



GIARDINO DELLE DELIZIE

a project by Cristina Celestino
Milan Design Week 2018

During Milan Design Week, Fornace Brioni presents a new collection designed by Cristina Celestino, the art director of the brand, revealing the new phase launched by the historic Mantua-based company.

The history of earthenware, crafted exclusively by hand using the finest clays that have slowly settled on the Po River flood plain, is reinterpreted by Cristina Celestino to investigate novel aesthetic potentialities.

The material, which Fornace Brioni produces in a range of different versions – from homogeneous to variegated to glazed, from red and rose tones all the way to the models in grey and black – is interpreted in a contemporary spirit, bringing out its forceful, unique personality. Drawing on the charm connected with the Renaissance legacy of earthenware, Cristina Celestino has worked on geometry and bas reliefs, sizing and combinations of tiles, in a way that is utterly innovative for this material, exploring the subtle boundary between crafts and design.

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Fornace Brioni presents a collection designed by Cristina Celestino, influenced by the grottos of Renaissance gardens, special places of delight created to amaze visitors.

These caverns were made when the architecture of the Italian garden, in the 1500s, began to extend to large spaces with theatrical settings suitable for parties and imaginative performances, alongside more intimate, secluded but no less dramatic sites.

The decoration of these grottos took concrete form through shapes and surfaces that imitated natural rock formations, in an encounter between nature and artifice: limestone deposits, seashells, reproductions of organic materials, combining surprising visual and tactile effects.

Concave and convex features create games of light and shadow to alter perception of depth and space; shiny and matte surfaces suddenly evolved into rugged, materic effects, in a dynamic alternation of enchanting scenarios.



ROCAILLE

The theme of seashells is one of the most important in the ornamental development of Renaissance grottos, with marvellous painted mosaics, artificial rocks and semi-precious stones, quartz and glass.

The vaulted ceilings and columns are clad completely in seashells, geological concretions, pumice. The natural impressions of these hollows are triggered by refined chromatic shading, where the shells play a key role in the sumptuous set design.

The Rocaille project is a modern interpretation of these evocative havens.

Cristina Celestino designs a mosaic of seashells controlled with impressive compositional rigour. The concave and convex parts become forceful, intense; the tiles are the castings of lost seashells, of which the now detached decorative traces remain, etched by the play of shadows in a symmetrical sequence.

The through-body coloured clay is deployed in a sophisticated palette that delicately reveals itself, protected by the dark shadow of its own profile.

NINFEO

The flat surfaces that cover the architectural features inside the grottos stand out for the refined aesthetic effects obtained through simulation of organic elements.

Small erosions, holes and pebbles are often joined by water games and fountains, indispensable presences in the orchestration of the caverns.

Renaissance nymphaea reveal an incredible variety of textures that amplify the plausibly natural perception of the bodies of water.

Based on a key feature of Renaissance palaces, the project also focuses on rusticated brick, toying with the idea of contaminating its formal rigour, corroding its surface.

This operation happens in a geometric, disciplined way, without organic adornments; the holes are arrayed in a measured grid, becoming regular and precise.

The result is a three-dimensional module, rich in materic impact, that enhances the wall's surface in an unexpected way.



DELIZIE

In the dreamy landscape created by Cristina Celestino for the “Giardino delle Delizie” collection there is room for a divertissement based on the rhythmical repetition of isolated, precious silhouettes. The advanced research on form and colour translates into “Delizie”, an original, unusual covering where the individual glazed tiles interact to generate sophisticated geometric designs, free of any need to create a single pre-set pattern.

These surfaces remind us, on the one hand, of the precious claddings of the arcades of Milan, where the city is approached as a continuous, elegant interior, and on the other of the voluptuous displays of pastries and sweets, often arranged like little glazed gems in infinite repetitions, true acts of seduction for the eyes and the taste buds. The colours of the glazes range from candy pink to raspberry to mint green, forming an ideal tray of tempting pastries.