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Left: architects Piero Polato, Giovanni Barban and Guido Cabrini of +studio in Vicenza who were responsible for the design of this house in Costabissara in the province of Vicenza, northern Italy.

Below: Arclinea's Convivium kitchen situated in a space adjoining the living area, and the dining room opposite the kitchen.

Beside that: the long corridor with vertical windows which links all the bedrooms and where the walls accommodate part of the art collection.

Right: the living room is the hub of the house – it reaches to the apex of the roof. The natural stone wall, adorned with a large elk's head, forms a visual anchor. In the foreground, a seating object with Bisazza mosaic.

photos + text: Hans Fonk

SPATIAL BEAUTY IN VICENZA

It is a villa that only yields up its beauty on the inside. That is how the architects Piero Polato, Giovanni Barban, Guido Cabrini of +studi designed this project in the environs of Vicenza, Italy – starting on the inside. An important requirement of the brief was to provide a fitting space for the owners' art collection.

The result: a high, central living space with, at right angles, a lower, L-shaped corridor along which the bedrooms and bathrooms have been arranged.

The villa is located in the small town of Costabissara in the immediate vicinity of Vicenza. The town is well known on account of the Schiavo grappa distillery. This family business was founded in 1887 and counts as one of Italy's leading grappa producers. It uses a unique low pressure method of distilling, giving its grappas a special character. In the family's museum, grappa tastings are held, providing a wealth of information on the subject.

Not far from the grappa factory, architects Piero Polato, Giovanni Barban and Guido Cabrini designed a private residence comprising a double-height central space with an L-shaped volume at right angles to it – where the bedrooms and bathrooms are accommodated. At the back of the house the L-shape provides privacy in the garden, which is graced with a water feature. When you enter the house you are struck by the living room's double height, which exposes the entire roof structure. A staircase leads to a small mezzanine which rests on a rugged natural stone wall. That is the visual anchor of the space. In this wall there is a door to the stainless steel Arclinea kitchen, which fits snugly into the space. A small dining area adjoins the kitchen.

The long corridor has floor-to-ceiling windows. In good weather, sunshine combined with the reflecting pool outdoors, creates an intriguing interplay of light and shade. Between the windows, walls provide sufficient space for the family's art collection.



