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FOR YOUR
HOME
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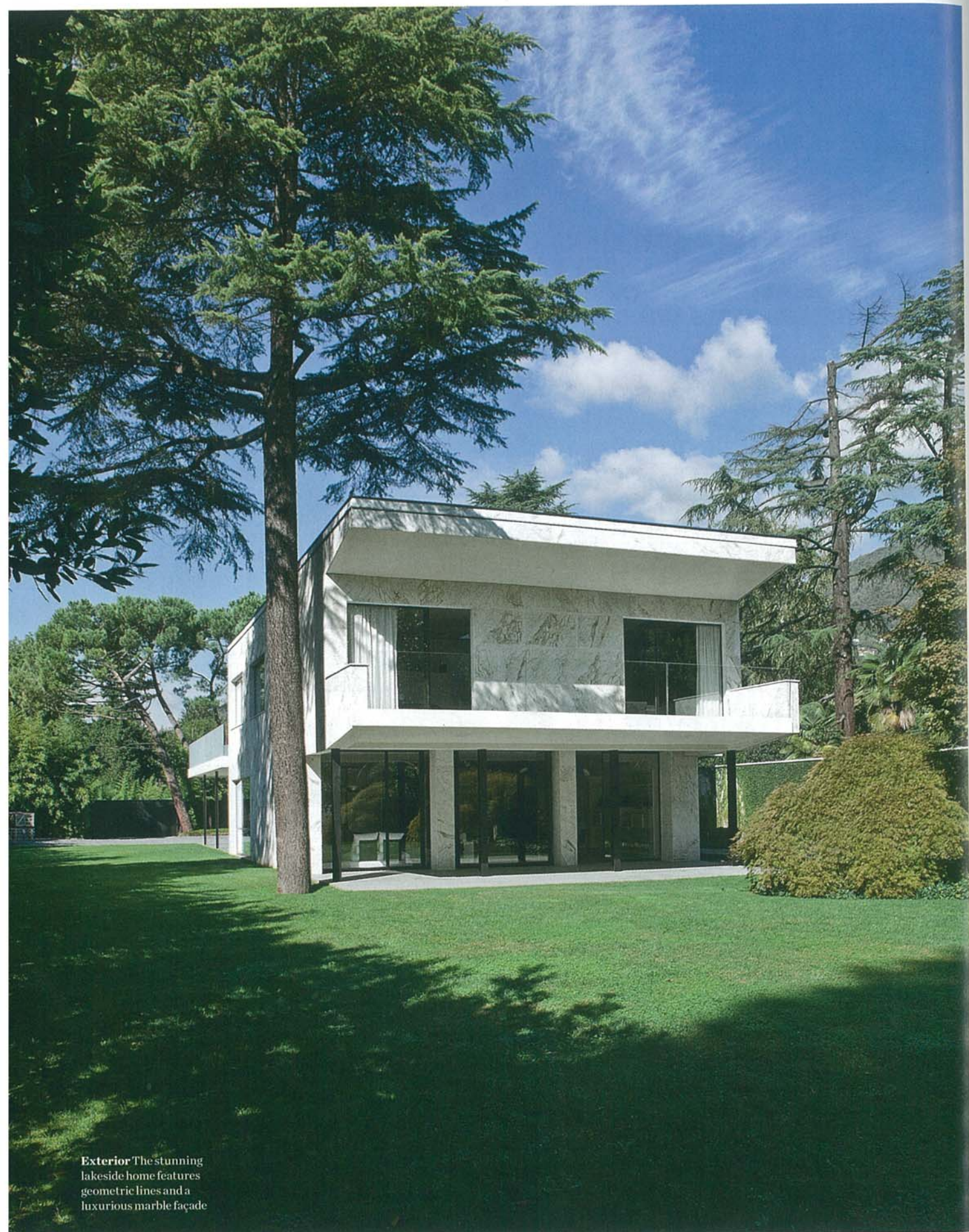
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KITCHEN QUEENS

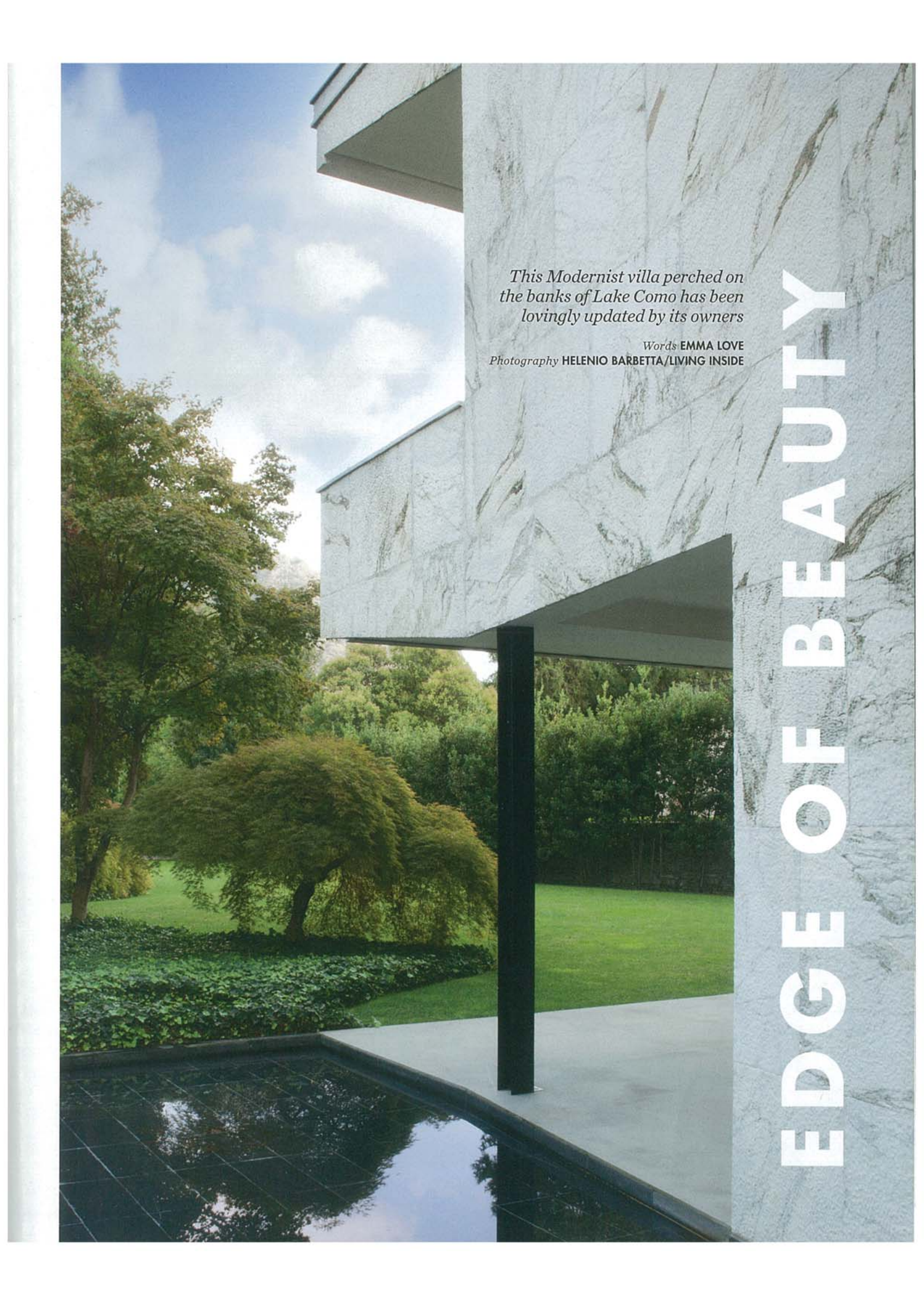
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Exterior The stunning lakeside home features geometric lines and a luxurious marble façade



*This Modernist villa perched on
the banks of Lake Como has been
lovingly updated by its owners*

Words **EMMA LOVE**
Photography **HELENIO BARBETTA/LIVING INSIDE**

EDGE OF BEAUTY

**THE OWNERS WANTED TO OPEN
UP THE INSIDE OF THE HOUSE AND
HAVE INTEGRATED THE KITCHEN,
DINING AND LIVING AREAS**





Dining area The bespoke Flexform table is surrounded by 'Tulip' chairs by Eero Saarinen for Knoll. The ceiling light is by Serge Mouille

Living room A George Nelson 'CSS' shelving unit divides the space. The 'Groundpiece' sofa is by Antonio Citterio for Flexform (try Chaplins)

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Only the fortunate few are ever lucky enough to live beside Italy's Lake Como. So, when natives Massimo and Sofia Tredichi bought a property here five years after they tied the knot at the picturesque lakeside setting, it was a life-changing moment. 'We are living in our dream home,' says Massimo of the 700-square-metre property, which the couple moved into in 2003 and now share with their children: Michael (nine), Alberto (six) and Carla (two). The distinctive architecture of this 1950s villa takes its aesthetic cues from the Rationalist movement of the 1920s and '30s – the precursor to Modernism. The building's symmetrical proportions still look contemporary today.

Low-level, with a white, hammered-marble exterior, the property is divided into five bedrooms and bathrooms, an open-plan living, kitchen and dining room, plus a huge wine cellar, a playroom for the children and a separate pool house. But it wasn't always this way. 'Over the years we have renovated and refurbished the place completely, but we've been very careful not to alter the original bones of the building,' explains Massimo.

For the redesign of the key rooms, the couple enlisted the help of Francesco Cocquio, a family friend and the vice president of Sales and Business Development at Boffi UK, an Italian company best known for its ultra-sleek bathrooms and kitchens. 'The owners wanted to respect as much as possible the Rationalist elements of the villa,' recalls Francesco of the five-year project that was completed in 2008. 'They didn't want to touch the structure of the house – they just wanted to open up the inside. The property had

been refurbished once before, in the 1970s, and when Massimo and Sofia moved in it was split into different areas and didn't feel very connected.' The homeowners wanted to integrate the kitchen with the living room, so the first thing Francesco did was to create one large, open-plan room. 'I put in a Boffi "Case System 5.0" Corian kitchen and added sliding doors opposite it so that while the couple are washing up they can look out into the gardens. This creates a flow between the outside and the inside,' he says. The transformation



was a big success. The other focus for change was the couple's bedroom. 'We put the shower at the end of the bed, behind a black screen that runs along one wall. It's a good design trick because it creates more space than if the bathroom was a traditional shape,' says Massimo.

Understandably, living in such a beautiful place means that the family spend much of their time outdoors, enjoying the scenery of Lake Como. When they aren't boating on the water, the couple's

children love playing football in the garden or relaxing by the pool, next to the original 1950s pool house. With a wall of glass sliding doors, a living room and a small kitchen, this extra building provides the perfect entertaining area for when friends visit in the summer. For the owners, though, this location is special all year round. 'The views of the lake are incomparable; the light and colours of the water and mountains change at different times of day and with the seasons,' says Massimo.

Living area Two 'Aluminium' chairs by Charles and Ray Eames for Vitra look out over the villa's luscious grounds
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**THE DISTINCTIVE ARCHITECTURE
TAKES ITS AESTHETIC CUES FROM
THE RATIONALIST MOVEMENT
OF THE 1920S AND '30S**

Hallway White walls and minimal decoration help to draw the eye to the villa's architectural details
Office A white shelving unit blends unobtrusively into the walls of the workspace, which is tucked above the stairs ►







Bathroom The "Terra" bathtub with integrated taps is by Naoto Fukasawa for Boffi

Bedroom The bed, with a suspended storage unit that doubles as a headboard, is a bespoke design made by a local joinery company

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MY COUNTRYSIDE

Love led me to live in Lake Como. My wife and I got married here.

The view from our window of the gardens and the glistening lake beyond is quite spectacular.

Our favourite restaurant is Il Gatto Nero in Cernobbio (ristorantegattonero.com). We keep going back for its prawn and asparagus risotto.

There are many beautiful areas in this region of Italy, but the best town on Lake Como is Laglio – it's where George Clooney lives.

Known as the 'pearl of Lake Como', Bellagio in Lombardy is another town you must visit. It's beautiful and a brilliant place for shopping. 