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DESIGN FOCUS
Painted furniture

THE FESTIVE TABLE
Seasonal tastes





An opulent harmony

Tommaso Ziffer's skilful use of colour and detail brought to life the Rome apartment photographed here by Isidoro Genovese

WHEN ROME-BASED designer-decorator, Tommaso Ziffer, is commissioned to decorate a house his main concern is with the persona of his patron. This is the prelude to the

selection of fabrics and the rest. 'I need to know something of the personality and taste of the owner,' he says, admitting, too, that such concern is something of a family

tradition. This tradition, deriving from a family involvement in architecture and interior design, has taught him always to respect the client's wishes, a procedure he puts



The drawing-room showing the richness of tone and pattern, inspired originally by the colours in the nineteenth-century kelim (5). The series of carefully composed ensembles (1, 2 and 3) reveals the client's passion for collecting and displays the pieces to best advantage. The still-lives (4) are nineteenth-century English.



into practice in the many commissions he undertakes Europe-wide. These principles applied more than ever in the commission shown on these pages. The apartment, in one of the lofty palazzi in the heart of the *quartieri alti* in Rome, did not have any particularly interesting or compelling features. But the designer was given a free hand by the client, a collector with a strong interest in the English and French country-house styles. Thus Tommaso Ziffer was able to experiment freely in the small apartment with harmony of strong, warm and opulent colours. In each corner of the apartment, Ziffer has boldly exploited contrasts of colour, in order to create a lived-in and characterful impression, avoiding the coldness which he deprecates in the work of some of his contemporaries.

1 The dining-room scheme continues the opulent harmony of colour. The screen, covered in coordinating fabrics, is hung with prints and sketches for interiors. **2** The passage to the dining-room combines the two colours predominant in the apartment – the red in the silk on the walls, the blue in the Chinese vases on the lacquered console. **3-4** The fabric-lined bedroom is a cosy retreat. Dark-wood Piedmontese furniture contrasts with the richness of the gilded Venetian mirror.

The use of plasterwork, and the insertion of panelling, dados and cornices in both the red-lacquered drawing-room and the deep-blue bedroom has served to give space, depth and dimension to a structure that is, in reality, as linear and characterless as a cardboard box □

