

ELLE DECORATION

JUL/AUG 2024

Fiesta-ready **OUTDOOR
ENTERTAINING**

How the **FASHION
CROWD** *do hotels*

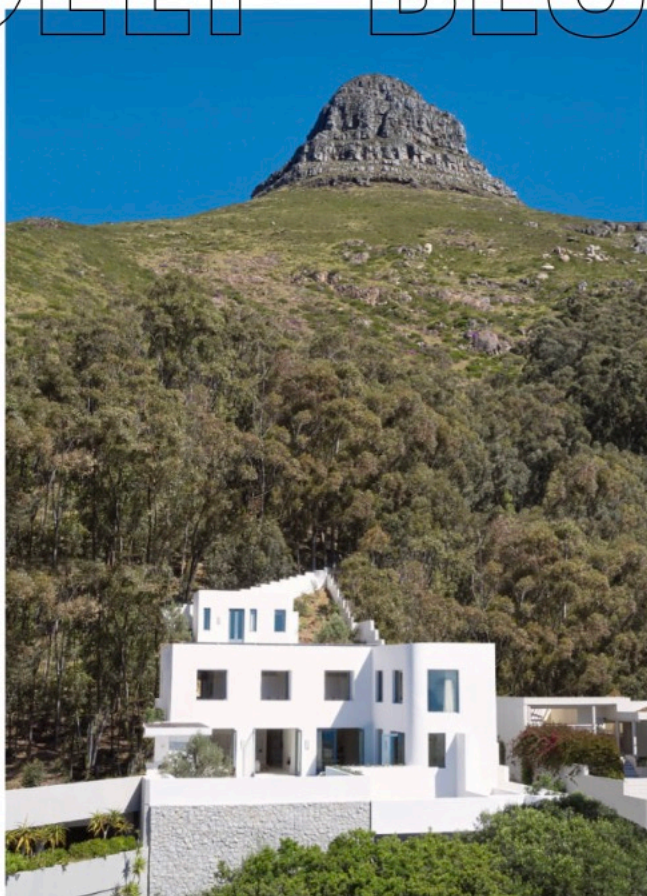
MEXICAN STYLE'S
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**CELEBRATE
SUMMER**



DEEP BLUE



SOMETHING

In a mountainside Cape Town suburb, an outdated house has been reimagined in a minimalist, Aegean-holiday style

WORDS **MARGOT MOLYNEUX** PHOTOGRAPHY **ELSA YOUNG/FRANK** FEATURES

Façade This architecturally bold Cape Town home enjoys the Lion's Head mountain slopes as its back garden
Pool area A custom-made honed-granite table and 'M1 Sammen' garden dining chairs by Thomas E Alken for FDB Møbler are perfect for family gatherings and lazy afternoons by the pool. Bespoke natural-toned sheers filter the light and softly frame all the windows and doors in the home. For similar, try Formafantasma's 'Oishi' linen-mix fabric for Kieffer ►



Locations don't get much better than a spot at the foot of Lion's Head mountain, overlooking Cape Town and the sea. Which is lucky, because this house had little else going for it before its recent renovation. Looking to inject some love into the property, its new owners approached interior architect Marlon Leggat with a single reference: an image of a dreamy, whitewashed holiday villa in the Greek Cyclades.

Following an extensive transformation, the home, with its five bedrooms, gym, office, playroom and separate guest studio, feels spacious but somehow also cosy. Its crisp, white façade is punctuated by deep-set windows and dry-packed stone walls, which nod to the traditional island architecture of the Mediterranean. Inside, the layered yet pared-back interiors stick to a simple palette of raw granite, honed Spanish marble, rattan and jute with white-rendered walls and rich terracotta, dark-walnut and deep-blue details. 'Working on this project for almost two years allowed me time to source unusual objects and partner with local craftspeople to create custom-made pieces that make this home unique,' says Marlon. Blue-and-white striped textiles are a motif throughout – a subtle nod to the seaside location and the Greek-island style beloved by the owners.

Aegean inspiration was also key outdoors, with landscaper Kate Mason, from the nearby Greenhouse at Montebello, looking to Greece's terraced farmlands when creating a tiered garden, with sections held up using local stone. Olive trees, cork oaks and indigenous grasses help the building to blend into the slopes of the mountain, while Cape-granite boulders placed around the pool are another reminder of the home's unique position (you'll spot one particularly large example holding up the kitchen island).

Having had a revamp that feels like a complete overhaul, this home has kept only the most important elements from its predecessor: its location, its clever use of space and its remarkable, uninterrupted views of the ocean. @marlonleggat; @thegreenhousenursery

Kitchen This generous space features marble countertops and papyrus-coloured cupboards. A solid plank of walnut tops the island, which is held up by a huge Cape-granite boulder that is a striking contrast to the Bianco Rosso marble floor. The still-life artwork is by Jeremy Rose and the antique limestone apothecary mortar was purchased from a dealer in Athens. Custom pendant lights with vintage opal-glass shades hang above seagrass bar stools that were woven in Cape Town

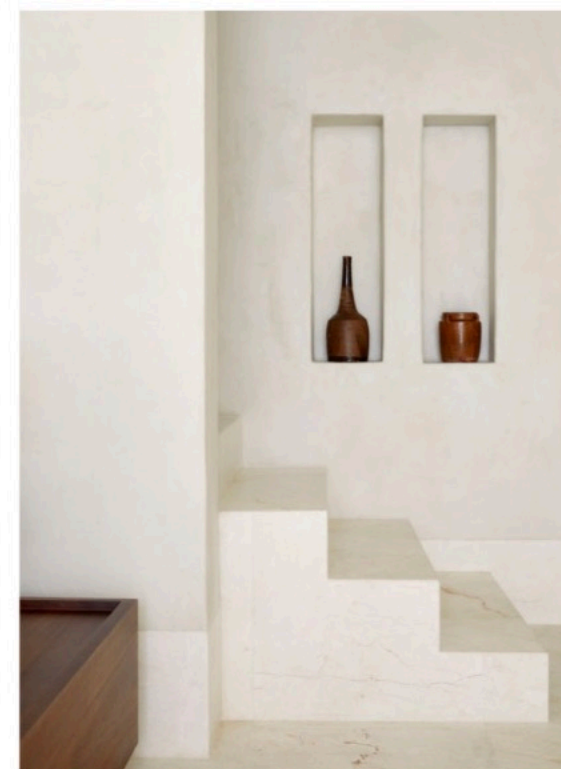
Outdoor seating area Casting beautiful shadows over the already striped outdoor cushions, the dark-wood slatted pergola creates a reprieve from the sunlight ➤



Dining area An angular custom-made unfilled vein-cut travertine dining table was designed by interior architect Marlon Leggat and made locally by Cannata. Jørgen Bækmark's 'J80' dining chairs in smoked-oak and paper cord for FDB Møbler are complemented by a large Ferm Living 'Dou' lampshade. A West African Baule runner from Out of Africa adorns the table



Clockwise from top left Long inset shelves above a vintage sideboard display terracotta bowls and jugs found on far-flung travels, an incense burner from Peru, a water-pourer from Greece and a jug from Jordan. To the right is a vintage 1960s Bakker & Steyger oak chair and a turn-of-the-century seascape by an unknown artist; more inset niches beside the staircase offer space to display ceramic works of art; the living room is home to a curated collection of objects, including an original 'Sheriff' lounge chair by Sergio Rodrigues and a brass candleholder from Danish brand Stof Nagel. A brutalist carved wooden stool, travertine coffee table and seagrass rug all add natural elements and texture to the off-white palette. On the sideboard, a seagrass lampshade from Moroccan Warehouse sits on a lampstand from Cécile & Boyd ►



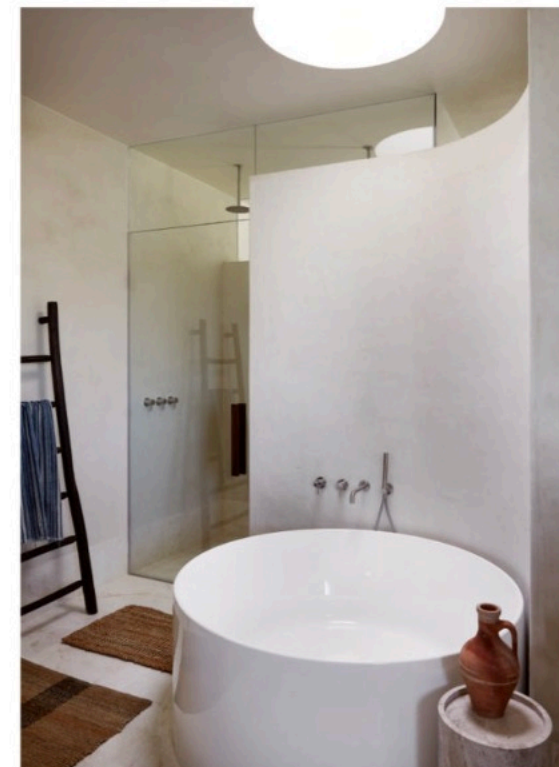


Blue-and-white stripes are a motif throughout this home – a subtle nod to the seaside location and the owners’ beloved Greek-island style

Opposite Adjacent to the main bedroom’s lift entrance and coffee nook, this sunny spot is home to an upholstered bench (try ‘Grain Stripe’ fabric by Ian Mankin for similar) that looks over the horizon towards Robben Island. The pendant lamp is from Ferm Living and the rug is an Afghan Chobi

Main bathroom Echoing the large-scale curved walls seen elsewhere, the bathroom at the centre of the main bedroom is softened by an arc that wraps around a circular ‘Rondo’ freestanding bath from Eurotrend underneath a skylight. A bespoke cylindrical limestone side table holds a water vessel sourced from Sifnos, Greece

Guest bathroom A Dyna beige-limestone vanity and Senufo wooden stool (tucked underneath) bring natural materials into this small space. The candlestick holders are from Design Afrika ►





Clockwise from below A vintage Gio Ponti chair sits beneath the skylight above the curved stairwell; Juliet balconies allow glimpses of the ocean views; in the main bedroom, a dressing area and workspace (complete with an American-walnut desk and vanity mirror designed by Marlon and a 1960s Bauhaus cantilever chair) is separated by soft drapes from the bed, which is fitted with a Santa & Cole bedside lamp. A porthole window complements the nautical stripes of the bedspread



Guest bedroom
A 'Cast Pendant' by Tom Chung and Jordan Murphy for Audo Copenhagen hangs low beside the bed, which is again dressed in stripes. The custom American-walnut desk was designed by Marlon and manufactured by WDCG Joiners and the 1960s 'Imbuia' chair by EE Meyer for Binnehuis was sourced from The Space Agency, a mid-century furniture store in Cape Town. The vintage carved brutalist mirror came from an antiques market, also in Cape Town ►

The pool is surrounded by carefully placed Cape Granite boulders, which are reminders of this home's mountainside location



Exterior Taking full advantage of the windless nature of Fresnaye, the living spaces open onto the family's outdoor-entertainment area. The pool is surrounded by carefully placed Cape-granite boulders, which are reminders of this home's mountainside location. The sunbed is the 'Platform Sun Lounger' by Bloc Outdoor and the side table is the 'Tom' by Pezula Interiors. The lanterns in differing sizes are custom versions of Bloc Outdoor's 'Cape' design. [See Stockists page for details](#)