



Mexican Magic

INSPIRED BY ELEMENTS OF BOTH MOROCCAN AND MEXICAN DESIGN, THIS MAJESTIC VILLA IN NORTHERN MEXICO IS A COOL BLEND OF TEALS, SANDS AND BROWNS WITH UNBRIDLED LUXURY AT ITS CORE



This exotic and elegant home in Cabo at the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula was gutted and re-designed from floor to ceiling for a large Cabo family. The owners wanted to make access to the ocean the main feature of the home. Walking through the main floor to the back of the living room and opening the wooden panel doors, your first view is over the large swimming pool which, in turn, overlooks the sparkling ocean beyond.

This project took 16 months from design conception to construction and was completed last year. "The client has had a

vacation home in Cabo, Mexico for over 10 years and this is my second project with her," explains interior designer Sandra Espinet, who lives and works between Los Angeles and Los Cabos (Cabo).

"The desire was to have an open plan, family friendly home that embraces the ocean and creates a tranquil peaceful feel; different from their first home which is quite formal. They wanted a more casual feel in this house and I think we accomplished that. The end product is a beautiful home where you can wear a bathing suit and wrap and yet still feel luxurious."



ALMOST EVERY PIECE OF FURNITURE IS CUSTOM-MADE AND DESIGNED TO FIT THE STYLE AND NEEDS OF THE OWNER.

The main entrance sets the tone of the home with high ceilings, an oversized chandelier, and a black iron staircase. "The door was hand selected with thick custom cemented mouldings adding a unique touch," says Sandra.

She and her client filled the terrace with giant furniture that was hand selected, chosen for comfort and volume, while the fabrics were chosen to resemble the earthy shades on a Mexican beach. "The living room directly connects to the outdoor patio in order to embrace the ocean and create a blended indoor/outdoor space. The mosaic tiles act like carpets and separate the seating zones," she says.

The pool was entirely gutted and re-built. "The idea is again to connect all elements of the home to the ocean, therefore it flows directly into the ocean with romantic accent lighting, and custom spouts incorporated into the floor of the pool making for gentle ripple effects in the water," she adds. A small intimate bench is centred at the foot of the pool overlooking the ocean and the Mexican landscapes, creating a romantic spot to enjoy sunsets or stary skies.





THE VILLA IS FILLED WITH RICH PATTERNS AND FINE DETAILING, ESPECIALLY IN THE SUMPTUOUS TILES AND FABRICS.





"The owner and myself have been friends for some time now. We both have similar tastes and interests, so it was never really a matter of combining design ideas or aesthetics, it was more a matter of, 'Is it possible to make or have shipped?' Together we went shopping in exotic countries and small vintage shops searching for pieces that spoke to us. It is an eclectic transitional home," says Sandra.

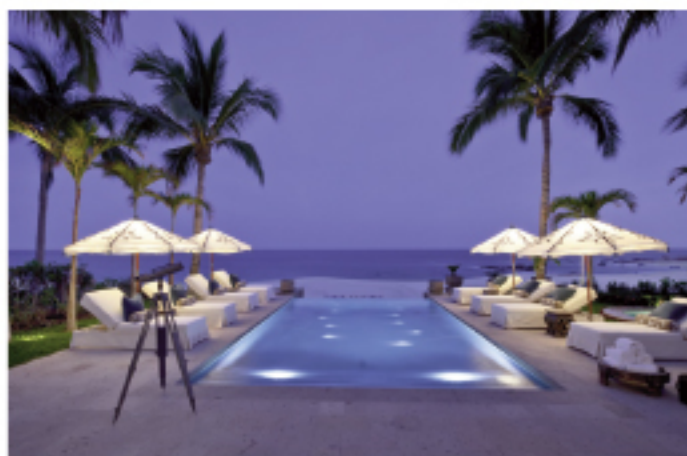
"The owner had one demand: to make the ocean the main feature in the design. We worked closely with the builder to get all of the details together and make everything customised. The home has teals and accents of natural tones in order to keep the Caribbean colour palette. Woods, precious stones and other exotic materials were selected to add a rich and delicate touch to the home's story."



THE KITCHEN IS DESIGNED AROUND AN ENORMOUS MARBLE AND WOOD ISLAND, TO PROVIDE GUESTS WITH AN ELEGANT FOOD HAVEN.



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Spacious outdoor cooking areas include a barbecue and ovens so the chef can always have company. The kitchen is designed around an enormous marble and wood island, to provide guests with an elegant food haven. Its intricate patterns and carvings, soft pops of teal, and the low twinkling LED lighting all work together to create a relaxing and welcoming space.

Almost every piece of furniture in the home is custom-made and designed to fit the style and needs of the owner. "My favourite feature in the master bedroom is the custom 10 foot

king-sized bed with the delicate canopy. The traditional bed is a mixture of inspirations. It is hand carved from sandy coloured woods and draped with sheers to provide a sensual retreat," says Sandra.

Attached to the master bedroom is the dimly lit palatial spa-bathroom. The giant tub has a mixture of brown mosaic tiles and jade colored marble under a delicate LED pendant. The details in the bathroom add extra glamour with custom-made semi-precious stone knobs, a mirrored vanity and thick carved wood doors.



THE GIANT TUB HAS A MIXTURE OF BROWN MOSAIC TILES AND JADE COLOURED MARBLE UNDER A DELICATE LED PENDANT.

The villa is filled with rich patterns and fine detailing, especially in the tiles and fabrics. "We wanted a very whimsical and Moroccan feel in the home. The pieces the client and I selected added depth and unique touches. The tiles were all custom designed and therefore I would say the patterned tiles are among my favourite features. Creating them was such a collaborative and unique experience."

Sandra says the home is filled with a lot of family members so the ideas of communication, collaboration and family interaction were key. "I wanted every room in the home to create a sense of unity where they could interact as a family and enjoy the serenity of the ocean." She loves the way the outdoor spaces work. "We designed them so that they embrace the indoor areas and connect to the ocean. All of the details are so personal that it truly becomes a personal journey for every resident. This home allows the mind and soul to meditate, while still allowing for the family to enjoy the space together."





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Los Angeles and Cabo-based Sandra Espinet, interior designer and lifelong traveller, represents the epitome of relaxed luxury and casual international style. Her clients are the beneficiaries of her extensive world travels, which produce finds of exquisitely wrought artisanal furniture, exotic rugs and textiles, dramatic artwork and indigenous accessories that are put to beautiful use in her clients' homes. See sandraespinet.com