

sculptures *to* **live in**





When an architect asks the wind, the earth, the heat of the sun and the cool of the shade to work with him, he is both a gentle and a powerful man. At Is Molas **Massimiliano Fuksas**, one of the greatest of contemporary architects, has created an extraordinary collection of villas inspired by the forces of nature and time. Houses as sculptures to live in, he has called them. Houses that listen to the landscape and to the history of the people who are going to inhabit them. And when nature and humanity come together, respect one another and speak to each other

Houses as sculptures to live in

from the bottom of their hearts, heedless of the geological eras and the centuries to which they belong, then it means we are in Sardinia. The ideal world imagined by Massimiliano Fuksas stands at the heart of a 600-hectare estate of lush vegetation, just a few kilometres from Cagliari. Behind it rise the mountains of the Gutturu Mannu Park, one of the largest and most unspoiled in Europe, and its peaks and ancient trees provide shelter

from currents of cold air and ensure the warmth of summer all year round. At the foot of each villa flowers a splendid private garden, merging into the glittering greenery of **two golf courses** unlike any other in the world. On the horizon, the blue of the sea and its crystal-clear waters. And then there are the stars, to contemplate, to count, to give to the person you love, lying on a roof that follows the curve of a wave and turns into an observatory of the heavens. Your breath comes easily, your heart is at peace, existence is a delight. Shaped by your desires alone.



The dawn of a
new world
called home

CONTEMPORARY AND YET ANCIENT IN APPEARANCE,
THE VILLAS OPEN UP GENEROUSLY TO NATURE. SPACES
OF ABSOLUTE REST, QUIET AND DISCRETION, DEDICATED
TO A SMALL COMMUNITY OF HAPPY MEN AND WOMEN.





AMIDST THE BLUE
OF THE SEA,
THE COLOURS
OF HAPPINESS

// Thousands of years ago this is what the beaches of Sardinia looked like, white and brilliant. And lapped by the most limpid of waters. A crystal-clear beauty that has remained unspoiled to the present day, just a few minutes from Is Molas. //

> *A diamond of sand.
The enchanting beach
of Tuerredda*



“I’d like
this corner
of Sardinia to
be for the
sheer pleasure
of existence,
the desire to
meet others
as well as
for a blissful
solitude.
Walking, long
strolls taking
you where
few others go”

- Massimiliano
Fuksas





“I’d like
a mass eroded
and shaped
by the wind,
where the
openings
are cavities,
where
unexpected
beams of light
enter through
fissures
or large
skylights
to bathe the
material of the
buildings”

- M. F.

> The mysterious
Nuragic village in a
cave on Mount Tiscali





“I’d like
a house broken
down into
fragments
of stone in which
to spend time
together.
Geography and
landscape are
the essence of
the design, and
the architecture
will only go
along with their
suggestions”

- M. F.

> *The magnificent beach
of Chia*







**NATURE
AND MAN,
SHAPING THINGS
TOGETHER**

// Stone, wind, water,
the profile of the
mountains and the
wood of ancient
trees. And then the
sun that warms and
gives shadows their
power. These are the
materials that life has
chosen to come into
the world. And it is of
this material that the
dream of a villa
at Is Molas is made. //



**ENDLESS
GREENERY,
ANOTHER SEA TO
REINVIGORATE
YOU**

// Just as the waves
refresh the beach,
the spectacular forest
of Gutturu Mannu
Park embraces
the splendour of each
villa. From the largest
expanse of Holm oaks
in Europe to the herb
gardens, nature
is present at every
hour of the day,
a faithful friend. //





When people listen to nature, there is peace. And nature remembers this alliance, and offers its friends great benefits in return. Massimiliano Fuksas has explored the unspoiled landscapes of Southern Sardinia, where Is Molas is located, drawing the immense wealth of harmonious forms and lines that have shaped the beauty of **this island over the millennia**.

The gently rolling dunes of Porto Pino, like a desert slaking its thirst in the sea. The crescents of water that reflect the light and frame the beach at Cala Giunco. And again the stunning granite rocks of Capo Teulada, that **rise out of the water**, driven by the primordial forces of creation. And then there are the enchanted mountains, hiding within them the **Nuragic village** of Tiscali, built in 1400 BCE and not discovered until the beginning of the 20th century. A wonder, a mystery. All this can be found in Fuksas's precious sketchbooks, and it has all served to inspire the unique character of Is Molas and its architecture. In the first place the colours, those endless **hues of sand**, clay and rock that "sing" amidst the greenery of the private gardens and the ancient trees of the park. And then the sinuous, welcoming forms, born to look already old, worn by memory and millennia of civilization. Forms that open up to the sky and graze the earth. Isn't it with this naturalness, after all, that you'd like to live every day of your life?

In
nature, the
design
of happiness

Drawing time free

-hand

THERE'S NO GENTLER LINE THAN THE CONTOUR
OF A BEACH THAT GIVES ITSELF TO THE SEA.
AND THERE'S NO MORE RESOLUTE VERTICAL THAN
A GRANITE CLIFF. REMOTE, FEMALE AND MALE
FORMS, WELCOMING AND OF GREAT PERSONALITY,
THAT INSPIRE THE BEAUTY OF IS MOLAS'S VILLAS.

> Sea and lagoon meet
at the marvellous beach of Cala Giunco

Following pages:
> The spectacular cliff of Capo Teulada







> From the rising of the sun to the fall of evening, the enchantment of the beach at Porto Agumu, dedicated to Is Molas's guests
Following pages: > The dunes of Porto Pino, magic of the Sahara

The
seasons of the sun,
magnificent all year round

A SPECTACLE AT DAWN AND ANOTHER AT DUSK.
THE SPECTACLE OF THREE HUNDRED DAYS OF SUNSHINE
THAT BRIGHTEN THE BLESSED LAND OF SOUTHERN
SARDINIA. AN ENDLESS SUMMER, RESPLENDENT
IN ITS COLOURS AND FLAVOURS, THAT HERALDS THE
GOLD OF AUTUMN AND THE LUSH GREEN OF SPRING.







Dunes of Porto Pino

Cala Zafferano

Capo Teulada

Capo
Malfatano

Tuerredda
Beach

Capo Spartivento

Chia Beach

Is Molas Resort
Golf Courses
Private Beach

Cagliari Airport

Archaeological
Site of Nora

Every day **a marvellous beach**, always different
and always nearby. A few kilometres from Is Molas,
the **endless delight** of Sardinia

Illustration by
Olivia A. Vighi

“I’d like
us all to
have behind
us the
mountains
and a wood
of Holm oak
and myrtle,
sacred and
profane at
one and the
same time”

- M. F.





“I’d like
the strong light
of Sardinia,
immersed
in the
Mediterranean,
to be
screened but
not so much
as to conceal
the high, clear
skies, of a blue
found nowhere
else in
the world”

- M. F.



“I’d like
us to gaze
at the sea,
the sunset,
walking on
the sinuous
roofs of
our houses.
Similar
in their
softness and
innocence
to the human
body”

- M. F.





**THE STONES
REMEMBER
AND TEACH US
THINGS**

// They have the wisdom and power of the nuraghes. And like those masterpieces of Sardinian archaeology, the interiors of each villa, at once contemporary and ancient, modulate the space in a rhythm of curved lines, in which light and shade happily take turns. //

> *The interior of the nuraghe of Santu Antine, at Torralba*



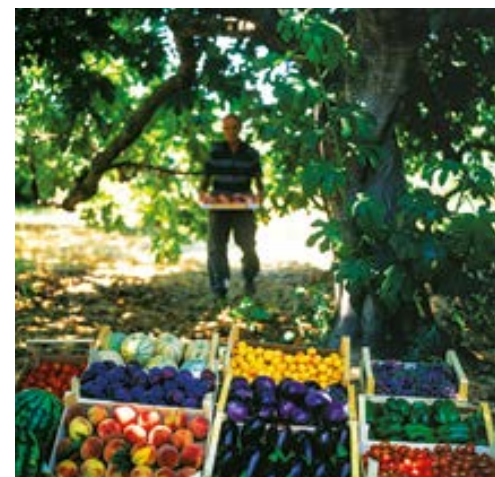


When the land and the sea yield marvellous fruit, masterpieces are born in every season. A question of traditions, a question of a rural, pastoral and seafaring culture that has been able to hand down the wisdom of its customs and its flavours. In this too Sardinia is unique. It suffices to recall the benefits of the Mediterranean diet, on UNESCO's list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, of which this island is one of the principal exponents. And the words of the great Sardinian chefs who, before going on to work in famous Michelin-star restaurants, learned the fundamentals of every dish by watching their mothers, grandmothers, sometimes even their great-grandmothers cook. You need to have seen as a child the rapid gesture with which the perfect shape of the *malloreddus* is created. You need to have smelled the scents of the pastures to be able to recognize the place of origin of the **finest cheeses**, above all pecorino, whose history goes back for millennia. And you need to love the family and its rituals in order to come together to prepare **porceddu**, suckling piglet, and the endless types of freshly caught seafood, from lobsters to sea bass to *bottarga*. A pinch of aromatic herbs, the unmistakable crunch of *pane carasau*, a sip of wine – and Sardinian wineries are among the best on the Italian and international scene – and finally a sigh of happiness as you sample the **sweetness of a seada**, still hot from the pan. For many this is the splendid menu of a restaurant. For anyone staying at the exclusive marvel of Is Molas it is a dinner with the family, or among friends, prepared by a great chef, in the kitchen of your home.

The
memory,
the **flavour**
of great
cooking

TIME,
THERE IS NO
BETTER FOOD

// They are seasonal flavours, aromatic fruit and vegetables. They are masterworks of patience like the great Sardinian wines, nowadays awarded prizes by international juries. And they are memories that turn into fragrant bread. At every moment of the year and the day, nature and history hold sway in the kitchen. //





**A HOUSE,
A GARDEN,
A PERFECT
BIRDY**

// Diary of one day
on your holiday.
Breakfast at the villa,
a stroll to the club
house, the mountains
on the horizon,
the scent of the sea
in the air, and you
start to play.
In your eyes, and
in your heart, that
wonderful sensation
of having no limits
on your space,
your time, your
imagination. //



**GOLF,
THE
GREEN-HUED
PASSION**

// Simply spectacular.
The 27 holes
of the two courses
at Is Molas, venue for
the most demanding
of Italian and
international
competitions,
are the reward
of every true golfer.
To challenge your
skill, the forces
of Sardinian nature,
generous and intense.
At the level
of great champions. //





**HANDMADE,
THE MARK
OF GREAT
CULTURES**

// The motifs that decorate the furnishings, designed by Doriana Fuksas, are inspired by Sardinian handicrafts. And alongside them, a collection of contemporary objects and accessories, enhancing the unique qualities of each villa with their colours, the fluidity of their lines and the quality of their materials. //





**LUXURY,
A HOUSE
AND THE SERVICE
OF A GRAND
HOTEL**

// When does your
real holiday start?
When there are no
more worries.
When breakfast
arrives with a smile
and with the same
smile the house is
in perfect order again.
And whether dinner
is a family affair
or amongst friends,
a smile and a great
chef prepares,
in your kitchen, a little
masterpiece. //



The
lightness
of the most ancient rocks
in Europe

NO OTHER ISLAND CAN MAKE THIS CLAIM,
TO HAVE BEEN THE FIRST LAND TO EMERGE FROM
THE WATERS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.
THIS IS WHY A MASSAGE AMONG
THE SPECTACULAR GRANITE FORMATIONS
THAT SURROUND IS MOLAS IS AN EXPERIENCE
OF WHICH THE BODY HAS DREAMED
FOR MILLENNIA.

WHERE NATURE
KNOWS NOT
THE STEPS OF MAN

// Unspoiled, wild, like the first day of life on earth.
This is the scenery that surrounds the marvellous villas of Is Molas.
A ride on horseback through the Mediterranean maquis, an excursion
in the park of Gutturu Mannu, and the mind can breathe again. //





When the present cares about the remote past, myths are born. And so is a land, Sardinia, that has been able to preserve intact ceremonies that emerged together with the first sowing of grain, with the earliest form of bread, with the first gaze turned on the sky to look for a propitious sign. Every year this island of **ancient peoples** goes back to the roots of its history through its festivals. They start in February with the carnival at Ottana, when the *merdules*, priests wearing masks and the hides of sacred animals, call the *boes*, who are draped in cow-bells, to order. And when the sound of the bells turns into the glitter of a silver star, it means that carnival is coming to an end and we are in Oristano, dazzled by the skill of the riders who impale the *sartiglia* at a gallop, thereby ensuring an **abundant harvest**. For centuries Sardinia has defended its treasures, which are its coasts, its herds, its nuraghes, like the spectacular one at Barumini, and its unrivalled wealth of culture. In the summer, in remembrance of ancient invasions, the most valorous “soldiers” of Sedilo compete in a race called the Ardia, symboliz-

Sardinia,
the island
of the **mists**
of time

ing their protection of this small community and its **age-old faith**. And when the dust settles, the air is filled instead with the notes of a concert, a solo, a chorus of voices that rises from the stones of the Roman theatre of Nora to join the swash of the sea. How many extraordinary things happen just a few minutes from Is Molas. How wonderful it is to feel part of this **never-ending history**.





A HORSEMAN WINS
A STAR AND
THE EARTH BLOOMS

// At carnival time, when the winter is about to end and the fields are still silent,
the Sartiglia is held in Oristano. The more stars lanced by the riders,
the richer the harvest. And in memory of the raids of ancient invaders
the Ardia is run at Sedilo, a frenzied gallop at the height of summer. //







**DAYS
OF HAPPINESS
THAT
NEVER END**

// The first lights
of evening herald
the setting of the sun
and the sky
is reflected for the
last time in the waters
of a pool. The walls
of the house hold
the memory
of the sun as you
await the arrival
of friends
in a spacious living
room. Silence,
the coolness of the
air, birdsong. It's not
a villa, it's a world. //

Preceding pages:
› *The Roman theatre
of Nora, facing
onto the sea*







sculptures *to live in*

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**Massimiliano Fuksas
and Doriana Mandrelli Fuksas**

He has imagined and designed all sorts of things all over the world, museums, airports, concert halls, whole city districts, trade-fair complexes, public buildings and the showrooms of famous fashion designers. Born in Rome but of Lithuanian origin, Massimiliano Fuksas is one of the most influential and original architects on the international scene. Together with Doriana Mandrelli, architect and extraordinary designer, in charge of Fuksas Design since 1997 and curator of the "Less Aesthetics More Ethics" section of the 7th Venice Biennale of Architecture, Massimiliano Fuksas has designed the Shenzhen-Bao'an Airport, the new French National Archives, the Ferrari Research Centre at Maranello and the Twin Tower in Vienna, as well as the Peres Peace House in Jaffa, the Milan Trade Fair complex and the Theatre and Exhibition Centre in Tbilisi. At Is Molas, Massimiliano Fuksas and Doriana Mandrelli have gone back to the origins of their profession: building houses. Constructing a landscape and making those who live in it happy.



