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THE RED ISSUE



A setting from Achille Salvagni's exhibition, titled *Kyoto*, at his London atelier.



TEXT: GAURI KELKAR. PHOTO: PAOLO PETRIGNANI/COURTESY OF ACHILLE SALVAGNI.

ACHILLE'S APPEAL

Interior designer Achille Salvagni's new monograph deconstructs the inner workings of his aesthetic

With a bulging portfolio of super yachts, residences across the globe, limited-edition furniture, and now, a collaboration with Murano glassmakers—all underlined by a fine tradition of craft—Achille Salvagni's monograph was asking to be made. Which Rizzoli New York eventually did, after a two-year courtship. They clearly had good reason to. "Following a number of successful projects in New York, [Rizzoli New York] approached me in 2017 about putting together a monograph. Once we got talking, they realized the breadth and diversity that, in the end, would come to define the themes throughout the book," says the Italian interior designer.

Since Salvagni set up his practice in Rome, 17 years ago, his modernist aesthetic has forged that ultimate crossover, with a pan-continental footprint in residences across Mumbai, New York, Paris, Rome, the Hamptons and Palm Beach. That, as most monograph-worthy stories go, was simply the beginning of a career that has traced a wide arc, moving across furniture, lighting and product design. "I have always designed bespoke work for my projects," says Salvagni.

Six years ago, he put together a collection of his bespoke pieces "to form a limited-edition range available to collectors". This led to his first collaboration with Maison Gerard, which was how he came

to be on the Rizzoli radar. Four years ago, Salvagni set up an atelier in Mayfair, "where I can meet with clients and introduce people to my work"—which this eponymously named monograph will do almost as well.

Crafted as a fluid conversation between Salvagni and design writer Pilar Viladas, the monograph goes to the thematic heart of the designer's work—harmony, craftsmanship and colour. "For me, they are my starting points. The narrative, craftsmanship and heritage are ever-present through my design and production processes, but colour choices and harmony are an extension to this and require consideration in order to create balance, also another theme in the book," he elaborates.

Releasing this month, the book pairs a lush visual narrative with the free-flowing conversation to help illustrate his approach to the projects, his dexterous management of elements within a modern framework, and his proclivity for craft: "I like to work with 'noble' materials, those that have a rich history and require great craftsmanship to bring the best out of them. Bronze casting, stone carving, parchment lining and lacquering—each has a role." For readers, *Achille Salvagni* is an eye-pleasing journey into a Salvagni-rendered modernist world—and almost as good as seeing the real thing. ♦