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A CAST AWAY AT CASA TRAVIS

By Nader Ramadan
Design by Sandra Espinet / S.E. Design Services



✦ Casa Travis is one stunning Mexican style getaway designed for a Canadian client by design icon Sandra Espinet, one of the market's most prestigious names in the homes and home fashion. Mixing some chili hot, spicy Mexican design elements cooled down with an icy shot of industrial masculinity, this residence is the perfect get away to enjoy the weather, the sea breeze, not to mention some of the country's most scenic views.



Designed with the efforts of Sandra Espinet (owner of S.E. Design Services) and built for a prestigious Canadian client, Casa Travis is a stunning new residence perched on the desert mountains overlooking the scenic sea of Cortez in San Jose del Cabo, Mexico.

In coherence with the client's demands, the residence was designed to be authentically Mexican in all its architectural elements combined with a subtle sense of industrial masculinity. Elegance was also the important request. Though going

back to the basics, this residence echoes its extravagance sense of being a cast away at the sea of Cortez. "Strong, permanent and non trendy were words tossed around when we were designing. We were not looking to follow any one. We were looking to create a personalize space for our clients lifestyle," said Sandra Espinet in a press statement.



From the outside, what becomes most evident upon careful examination of the premises is its pragmatic use of the area's weather to the advantage of the client, incorporating a pool and exterior terrace to make the most of the sun and scenic views. "The giant wrap around pool plays focus to the outdoors and houses a sunken fire pit as well as a jacuzzi spa for 12," said a press statement from S.E. Design Services. "All outdoor [spaces] function as an extension of the inside. A large



dining area for 10 has bronze light fixtures above, a custom fireplace and sofas were used to create lounge areas and sundowner cocktail spaces."

From the inside, as much as this house uses the beauty of the location, Espinet has also taken advantage of its sheer size with the home having 4 bedrooms and 5 bathrooms consisting of a total area of 9,500 square feet. Rather than building more rooms, the client opted to create larger rooms with more design elements with each

individual space. It's the client's way of treating everyone special by making each every bedroom almost like a master bedroom. "Most people would have built more rooms in this amount of space. But our client preferred large rooms and bathrooms to large quantities of rooms. So each room feels like a master bedroom and has its own private terrace to make all guest feel special," Espinet said.





The color palette also involved a myriad of different natural colors including tans, creams and terracotas, teals, greens, peacocks to create an accent which gives tribute to the area and the residence masculine flavor. The media room was designed for maximum seating and comfort with a wrap around u shaped sofa and warm leather brown venetian plaster walls. The large scaled master bedroom is a luxurios space and has a private plunge pool on the terrace.

The tile work within the interior was also custom made and colored to suite the interior color palette of the house, featuring high quality natural brown quartzite slabs in the kitchen as well as dabs of masculine creams and blacks to add a male sense of strength to the kitchen. For ambiance in the evening, designers specifically used large iron light fixtures equipped with Edison bulbs sustaining a cozy, warm feeling throughout the premises. As

far as furnishing is concerned, the structure also features 2 silk velvet sofas by J.Robert Scott, adding an elegant sense of texture to augment on the chic Kyle Bunting rug, made out of all natural fur.



MEET THE DESIGNER

Sandra Espinet's career could be summarized three-fold: a symbol of aesthetic accomplishment, long time award-winning interior designer and travel enthusiast. She picks up from her travels many inspirational elements from all corners of the globe including the spicy hot corners

of Mexico. Being a member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), Sandra graduated from the New England School of Design in Boston with an associates degree in interior design followed by her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interior Design from the American College of Art in Atlanta. Espinet went on to do her masters degree in production design at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. Her unique perspective in design has caught the attention of many publications including Architectural Digest Latin America, Cosmopolitan Magazine and Kitchens & Baths as well as on television with appearances on HGTV's "Celebrity Holiday Homes" and Martha Stewart's Living Radio. In addition



to having published her book "Well Traveled Home" (Gibbs-Smith, August 2013), she has also won the ASID's Best Designer award in 2011 as well as the California Home & Design's Readers Choice Designer of the Year Award in 2010.

Now Sandra has also released a new Tibetan rug collection for Aga John, making S.E. Design Services not only about just interiors but a wide range of home based design solutions. Her back to basic, cut loose, informal approach makes her products and styles widely admired by people who have an eye for luxury at its finest, not to mention that

she makes an ideal spokesperson for interior products including Anderson Wood Flooring for the past two years. As we said she is a frequent traveler, but you can always find Sandra in LA working between California and Los Cabos, Mexico.

