

# NATURAL HABITAT

*How to turn your home into a stylish cocoon? Take notes from the Italian furniture designer who has made an art of it, says **Fleur Britten***

Photographs **Marco Bertolini**



**Left** Furniture designer Mario Milana creates unusual pieces, produced by artisans in Italy. **Right** In the living room, Milana's Fair Play sofa has adjustable armrests reminiscent of the back seat of a car. His Spino bookshelf allows book covers to be seen: 'The most beautiful part of a book,' he says. The Tritondo upholstered stools are stackable



**Above** The master bedroom is furnished with vintage quilts from India, an antique Berber rug from Morocco, and an antique ikat (on the bed) from Casa Chiqui in Colombia. **Right** In the second bedroom, the couple read, meditate and practise yoga. They bought the harmonium in Varanasi, India, where Campagna lived on and off for three years. The floor lamp is by the late Japanese-American artist Isamu Noguchi



**Above** In the dining area, the Matthew Hilton extending dining table seats up to 14 people and is surrounded by Milana's dePostura dining chairs with sprung backrests, designed to improve posture. **Below** The antique round dining table was given to the couple by Campagna's father, who had used it in his twenties. Clipped onto it is a table lamp from the 1970s

**W**hile many of us have spent lockdown fantasising about having a home that delivers as a stylish and comforting refuge while simultaneously optimising our WFH productivity, the Italian-Colombian couple Mario Milana and Gabriella Campagna must have felt a teensy bit smug, having designed their Brooklyn apartment on these very principles two years ago. "We felt we needed an intimate place where we could recharge our batteries," Milana says, "so the general feel is quite delicate, with earthy tones and natural materials." Their "cocoon" is also Milana's workplace and atelier — the furniture designer set up his own studio in 2014, having previously worked under the renowned industrial designer Karim Rashid. (Campagna is an actress and appears in *Green Frontier* on Netflix.) One of the brownstone's three bedrooms has been converted into Milana's studio, while the living room serves as an informal showroom for his designs — handy when you make cool, comfy seats for a job. In the mix are a few iconic pieces by other designers, but chosen with care so as not to compete for the limelight. The result is sophisticated yet casual, with a warm and authentic atmosphere. ■ [@mmariomilana](#)

