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Creating a dream home

Inside the newest villa of Cap d'Antibes

By NICOLE RUSKELL

Riviera Insider gets a peek inside this new dream home with Pascal Le Corff, Interior designer and owner of Mandala Interior Architecture firm in Cannes

In the world of haute-gamme interiors, the possibilities of choice are endless. Having a skilled designer who can guide you through the immensity of options and customizations according to your taste and style is not only rare but also priceless. This is why Pascal Le Corff and his firm, Mandala Interior Architecture, have been trusted to create some of the most impressive interiors in the French Riviera, Paris and even homes in the Hollywood hills. Specialising in completely transforming older properties into a client's dream home, Mr Le Corff's vision and expertise fuse with the style and taste of his client, creating a personally designed, haute-couture home while preserving the character of the original property. By stripping the building down to just the exterior walls, Mr Le Corff enjoys the blank slate to "give rise to new desires in the imagination of the owners."



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With 80 per cent of his clientele from abroad, it is particularly important to understand his client's taste from the beginning. The key, he explains, lies in getting to know his clients and establishing a rapport of trust and mutual understanding. "It's not our project," he says, "it's their project."

Mandala, therefore, was a clear choice for the new owners of a 1930's property in Cap d'Antibes. The Anglo-Scandinavian couple purchased the villa with the intent of having a holiday getaway in the South of France. But after getting to know each other, learning their tastes and needs, Mr Le Corff not only transformed the property, he transformed the purpose of the home. The client was so in love with the final project they decided to rearrange their life to make this their "family headquarters".

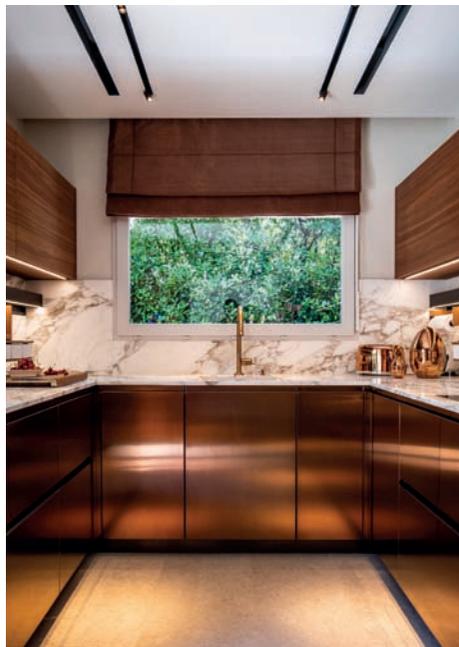
Riviera Insider takes you inside this gorgeous, Provençal style villa. Standing three-stories high, the seven-bedroom, seven-bath home was originally built in the 1930s, as a small, single-story structure. 50 years later, it gained a second level but the haphazard additions created a complicated distribution of rooms. The final surface area of 400m² completely redesigned the space to gain fluidity and luminosity.

In defining the colour palettes and atmospheres of each room, Pascal Le Corff called on the expertise of Alexandre Curtet of the Bel-Œil brand to draw on a very diverse range of high-quality, contemporary furniture.

Mandala works with a highly selective group of contractors and local businesses, which over the years has grown into a trusted network of the best artisans and suppliers in the region. From fine wood carpenters to expert marble layers to artisan tapestry and



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custom furniture builders, Mr. Le Corff works like an orchestra conductor, directing a symphony of workers and keeping the project running smoothly.

The Arclinea kitchen aligns its Calacatta marble worktops, a refreshing contrast to the copper-plated stainless steel appliances. Developed in collaboration with Bel-Œil, this Italian kitchen combines technicality and aesthetics. The window, centred above the sink, offers a green setting that responds to the presence of the chestnut tree on the façades and the numerous wine cellars.

Respecting the Provençal character of the building, the interior walls remain light, fading into the cheerful colours of certain pieces of furniture. In the living room, the mustard yellow of the fabulous Tulip armchairs by Marcel Wanders for Cappellini, impose their silhouette against the subtle grace of the Graduate library by Jean Nouvel for Molteni.

The 1600 m² garden was also transformed, given pride of place to the rustic and fra-

grant Mediterranean essences, lining the paths, refreshing the pergolas and creating a tranquil frame to a stunning swimming pool, lined with Bisazza mosaic tile to give it a brilliant sparkle.

Placed on the water line is a set of four water lilies carved in Burgundy stone complementing a Japanese step designed to link the two sides of the pool. The garden space is made more enjoyable with B&B Italia's outdoor furniture, which fits naturally into its environment, including a 4.2 m custom teak dining table that matches the teak decking around the pool.

Really emphasising quality over quantity, Mr Le Corff reveals that he puts so much love and attention into a home that it can be a bit hard to let it go in the end. "I don't want to say it's like a baby, but in a way..." The recompense, of course, is seeing the joy in his client's eyes when he hands over the keys. "It's a joyous moment and all our projects end with Champagne." ▀

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