

EASY BREEZY

THIS SPRAWLING SEASIDE HOLIDAY HAMLET IS DESIGNED FOR WEEKEND ESCAPES WITH FAMILY MEMBERS, YOUNG AND OLD

Story & styling AMANDINE BERTHON Photography JULIEN FERNANDEZ

DOWN TIME The owners of this refuge intended for it to be a vacation destination for not only them, but their children and grandchildren, too. The coffee table by carpenter Nicolas Marty creates a communal space along with the Airborne 'Butterfly' chairs (for similar, try Bunnings). A tray and pots from Le Grand Comptoir and a carafe from Day Co add to the turquoise accents on the window and door frames. >

The owners of this relaxed, resort-style abode had been wanting to transform their family holiday home for several years. Rather than renovating the previous 1970s house, they decided to pull it down, start from scratch and build a property more suited to the coastline environment.

Set on a headland, there were a number of constraints. Regulations were in place to ensure they respected the area and avoided impacting the surrounding dunes. They needed to stay within the existing footprint and not extend upwards.

The couple called in architect Sandrine Mercurio and interior designer Nicole Joinau to spearhead the project. "It was teamwork right from the start," says Sandrine. "It's best when the aesthetic design choices are conceived at the same time as the architectural elements." To be sympathetic to the block's sloping terrain, they came up with the hamlet design, made up of a collection of buildings. These surround a large, central terrace with a pool. "We wanted to create a walk-through-the-dunes feeling rather than a large, single building," explains Sandrine. "The variations in the roof heights and differing building sizes energise the property."

The black and turquoise wooden dwelling, with its smart cladding and eye-catching eaves, sits in the little town of Cap Ferret in south-west France's Arcachon Bay. Local oyster huts influenced the style of the building and every detail aims to infuse the kind of charm that's typical of the region.

The light interior contrasts with the darker facade – the building's ceiling framework, left visible and painted white, accentuating the brightness in the open-plan flow of the kitchen, dining room and living room. To make the most of the available space, the dining bench is built alongside the kitchen island.

Behind the fireplace, an intimate room serves as a study and television area – ideal for those who want a calm corner when the house is full. A long corridor leads to the six bedrooms, arranged around the terrace. Each bedroom has its own shower room, perfectly coordinated with a unique colour palette and harmonised bedlinen.

The owners invested a lot of time and energy into choosing the decor. They bought most of the furniture secondhand, including the '50s and '60s Nordic design pieces.

"It already has a family-home atmosphere to it," the owners share. "It doesn't feel like the home has just been finished." It's exactly what they wanted to achieve and it will see many gatherings with children and grandchildren for years to come.

KITCHEN AND DINING AREA Built against the kitchen island, the dining bench has a bespoke seat and cushions by Nathalie Nazarre d'Atelier Ambiance. It optimises the space, along with the long table by cabinetmaker Julien Filhol. This has been paired with chairs from Voyage, which add textural interest (for similar, try MCM House). Fresh blooms sit in vases from Ferm Living. A rich blue is in the artwork by Omar Mahfoudi. >



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The extra time and investment required to have elements made to measure make all the difference in a home. Interior designer Nicole Joinau created many details, including this built-in bench seat and table to match, as well as joinery in the bedrooms and bathrooms. It's a big benefit of having an expert on board to help, as even the most unconventional of spaces will look seamless.

KITCHEN AND DINING AREA In an open-plan area like this space, it's visually appealing to create zones. This has been done beautifully with Vincent Sheppard 'Vivi' pendant lights positioned in a pair over the dining space and a trio over the kitchen (for similar, try Harvey Norman). They tie in with the timber Roman blinds from Ballauf (for similar, try 'Le Blinde' timber blinds from Blinds by Peter Meyer). >



“THE OWNER WANTED
A *luminous* KITCHEN AND
LIVING AREA, *punctuated*
with touches OF GREEN
AND TURQUOISE”

NICOLE, INTERIOR DESIGNER

LIVING AREA “With its high ceiling and white woodwork, the living area exudes a serene atmosphere. Sofas from Home Spirit sit on a rug from Casa Lopez (for similar, try Choices Flooring) and are contrasted with a vintage coffee table by Berthold Müller-Oerlinghausen. ‘Paper Knife’ armchairs by Kai Kristiansen are upholstered in ‘Tanger’ fabric by Jim Thompson (try Milgate). These, along with cushions from Voyage and Murano glasses inject a colour hit. Paintings by Omar Mahfoudi (in the kitchen) and Anne-Sophie Richard (between the windows) are lively additions. >



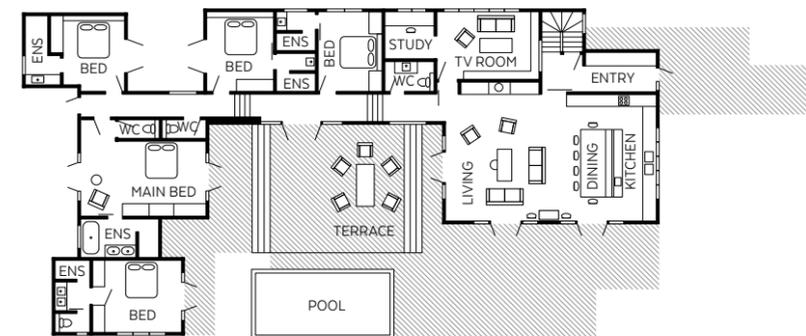


“WE LOVE
THE *warm and
welcoming*
ATMOSPHERE
OF THE HOUSE”

HOMEOWNER



FLOOR PLAN



BATHROOM A personality-packed bathroom (above left) features India Mahdavi ‘Butterfly’ tiling for Bisazza. The mirror by Made (for similar, try One World) is flanked by Flos ‘Mini Glo-ball’ wall lights (try Living Edge). **GRANDCHILDREN’S BEDROOM** This youthful yet sophisticated room (above right) is adorned with Cole & Son ‘Hummingbird’ wallpaper (try Wallpaper Direct). Crisp bedlinen is from Linvosges while the Egmont mushroom lamp keeps it from getting too serious. **GUEST BEDROOM** Two-toned walls, painted in a pretty pastel green tone (try Dulux Mint Twist) and Farrow & Ball Pointing No. 2003, make a fun combination in the guest bedroom (opposite). The floral-shaped ‘Cosmos’ Caravane wall lamps and pendant light add to the playfulness (for similar, try The Montauk Lighting Co). Built-in furniture is designed by interior designer Nicole Joinau. >

MAIN BEDROOM A panoramic print from Isidore Leroy spans the wall, illustrating the landscape of Cap Ferret. Vintage bedside tables and pendant lights frame the bed from Treca. Simple white bedlinen is from Linvosges, with a cushion from Caravane. **MAIN ENSUITE** India Mahdavi 'Pill' tiles bring a graphic touch to the couple's bathroom (opposite). The built-in vanity was designed by interior designer Nicole Joinau with basins from Villeroy & Boch. Two 'Stone' wall lights from Tom Dixon sit between Made mirrors, with the oval Ma Salle de Bain bath continuing the curved lines. Classic Cristina & Ondyna tapware and a framed antique print complete the space. >



ARTWORK ARTIST UNKNOWN

Beautiful HOMES

TERRACE The black-cladded house (for similar cladding, try James Hardie) is inspired by the local oyster huts and divided into several interlocking sections with varying heights. The pool is decorated with turquoise mosaics, which tie in with the home's joinery. The charming garden was designed by the landscape gardener Arnaud Gallou.



Source book

Interior designer: Nicole Joinau
Architect: Sandrine Mercurio,
sandrinemercurio.com.



INSIDE STORY

Who stays here?
A couple, their three children and two grandchildren.

What do you love about your home?
“We love the luminous and bright atmosphere of the living room with its high ceilings, which increase the size of the room and its large windows opening onto the garden.”

Best design decision?
Having a black-walled exterior and white-walled rooms. We love this contrast and these two atmospheres.

What activities do you enjoy here?
“We like to welcome our family and friends into our home. The house is practical and comfortable even when it is full, thanks to its many bedrooms. We like to take advantage of the large beaches where we have picnics.”



1. A wall frieze in this bedroom visually lowers the ceiling and the Day Co quilt cover and cushions add a sweet touch.
2. Interior designer Nicole Joinau in the home's corridor, which is adorned with 'Zigzag' tiling by Popham Design.
3. Industrial-style 'Bestlite' pendant lights from Gubi hang by a vintage painting in the TV and study area.
4. In the living area, the fireplace has Moroccan tiles from Mosaic del Sur.
5. The kitchen is light and bright with natural materials to warm up the area.
6. A delicate central pendant in this coastal-style bedroom is from Day Co.
7. This bathroom features 'Brazilian Agata blu' tiles from Bisazza.



ARTWORK (#5) OMAR MAHFOUDI