces owned by the Molinari, and he curated a selection of vintage and new furniture, decorative finishes and art, creating a layered and balanced atmosphere. Tomèf has also designed a range of bespoke furnishings, in addition to all the built-in carpentry elements.

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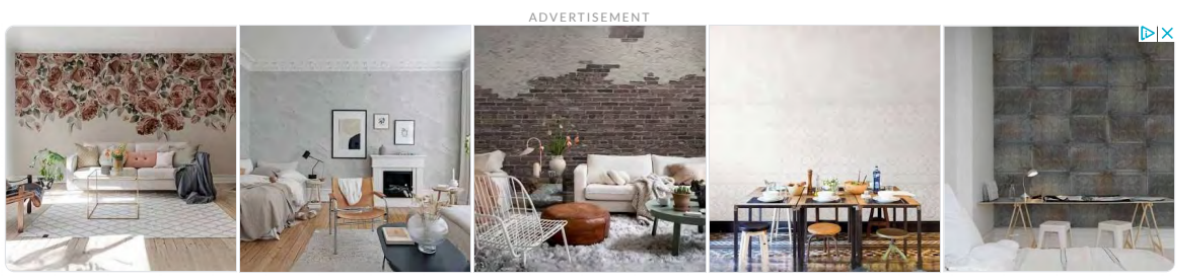

Rebel Walls

A pale green connotes the dining room instead, with walls covered with Phillip Jeffries' fancy wallpaper. The custom dining table was designed by Tomèf in tribute to mid-century Los Angeles and takes its cue from vintage Cadillacs and 1950s hot tables, with a refined silver leaf top finished with clear glass, an edge of playful chrome rivets and backed by a trio of zigzag lacquered and chrome wooden cylinders. Artwork by Los Angeles artist Marco Lorenzetto and a paper ceiling light by Isamu Noguchi with a bespoke red nap dotted the color space. To incorporate a piece of Molinari's Italian heritage, the block printed carpet designed by Tomèf was tailor-made in the community of San Patrignano. Photo Michael Clifford

The exotic-contemporary mood

The representate rooms on the ground floor are a gradient of color, from darker green to the dimest. On the walls and ceiling of the studio, a striking bottle green lacquered effect by **Benjamin Moore** creates a bold, all-encompassing background, which is balanced by off-white details such as **Circa Lighting's** pendant lamp, an embroidered cushion by **Susann Eschenfelder** and the fabric of **Tissus d'Hélène** used for curtains. The environment is sophisticated but closely linked to nature thanks to the selection of furniture made of natural materials, including rattan armchairs, Cassina wooden seats and the Molinari table made from a tree trunk. The color palette continues in the adjacent living room, with the same bottle green color used for the upholstery that perfectly connects the two rooms. In the upper half of the wall, the fancy wallpaper, with palm trees by CW Stockwell pays tribute to the iconic Beverly Hills Hotel and infuses the space with a typically American elegance. Always favoring natural materials and textures, the living room features a sisal and wool carpet, solid walnut coffee tables by Rose Uniacke and a 50s washi paper stem lamp by Noguchi. Alongside Ceramicah's table lamps and Serge Mouille's floor, ceiling and wall lights, a pair of leather-covered Gio Ponti diMolteni**&C** armchairs and an aged black industrial mirror give a contemporary touch. The bespoke sofa was designed by Tomèf and the cushions of **Rifat Ozbek** give a touch of exoticism to the space, while the geometric Pierre Frey fabric of India Mahdavi adds a touch of contrasting fantasy next to an original *Trace* table by Meret Oppenheim for Cassina.

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In the upper half of the wall, the fancy wallpaper, with palm trees by CW Stockwell. Sisal and wool carpet, solid walnut coffee tables by Rose Uniacke and floor lights by Serge Mouille. Pair of armchairs by Gio Ponti, by Molteni&C upholstered in leather. The bespoke sofa was designed by Tomèf and the cushions of Rifat Ozbek give a touch of exoticism to the space.

Tribute to colors and pattern

The dark bottle green of the study and living room fades into a lighter palette of pale green and off-white in the dining room, with walls covered with fancy wallpaper by **Phillip Jeffries**. **The custom dining table was designed by Tomèf in tribute to mid-century Los Angeles and takes its cue from vintage Cadillacs** and 1950s hot tables, with a refined silver leaf top finished with clear glass, an edge of playful chrome rivets and backed by a trio of zigzag lacquered and chrome wooden cylinders. Artwork by Los Angeles artist Marco Lorenzetto and a paper ceiling light by Isamu Noguchi with a bespoke red nap dotted the color space. To incorporate a piece of Molinari's Italian heritage, the block-printed carpet designed by Tomèf was tailor-made in San Patrignano, the esteemed recovery community in northern Italy that teaches craft skills. In the family kitchen, **Tomèf** introduced a bright palette of light blue and neutrals to match **C&C Milano's** fancy wallpaper and curtains made with an opulent Ottoman-inspired fabric by **Pierre Frey**. Cherner's classic chairs surround a Saarinen table, flanked by an oversized floor lamp from **Foscarini**. Above the island, an Ingo Maurer chandelier features love notes in several languages and a selection of precious customer items, including a rainbow designed by her daughter. Rich in colors and patterns, the family living room is animated by another carpet made by **San Patrignano** to a design by Tomèf, a pair of Cassina *Utrecht* armchairs covered in **Dedar** fabric, bright blue coffee tables by **Paola Navone** and a modular sofa by Living Divani.

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The large master bedroom is decorated with a neutral background to compensate for a brighter palette of yellow and blue, introduced through works of art by Marco Lorenzetto and Tom Borgese. Custom-made sofa covered in blue velvet inspired by the work of Jean Michel Frank, author of the featured desk. Michael Clifford

Saturated with natural light, the large master bedroom is decorated with a neutral background to compensate for a brighter palette of yellow and blue, introduced through works of art by **Marco Lorenzetto** and **Tom Borgese**, a bespoke sofa inspired by the work of **Jean Michel Frank** covered in blue velvet. Natural materials are incorporated throughout the environment, such as **Charlotte Perriand's** coffee table and **Jean Michel Frank's** light wooden desk, positioned in such a way as to separate the two main areas of the bedroom. In her daughter's room, a bunk bed designed by Tomèf is enclosed in an arch with curtains, perfect for hosting sleepovers. **Pierre Frey's fancy wallpaper decorates the walls with children's scribbles,** while the adjustable modular shelving and desk are painted in a pale pink by Benjamin Moore.

Tomèf was inspired by the Molinari son's love of maps, travel and geography when he designed his bedroom, which is incorporated through the playful **Pierre Frey** wallpaper and an original Air France poster from the early 60s above the bed. In the playroom, the modular wooden shelves designed by Tomèf act as a backdrop in bright colors, while Pierre Frey's hand-drawn *Native* wallpaper, inspired by the drawings of the American Indians, gives character and a subtle pattern.

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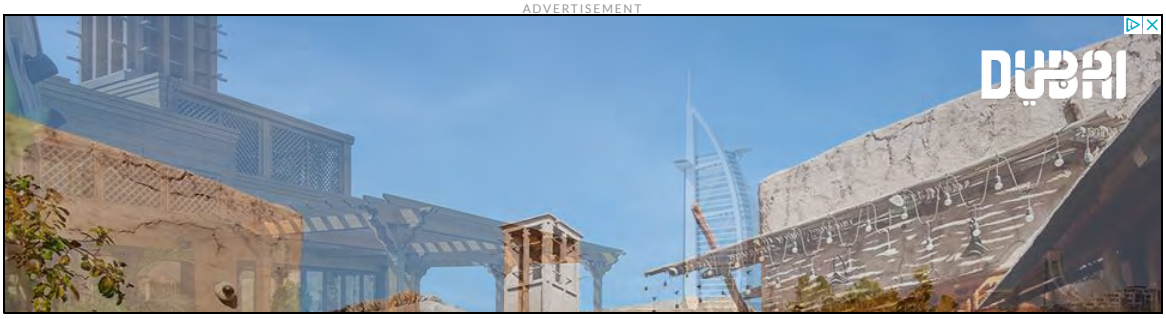

In the family kitchen, Tomèf, neutral and light tones alternating with elements in blue harmonize with the fancy wallpaper from C&C Milano. Above the island, a chandelier by Ingo Maurer features love notes in several languages and a selection of precious customer items, including a rainbow designed by the Molinari's daughter.

Outside, the porch area houses a dining table and benches dining table and benches with rich blue details, custom designed by Tomèf with Made a Mano's Sicilian lava stone tiles. References to the Italian heritage of the Molinari are scattered throughout the house: on the main staircase leading to the second floor, **the original posters of a traditional Vermouth producer from Turin, Molinari's hometown**, are on display. A perfect feeling of home.

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Interior designer Tommaso Franchi with Francesco Molinari and his wife Valentina in their new home in Los Angeles. Photo Michael Clifford

Photo Michael Clifford

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A glimpse of the passage between the dining room and the living room. In the foreground the armchair *D.153.1* f by Gio Ponti (Molteni&C).

Photo Michael Clifford

2/27

In the dining room, the bespoke dining table was designed by Tomèf with a silver leaf top finished with clear glass. Works of art by the artist Marco Lorenzetto and a paper ceiling light by Isamu Noguchi with a red tassel. The block printed carpet designed by Tomèf was custom-made in the community of San Patrignano.

Photo Michael Clifford

3/27

A corner of the living room, with fantasy wallpaper of palm trees by CW Stockwell. One armchair is upholstered in Pierre Frey geometric fabric by India Mahdavi, the other is by Gio Ponti, Molteni&C.. Next to it, an original Table *Trace* by Meret Oppenheim for Cassina. Sisal and wool carpet.

Photo Michael Clifford

4/27

A corner of the living room with an enveloping patterned wallpaper with palm trees by CW Stockwell. Sisal and wool carpet, ground light by Serge Mouille, armchair by Gio Ponti, by Molteni&C covered in leather. The bespoke sofa was designed by Tomèf and the cushions are by Rifat Ozbek.

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Above the kitchen island, on drawing, the chandelier by Ingo Maurer *Zettel'z 5*.

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In the kitchen, a chandelier by Ingo Maurer features love notes in several languages and a selection of precious customer items, including a rainbow designed by Molinari's daughter.

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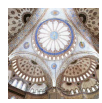

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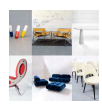

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In the dining area in the kitchen, Cherner chairs surround a Saarinen table, flanked by an oversized floor lamp from Foscarini. On the wall, fancy wallpaper by C&C Milano and curtains by Pierre Frey.

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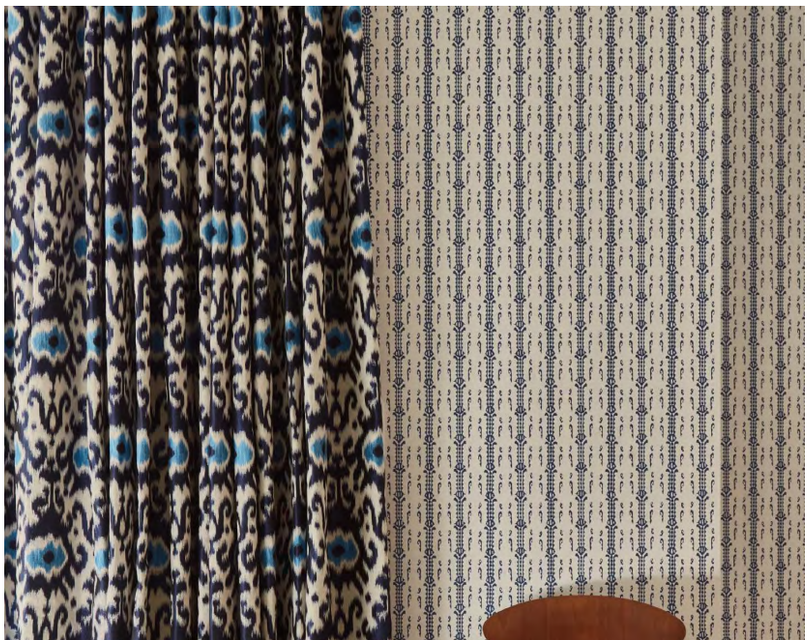

Photo Michael Clifford

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A corner of the kitchen with Pierre Frey fabric curtains, wallpaper from C&C Milano and a chair from Cherner.

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In the family kitchen, Tomèf introduced a bright palette of blue and light neutrals to match the fancy wallpaper from C&C Milano and the curtains made with an opulent fabric of Ottoman inspiration from Pierre Frey.

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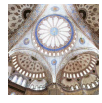

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In the study area, on the walls and ceiling of the studio green paint bottle by Benjamin Moore, pendant lamp by Circa Lighting, *Capitol* in chairs by Cassina and table by the Molinari made from a tree trunk.

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On the walls and ceiling of the studio, a striking bottle green lacquered effect by Benjamin Moore creates a bold backdrop, which is balanced by off-white details such as Circa Lighting's pendant lamp. *Capitol* chairs in wood and rattan by Cassina and Molinari table made from a tree trunk.

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A corner of the house where the intense green of the walls creates a suggestive dialogue with the vegetation outside.

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The design dining table and a paper ceiling light by Isamu Noguchi with a bespoke red tassel. At the bottom, a work by Marco Lorenzetto.

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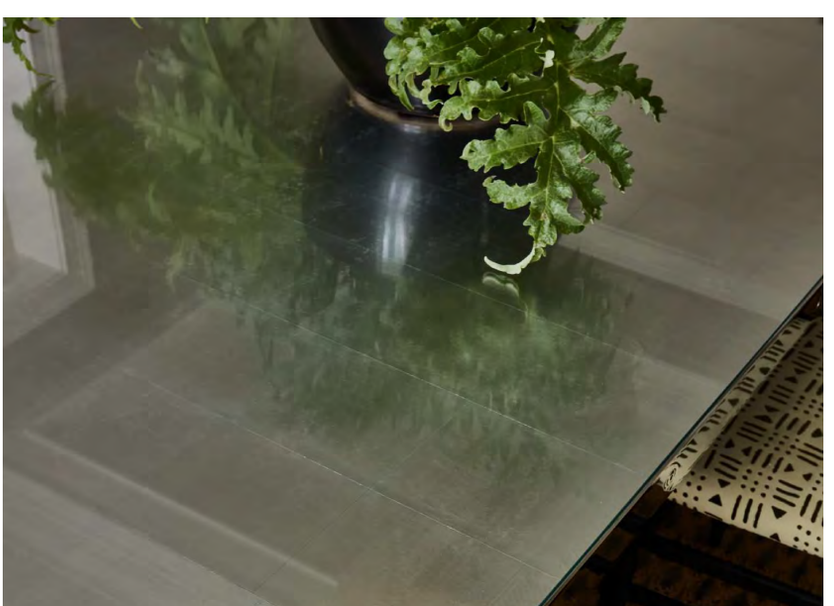

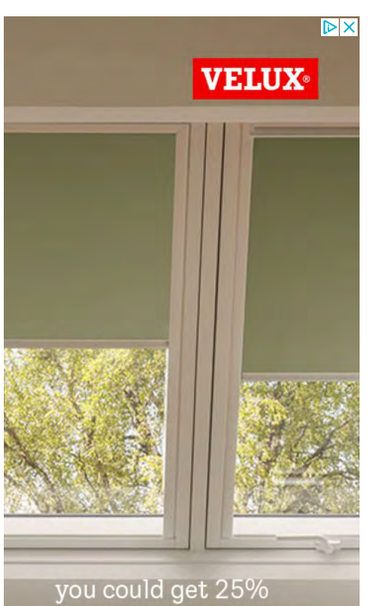

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A detail of the custom dining table designed by Tomèf in tribute to mid-century Los Angeles and takes its cue from vintage Cadillacs and cafeterias of the fifties, with a refined silver leaf top finished with clear glass, a border of playful chrome rivets and backed by a trio of lacquered wood and chrome zig-zag cylinders.The block printed carpet is also designed by Tomèf and was made in the community of San Patrignano.

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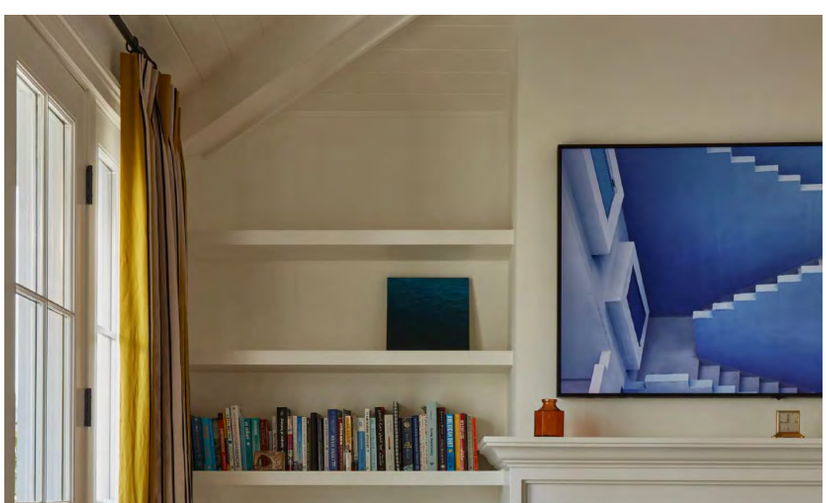
The large master bedroom also houses a sitting room furnished with works of art by Marco Lorenzetto and Tom Borgese, a bespoke sofa and the light wood desk by Jean Michel Frank, positioned in such a way as to separate the two main areas of the bedroom.



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In the master bedroom, *Capitol Complex* armchair by Cassina.

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The master bedroom, very large, houses a custom-made sofa inspired by the work of Jean Michel Frank covered in blue velvet. The coffee table is by Charlotte Perriand.

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A detail of the sofa on design and the coffee table by Charoltte Perriand in the master bedroom.

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Saturated with natural light, the large master bedroom is decorated with a neutral background to compensate for a brighter palette of yellow and blue, introduced through the artwork of Marco Lorenzetto. Yellow curtains and roller shutters by Pierre Frey.

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In the family room, another carpet made by San Patrignano to a design by Tomèf, *Utrecht* armchair, Cassina, upholstered in Dedar fabric, and bright blue coffee tables by Paola Navone.

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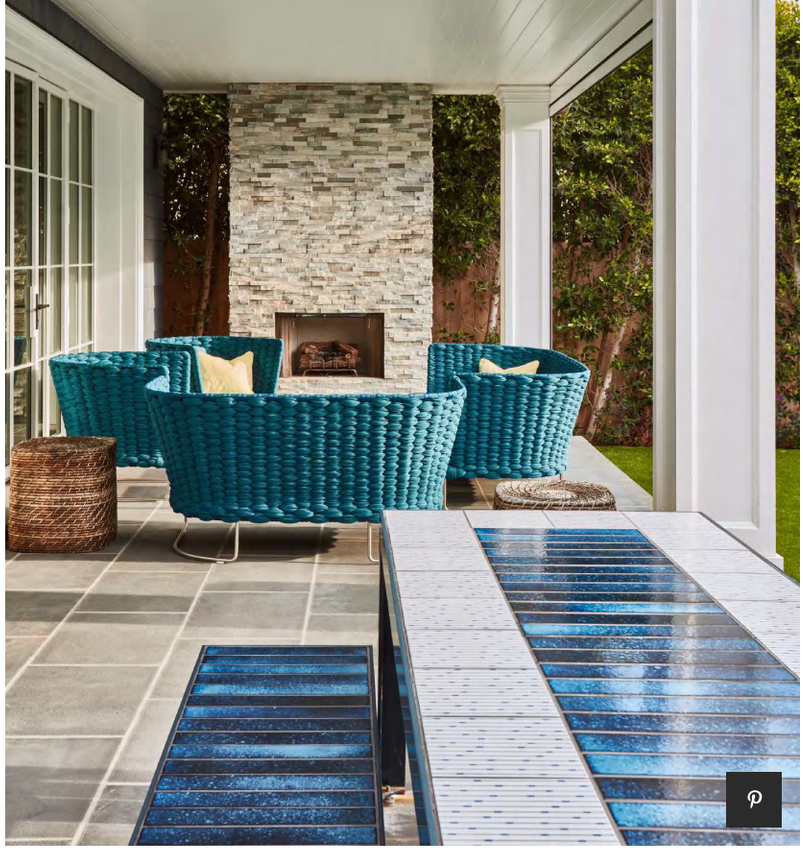

Photo Michael Clifford

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Outside, the porch area houses a dining table and bench benches with rich blue details custom designed by Tomèf with Made a Mano's Sicilian lava stone tiles.

Photo Michael Clifford

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References to the Italian heritage of the Molinari are scattered throughout the house: on the main staircase leading to the second floor, the original posters of a traditional Vermouth producer from Turin, Molinari's hometown, are on display.

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A detail of the bedroom of the son of the Molinari, with fancy wallpapers, also in the en suite bathroom.

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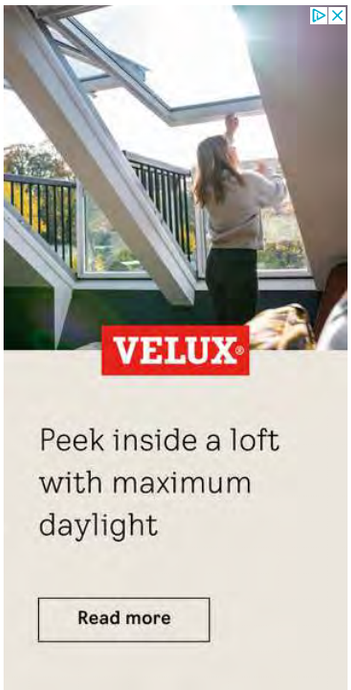

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Tomèf was inspired by the Molinari son's love of maps, travel and geography when he designed his bedroom, which is incorporated through the playful Pierre Frey wallpaper and an original Air France poster from the early 60s above the bed.

Photo Michael Clifford

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In the playroom, the modular wooden shelves designed by Tomèf act as a backdrop in bright colors, while Pierre Frey's hand-drawn *Native* wallpaper, inspired by the drawings of the American Indians, gives character and a subtle pattern.

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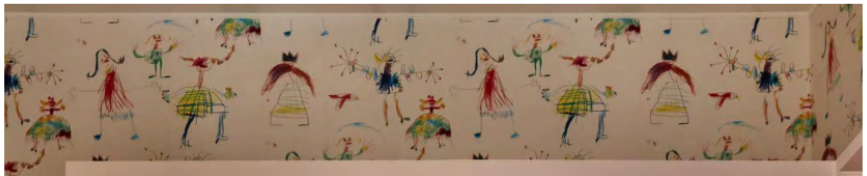

Photo Michael Clifford

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In her daughter's room, a bunk bed designed by Tomèf is enclosed in an arch with curtains, perfect for hosting sleepovers. Pierre Frey's fancy wallpaper decorates the walls with children's scribbles.

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The exterior of golf champion Molinari's mansion in the quiet residential neighborhood of Brentwood, between Santa Monica and Bel Air.

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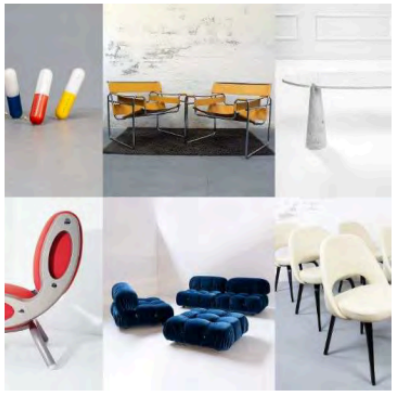

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