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CASA FORTUNATO

What's in a name? In this case, everything. Casa Fortunato feels more like a home than a hotel. And if you score one of the nine sought-after rooms, then you should consider yourself fortunate indeed. Inês Biscaya, a beaming brunette in a gingham frock, and a black Labrador named Cacau welcomed us into the circular lobby—an extravagant vision of pink marble and stucco. Beyond the reception area (a pair of vintage mint-green desks, one adorned with a smiley-face lamp) is a kitchen and living space, where breakfast is laid out on a communal table.

Every detail at this turn-of-the-20th-century town house is playful and unexpected. It was designed by architect Antonio Costa-Lopes and his wife, Filipa Fortunato, a children's-book author, who live on the top floor with their four children, ages five to 17. "We often talked about what we'd do when our kids left home," Filipa said, offering me a slice of plum cake. "Instead of rattling around an empty house arguing, we thought, *We must have lots of guests.*" They've also filled the soaring rooms with family heirlooms, modern art, and designer treasures collected during 20 years of marriage. Even the bathrooms, blessed with luxuriant tubs, are a celebration of color, pattern, and texture.