

109 CASA CRESPI (1938)

By Gabriela Crespi
Italy, Brera area

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

Traces of Crespi's exceptional life echo throughout her jet-set apartment.

Gabriela Crespi (1922–2017) was a unique voice among the Milanese design community because she consciously chose not to work for the industry, but only with artisans, and in limited editions. Her luxurious designs and glitzy interiors were largely inspired by nature. Yet her style is difficult to pin down: she designed bronze animal sculptures as well as bamboo furniture and brass coffee tables. Her life is equally fascinating: at the age of 65, she swapped her design career to embark upon a spiritual quest, became entranced by a guru, and spent 20 years living in India. In Milan she had an impeccably furnished apartment on the fourth floor of a 1930s apartment block in the Brera district. The guestbook reads like a *Who's Who* of the cultural and artistic world. Her personal belongings, furniture designs, travel souvenirs, collection of ceramics, and Chinese artefacts are in her apartment, just as she left them. The apartment still holds her entire archive of more than 2000 designs. Since Crespi's death, her daughter Elisabetta has begun to catalogue and digitise her work. Architecture-lovers can visit the gorgeously decorated apartment, but reservation is required.

