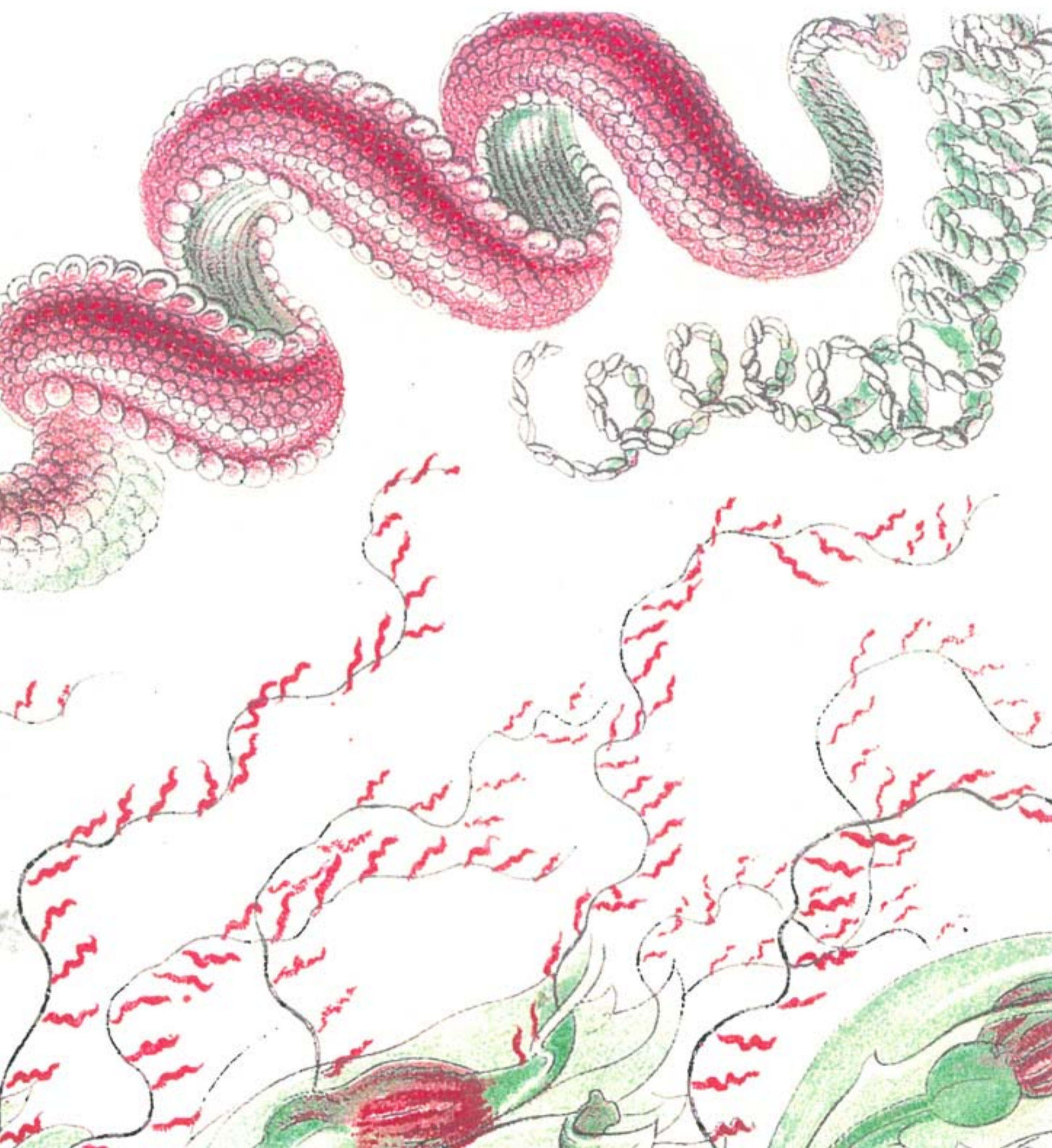


THE WORLD OF INTERIORS

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Jacopo. He believes that the octopus is the creature that truly represents him. His aquarium in his kitchen has octopuses of various colours – all made of plastic. He has even named one of his lights the 'Octopus Light': it hangs, arms protruding, on fishing twine from the ceiling.

Jacopo's relationship with plastic is inherited, as he spent part of his life in the family factory watching brightly coloured plastic being poured into moulds to make flashing lights and reflectors. However, in order to create his works he has had to devise his own process; machines are part of it, but so too are his hands, which do all the moulding. Each light takes a day to make and must be completed without stopping. His first design was called the 'Globe Light', and since then he has moved on to the creations we see today.

Jacopo creates his own bits of machinery, highly secret affairs named after the old Asso warplanes. He has already invented 'Asso I', 'II', 'III', and is now working on 'Asso IV', dubbing it 'The Revenge'. When visiting his studio we were not allowed to watch the machines at work with their master; he has no assistants and prefers to work alone. Jacopo has a great love for natural forms and things, but his staple ingredients are man-made. He colours these resins himself before working the synthetic fibres into organic shapes.

I asked Jacopo what his ambition was. 'To make a chandelier which could hang off Brooklyn Bridge,' he answered. He has no art school background but has great respect for and is influenced by Salvador Dalí and, more recently, Picasso. He has also spent time in Bali, where he learnt to sculpt wood and where the experience of working alongside local workmen increased his interest in form. The teak hands that sit dominating his apartment were made there. He draws visual inspiration from everywhere, and particularly benefited from travels to Thailand, Indonesia and other countries.

Colour is very important to Jacopo in his work. He would like to be able to make people perceive colour differently, to have them see it through children's eyes. **His neighbour Massimo Caiazzo is a well-known colour theorist;** together they want to set up an exhibition using Jacopo's lights but that will evoke all the senses. He envisages six rooms, five of them identified with a single colour: blue for the ocean, evoking a feeling of humidity; yellow/orange, the spiritual room with the smell of incense, evoking religion; red, the

A photograph showing a wooden balcony railing in the foreground. On the railing, there is a wooden hand sculpture. In the background, there are several colorful disc-shaped lights hanging from the ceiling. One is a large blue disc, another is a yellow/orange disc, and there are smaller red and purple ones. The room is brightly lit, and a window is visible in the background.

Right: the Art Deco balcony extends from Jacopo's bedroom and overlooks the main room. The two hands below are made of teak and were carved by Jacopo while he was in Bali; he developed his skills with wood there. The room is filled with his designs – disc lights and 'Octopus Lights' that reflect in the natural sunlight of the apartment