

# AIR APPARENT

THE SIXTIES-STYLE LIVING ROOM FEATURES ARNE JACOBSEN FOR FRITZ HANSEN 'EGG' CHAIRS FROM INO STORE AND VELVET CARAVANE SOFAS BELOW AN ATOMIC CHANDELIER FROM DELIGHTFULL

On the isle of Corsica, a neo-Provençal villa undergoes a clever restructuring to open it up to the spectacular views

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PHOTOGRAPHS NICOLAS MATHEUS





THE POOL, WITH ITS MOVABLE FLOOR BY AQUALIFT, WAS DESIGNED BY NATHALIE APOSTOLATOS. THE SPRINGTIME LOUNGERS BY JEAN-MARIE MASSAUD FOR B&B ITALIA ARE COVERED IN OUTDOOR FABRIC FROM JAB

BELOW MARINE ELEMENTS PERVADE THE HOME



It takes just a short stroll from the wildly picturesque Corsican portside town of Porto-Vecchio to find the house of Julie and Xavier. Seasoned travellers with a deep love of the ocean, the couple's dream was to create a space that reflected just that but, with its dated eighties architecture, the home was trapped in a lacklustre time warp that even its incredible views couldn't save it from.

That is, until interior designers Nathalie Apostolatos and Pierre-Marie Couturier were asked to re-envision the space. Opting for a modern design, they breathed new life into the home through clever reconstruction and considered decor. The result? A house as dynamic as its owners, drawing inspiration from their extensive travels.

Under their supervision, the 350m<sup>2</sup> of this neo-Provençal house with its inherent retro flair takes on a Californian air. The American dream is present throughout, in its large bay windows, the simplicity of the lines and the decorative influences cherry-picked from different eras.

Almost everything inside was designed by Pierre-Marie – from the carpets to the furniture and lighting – and made to function as a whole. 'We wanted to create a special atmosphere for Xavier and Julie, tinged with sixties influences that spoke to their collection of photos by renowned French photographer Jean-Marie Périet, a true visionary of his time,' the designer explains. ▶



OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT A CONSTELLATION OF ZIETA PIN PEGS LIFTS THE DRESSING ROOM; THE OUTDOOR DINING AREA SEEMS TO BLEND WITH THE VIEW; LUSH GREEN ACCENTS IN ONE OF THE BEDROOMS; THE MASTER BATHROOM WITH ALTA MAREA VANITY UNITS



What was once a dated and unimaginative house has become a characterful space infused with joy



JULIE AND XAVIER WANTED SOFT COLOURS FOR THEIR BEDROOM. THE HEADBOARD, DESIGNED BY PIERRE-MARIE COUTURIER, IS UPHOLSTERED IN DEDAR 'SPARKS' FABRIC. THE DIALLO SMALL CHANDELIERS ARE FROM ARTERIORS AND THE FLOOR LAMP FROM CHARLES PARIS. JEAN-MARIE PÉRIER TOOK THE PHOTO OF FRANÇOISE HARDY



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT IN THE STAINLESS-STEEL KITCHEN, GAGGENAU APPLIANCES ARE COMBINED WITH CHEERFUL BISAZZA TILES; EERO SAARINEN 'TULIP' CHAIRS FROM KNOLL AROUND THE 'HORNU' TABLE FROM INTERNI EDITIONS; L-SHAPED SEATING AND FURNISHINGS IN ZESTY TONES CREATE A COMFORT ZONE ON THE VERANDAH

Upon entering the villa, guests are greeted by the bright dining room. Located between the two wings, it is the veritable heart of the home. Beyond lies the mirror pool, the centre of the composition, and past that, the sea. Around the pool is a deck of composite wood, a simple and elegant choice reflecting the view surrounding it.

Back inside, the living room draws from the spirit of the sixties, pairing bright blue and yellow to continue the sense of contrast and boldness found throughout. A custom carpet covers the floor upon which sit Arne Jacobsen's iconic 'Egg' chairs. Two striking sofas are dressed in velvet and a coffee table in gilded aluminium leaf bring it all together.

The yellow motif is carried through to the kitchen, where colourful tiles are balanced by chic stainless-steel appliances. Soft colours were chosen for the master bedroom, where a photo of Françoise Hardy by Jean-Marie takes pride of place. In the master bathroom, cabinets and mirrors play with different types of marble, while the taps are finished with brushed copper.

'In this reimagined villa, a joyful spirit had to be created,' says Pierre. They certainly got that right. What was once a dated and unimaginative house has, with the help of Nathalie and Pierre, become a characterful space infused with joy. Every piece has been selected for its unique significance, and together they become more than the sum of their parts. The home is as much a part of its surroundings as it is a complement to Julia and Xavier, and has become the perfect end destination. ■