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WORKS FOR ME

Professional and personal
lives merge in this cleverly
curated creative studio that
feels like a second home

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words **stephanie hope**



Creative credentials Cristina Celestino's Milan studio features an eclectic mix of furnishings that she's designed for various clients, along with prototypes and collectables. A turquoise-topped low table was part of The Happy Room that she created for Fendi. Red Rennie dining chairs by Takahama for Gavina surround the vintage dining table. **Hands-on experience** Cristina stands at the 'conversation zone' (opposite) where her team can meet and bounce ideas off one another. "For creatives, smart working can't be a long-term solution," she says. "We need to see and touch the materials in a welcoming, intimate environment." Farrow & Ball 'Indian Yellow' paint was used to highlight the wall niches. ->



Curtain call The expansive open-plan area upstairs is divided into different working zones using curtain partitions. Cristina opted for a layered effect for a more contemporary vibe, combining pink-ivory sheer curtains with a monochromatic canvas in a terracotta shade that stops 1.4m from the ground. Working to this palette, she added beige mohair velvet armchairs by Tecno and a large Capitoline rug in warm shades of brown and beige that she designed for Fendi. A satin-steel and cement-lacquered Caori table by Vico Magistretti for Gavina inspired the green custom storage cabinets, which help keep the space clutter-free.

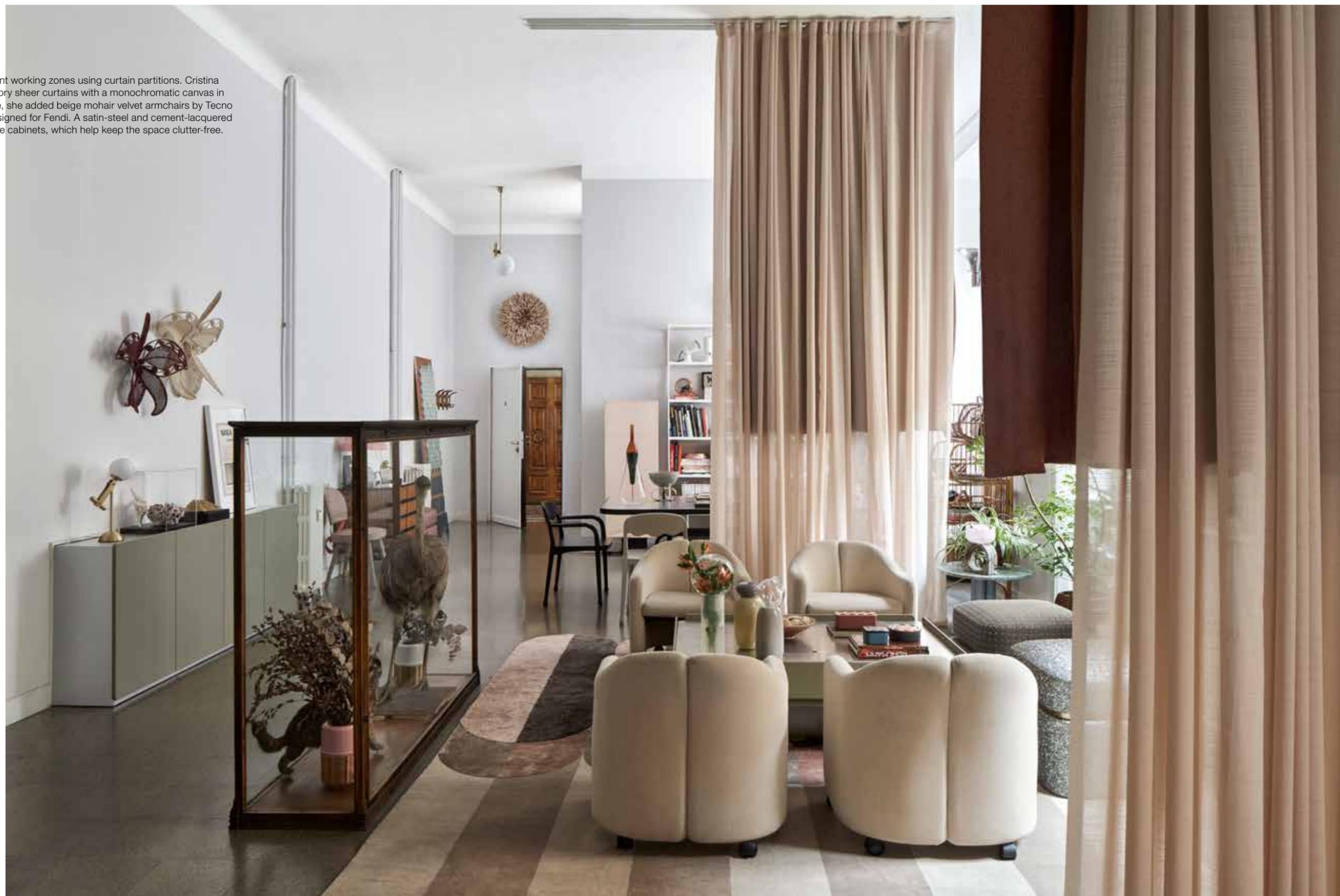
IN RECENT TIMES, the lines between home life and work life have well and truly blurred. WFH is the new normal, and for many, the traditional nine-to-five working day has taken a more fluid form, spreading into evenings and weekends. Milan-based designer Cristina Celestino was living this reality long before Covid crashed the party, and when on the hunt for a new office for her brand Attico Design, she had the concept of a 'studio-home' in mind. "I was looking for a large space that could become a second home, where the time spent working would be pleasant for everyone, myself included," she says.

Cristina's needs may differ to ours – designing an office that feels like home, as opposed to creating a work environment within a home – but many of the decorating ideas used in her studio are applicable to a home office context. Here are the key takeaways...

GIVE YOURSELF OPTIONS The best ideas don't always come while sitting at a desk, so consider creating a few work zones at home – inside, outside, seated, standing – to mix things up. Cristina's studio has a convivial meeting area centred around a dining table, a conversation zone with cosy armchairs as well as her personal office. "There are so many spaces where I can think and read, moving my laptop from an armchair to sitting on the rug," she says.

BUILD TEMPORARY 'WALLS' If you live in a studio or work from an open-plan living space, a simple curtain or screen divider will be a godsend during times when privacy or focus is needed. Cristina has divided her large warehouse using curtain partitions. "They feel domestic while providing flexibility and functionality to support our work needs," she tells.

STORAGE ESSENTIALS Because clutter is not conducive to productivity, storage is key. For Cristina, a series of functional cabinets keep fabrics and samples out of sight, while a clear display case showcases her designs and delineates a sort of corridor past the intimate conversation space. For a home office, bookcases, hanging shelves and desk trays can all help keep work supplies in order. →



a flexible working zone

Cristina decorated this meeting area much like a domestic dining room – a communal table and chairs, ambient lighting, display-style storage and her own floral creations. If your dining table has become your desk, aim for the same mix of functional and decorative, utilising trays and racks as movable organisers so you can easily regain the table for meals.



Magic touch Samples of Cristina's tile range for Fornace Brioni are kept in trays for easy access. **Meet and greet** Cristina imagined this meeting area (opposite) as a place where she could welcome clients and collaborators as guests. For now, it's used by her team of five, and revolves around a large Caryllon table designed by Cristina for Gebrüder Thonet Vienna. →



concentration required

While flexi working areas encourage the free flow of ideas, there are times when a more secluded space is needed. But that doesn't mean it has to be devoid of decoration. Cristina's office is filled with all the things that she loves: a deep green rug, playful slate desk, velvet chairs and a candy pink wall. ●



Take a seat The downstairs palette favours richer hues, including burgundy (a Corolla armchair for Billiani, designed by Cristina), ochre (seen in the chenille fabric for Maison Matisse that screens a storage unit) and green (the Envolée rug by Cristina for CC Tapis). **Cabinet meeting** An Italian cabinet from the 1930s holds decorative items including a Bon Ton lamp for Il Fanale by Cristina. A Ravello chair sits to one side, and an Ariosto ottoman on the other, both by Attico Design; the painting of Venice is by Remo Brindisi. **Draw the line** A micro-patterned fabric divides the space, while Policroma pine green wood panelling designed by Cristina for Cedit lines the wall. **Desk job** For her office (opposite), Cristina chose a Sciabola desk by Luigi Caccia Dominioni for Azucena, two chairs that she designed for Billiani, an Attico Design 'Ducale' rug for Besana Carpet Lab, Ciot lamp by Ennio Chiggio for Lumenform and Mirage wallscreen for Lison de Caunes.