

Press release
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For Immediate Release

AGAPE NEW NARRATIVES OF WELLNESS BARCHESSA

In its continual journey of exploration, Agape shapes fresh interpretations of the bathroom, envisioned as a place for layered, intimate wellness

These narratives unfold within the evocative setting of La Barchessa, a former rural warehouse at Bosco, an unconventional showroom nestled in the heart of Mincio Park

Curated by Agape Studio, the installation includes iconic pieces and fresh additions from Agapecasa

November 2024 – A Place Beyond Place. **Barchessa**, at once a domestic landscape and an alluring future potential retreat for hospitality, has been reimagined as a space dedicated to design exploration. Originally a rural warehouse for storing tools and seeds, it now forms part of Bosco, the distinctive [Agape](#) showroom situated in a repurposed agricultural courtyard within the heart of Mincio Park.

Set atop a hill with sweeping views over the property and river, Barchessa reveals Agape's latest interpretations of the bathroom environment. These wellness narratives combine recent designs with other product families and a carefully curated selection from [Agapecasa](#), a brand by Agape dedicated to re-editing Angelo Mangiarotti's iconic pieces with precise philological care.

Fluid Intimacy of Spaces

The arrangement, designed by Agape's internal Agape Studio, emphasizes spatial permeability, presenting the bathroom as a setting devoted to wellness. Almost like a multi-functional living space, it is expansive yet deeply intimate and protected. The interconnected flow of the entrance, two generously proportioned bathrooms, a bedroom area, and a large terrace overlooking greenery shapes the narrative. Spaces of fullness and emptiness, interior and exterior, architecture and nature merge seamlessly.

An Island of Design

The light-filled entrance opens onto the first bathroom, where Agapecasa's SK207 table, Tre 3 chairs, and Eros console from the Mangiarotti Collection converge. Here, the Craft container system by Benedini Associati gracefully shapes the expansive space, lending it a welcoming sense of intimacy. The innovative island layout, or freestanding configuration, floats atop two large cylindrical supports that discreetly house technical components and become a self-contained architectural



element. The staggered positioning of marble vessel sinks enhances accessibility, while finishes elegantly contrast brushed stainless steel with dark oak. On the walls, the new Nudo XL equipped boiserie system integrates mirrors, lights, and wood panels, seamlessly combined with the Slim storage system, redesigned with a shallower depth. This is an exceptionally versatile arrangement that skillfully balances two-dimensional and three-dimensional surfaces. Both projects are by Benedini Associati, as are the ultra-contemporary UFO steel bathtub and the spacious Flat D shower in its new configuration with a T-bar shower head, evoking timeless elegance akin to vintage bathrooms.

Material-Rich Bathroom

Also grand in scale, the second bathroom is dedicated to Patricia Urquiola's Cenote collection, which blends craftsmanship and thoughtful design to create unique pieces. The space centers around the material presence of the new clay bathtub, where the pure rectangular geometry highlights the deep allure of Spanish black clay. Hand-shaped with crushed rice grains for texture, the irregular exterior contrasts with a smooth, polished interior. These sensory vibrations echo in the Cenote vessel sinks, harmoniously paired with Patricia Urquiola's sleek and minimal Rigo design. Div's glass partitions by Castiglia Associati add a counterpoint to the clay's solidity. A work in progress, Div is a partition system that organizes the shower and toilet areas, and private spaces delineated by the frosted finish of glass panels.

Dialogue with the Bedroom Area

Both bathrooms are arranged around the bedroom. Wood's charm emerges through the understated design of Cavalletto, a modular furniture system of exceptional versatility designed by Angelo Mangiarotti and re-edited by Agapecasa. Flanked by side tables, the double bed adds a new configuration to the original lineup, following the system's distinctive construction principle, based on dovetail joints secured by gravity.

Outdoor Relaxation

Next to the bedroom, the expansive terrace encircles the building, offering a serene retreat for relaxation. Shaded by lush greenery, it invites one to linger and explore Agape's wide range of designs crafted for outdoor living. Featured pieces include the Petra washbasin by Diego Vencato and Marco Merendi, the Open Air shower by Benedini Associati, and Angelo Mangiarotti's Bjhon washbasin, alongside Rendez-vous benches, day-beds, and Vis-à-vis stools by Marco Carini, as well as the Vieques bathtub by Patricia Urquiola and the DR bathtub by Studio MK27.

A Memorable Experience

A source of inspiration and a living laboratory where Agape envisions new harmonies and balances through an unwavering commitment to refinement. For over 50 years, this spirit of research has brought to life products that naturally interact with one another, transcending trends with the shared language of excellent design. Unmistakable yet understated icons resonate deeply within the bathroom, conceived as an architectural space that warmly embraces its inhabitants.

Contatto Stampa

Barbara Musso | Moosso
barbara@moossopr.com
t. +39.02.3675.1875

Agape Press

Laura Torchio
+39 (0)376 250 302
press@agapedesign.it

