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components, making Casa Vi something of Gesamtkunstwerk. There is a visual unity to the combination of these materials for everything ranging from shelves that double up as benches to kitchen surfaces. To break up the uniformity, zig-zagging staircase snakes up inside the middle of the home, leading upstairs to two bedrooms and a loft that is used as a study.

Casa Vi is a gutsy take on Alpine living—a pair of antlers in the living room is a wry nod to this—but Vanotti says this home is more traditional than appearances might suggest. “After a careful analysis of the context, after studying

sunlight and technology and the values of mountain architecture, I realized the project through a reinterpretation of modern construction techniques using materials from the past,” he explains. “I believe that mountain architecture is a perfect example of sustainable architecture.” The exterior still formally refers to rural houses with its sloping roof, coating of stones, and lack of eaves. Although this house has sentimental value to the couple and their young child, it has professional meaning to architect Vanotti too: “Fundamental to my work is the deep analysis of the context and constant research in order to

offer the best solution concerning integration into the landscape,” he explains. “Landscape influences my design—not the other way around.” ♦

top. Architect Alfredo Vanotti.
left. A picture window looking over the valley. Even the toilets were custom made from the house’s key toolkit of concrete and wood.