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JULY 2008



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GORGEOUS HOMES FROM CALIFORNIA
TO MIKONOS AND LONDON



A MIKONOS PEARL

A five-minute walk up a winding route from Greece's crystal blue waters on the island of Mikonos lies a distinctive lustrous design. Its outer white dressed shell, with small windows tucked across its façade, comes across as being discreet.

High walls around the entrance pour over in gradual layers towards the residence, providing a sense of privacy, appearing as a man-built mountain. Vivid consideration to landscape design is added between the levels along with a high sensitivity to the way light and shadow dance

across the stone clusters and wooden elements.

Yet, as you're lured past this first impression, the cluster of architectural volumes welcomes the breathtaking views of the infinite ocean and sheer sunlight into every space.

The interior layout allows the

residence to act as merging point between the mountains and the ocean as it opens outwards to the ocean view. With wood-paneled ceilings, unique wooden accessories, smooth white-washed walls, and curves in the furniture, an organic ambience is clearly created.



Architecture: Galal Mahmoud
Interior Design: Galal Mahmoud & Randa Chahine



The central table gracefully reflects the organic appeal of the facing pool and the three wooden columns at the entrance, while it highlights the attributes of the ceiling. This curved seating area makes a strong impression as it highlights the backdrop wall in its dominating qualities of vibrant color and flowing form. Set with a side table featuring carved arcs at its base and an octagonal high-gloss red surface, a link to heritage with a modern twist is emphasized. The U-shaped layout, with the spaces revolving around the communal living room that extends outwards into the terrace, promotes a strong relationship with its exterior surroundings. Within an open space system and through wide-spaced arcs in the wall, to the right of the living room is a raised level for the working space and the TV zone. To the left of the living room is the dining space with



swinging doors to the kitchen. Simple yet original items stand out in the dining space, such as the overhead daisy table lamp, the stone curvilinear tray, and the metallic ox head. Although each of the items has an identity of its own, in the space they form a complete composition. The layout also implements its unified circulation with the four studio bedrooms' interior and exterior access. This underlines the privacy and independence of each space yet still ties them together. Set in neutral tones of beige, whites, and grey highlights,

this master bedroom has a more formal character. The silver bases of the table lamps in their symmetrical tones compliment the bedside tables, defined and ornamented with small metallic circles. Through an open arc lies the marble-dressed bathroom set off with silver accessories, a unique chandelier, and an attractive mirror to further compliment its sense of formality and sophistication. With a tad bit more confidence, this bedroom shows off its contemporary side through a recessed wall



HOME AND GARDEN

pointed in pale green and dotted with complimenting contemporary accessories. A pale yellow couch off in the corner and a striking painting reflect the color and tone of the room.

Straying away from neutral tones, this bedroom is splashed in daring colors in all the right places. Just

enough to underline a daring tone, the effect of the electric blue frame on the bed spread bounces off the colorful pillows and onto the red couch by the corner, just in time to flow back into harmony with its white backdrop.

Since the architectural image has to abide by the building









regulations of Mikonos, the elevations are limited to a white-wash finish. Carrying its way into the interior spaces, the random splashes of striking colors complement their monochrome backdrop. Arches recessed into the walls, along with the extraordinary accessories and arabesque designs weaved on particular fabrics and materials, reflect the Middle Eastern roots of the family.

The terrace takes its cue from the apparent theme of the indoor living room through the couches lined along the

walls by the pool, the wooden shaded areas, and the curves in the arcs.

To define a strong sense of continuation and harmony, the exterior and interior elements blend into one another. This is also achieved with the infinite design of the pool as it overflows into the horizon. Just as the exterior fascia, which appears limited, opens towards the seemingly limitless ocean and as the pasty flush of white reveals surprises of bursting color and design, this hidden gem now surely floats above the surface. ■

