

June 2021

# Livingetc

guest editor jonathan adler  
serves up

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# tequila sunrise

The cocktail of colour and style designer

Martyn Lawrence Bullard has created in this

Mexican villa is pure magic

\* PHOTOGRAPHY Douglas Friedman  
WORDS Karine Monié



### BAR

Inspiration is from all around - walls from the agave plant, tiling from the terracotta earth, art from the bottles on the bar.

Bar with glazed brick tiles by Arto and bar stools, MLB Atelier. String pendant light, Paul Marra

### TERRACE

The bright mural on the ceiling was painted by local artist Daniela Medina



## MEDIA ROOM

This space is an ode to Frida Kahlo, celebrating her life and the colours that inspired her.

**Art**, Museo Tamayo. **Cabinetry**, MLB Atelier. **Walls in** Southfield Green HC-129 by Benjamin Moore. **Sofa**, Minotti

## home profile

## THE INTERIOR DESIGNER

Martyn Lawrence Bullard designed the interiors of this property for an entrepreneur-philanthropist and his family.

## THE PROPERTY

A contemporary house by architect Juan Zapata at Maravilla Los Cabos, Mexico. The ground floor has a foyer, a gym, three guest bedroom suites, a laundry and a garage. There is a first floor mezzanine viewing theatre. The second floor has a kitchen/dining/living room, media room and en suite bedroom. The top floor has the main bedroom suite with outside terraces.



## KITCHEN

As it sits in an open-plan area, the island was designed to make a statement. It looks like an artwork with its patchwork of marble.

Marble island and cabinetry, MLB Atelier. Hanging light, Apparatus. Tap, Dornbracht



## BEDROOM

A mirrored wardrobe reflects the ocean views when the curtains are open.

Mid-century **bed** in Oklahoma Cactus by Pierre Frey. **Red throw**, Rejuvenation. **Wardrobe**, **side table** and **rug**, all MLB Atelier. **Lamp**, Lawson-Fenning



## He may be a big name in the design world but Brit-born Martyn Lawrence Bullard is as happy creating celebrity homes - Kylie Jenner, Khloe Kardashian, Cher - and high-end hotels - the newly opened Prospect in Hollywood, the iconic Colony Palms

in Palm Springs - as he is working on his sister Tina's 18th-century pub in Chislehurst, Kent (The Imperial Arms). Now LA-based and a celebrity himself thanks to TV shows like *Million Dollar Decorators* in the US and *Hollywood Me* (Channel 4) in the UK, his range of styles and eclectic yet sophisticated and inviting interiors are in demand globally. For his latest project, a modernist new build, designed by architect Juan Zapata to capture the sweeping panorama of a hill-top view in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, Martyn's brief was to create a sanctuary for a busy entrepreneur-philanthropist and his family. 'It was to be all about vacations and downtime,' he says. 'Luxurious but laid-back.'

Inspiration for this exciting project in a place that is dear to Martyn's heart came from the nature outside. 'I chose my colour palette from what was in front of my eyes - the blue-green hues of the ocean and the sky and the sandy shades and earth tones in the natural rock formations that surround the house,' he says. 'Linens and woven cottons are the mainstay of the interiors with pops of unexpected hues from traditional weaves

and embroidered fabrics,' says Martyn, who used Mexican desert shades like burnt orange, saffron and terracotta. 'Together with walls painted in vivid blues (echoing the ocean) and greens (reflecting banana plants outside), they create a perfect balance of old meets new, tradition meets modernity and luxury meets comfort,' he says, which all adds up to the charm and lived-in feel of this fun yet elegant family home.

Martyn travelled all over Mexico searching for perfect pieces, from ceramics in Guadalajara to locally made accessories in San Miguel de Allende and rugs crafted in Oaxaca. He sourced mid-century Mexican furniture to reflect the cultural history and crafts of the area and country. Friend and long-term collaborator Katrien Van der Schueren from Voila! Creative Studio was brought in to create many of the custom artworks and sculptures. She also worked on the media room, which was imagined as an ode to Frida Kahlo and features early photography and modern interpretations of pop art inspired by the painter.

The house, with its big, pivoting glass doors capturing the views and the light,

and luxurious flooring with marble inlays, has both a grandiose and relaxed vibe. A majestic entrance leads the way to four large floors, all with indoor-outdoor terraces with strategic spots for everything the family could wish for, from a relaxing massage to a round of mini-golf on their own putting green to a sunset margarita at the tequila bar. The heart of the house is on the second floor where a large open-plan kitchen-dining-living room opens on three sides to terraces and to the undulating pool, which has its own water slide helter-skeltering down from the nearby hillside.

The top floor is dedicated to the grown-ups with its main bedroom suite opening on to a meditation and yoga terrace, with breathtaking views down to the ocean, with a further terrace accommodating an outdoor hot tub and bar area with a firepit, designed especially for night-time drinks.

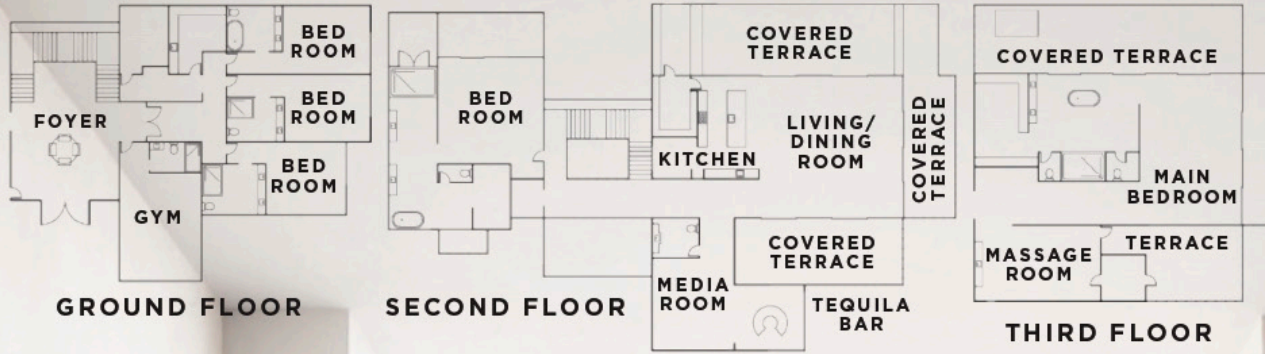
It's a home that has everything the family could dream of and more: casual yet refined, a place to play and relax, with visual surprises at every turn.

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x

martynlawrencebullard.com

## the blueprint



### MAIN BATHROOM

The large picture window is designed to encapsulate the industrial-looking underbelly of the pool slide, which looks like a modern artwork.

Shower and fittings by Fantini. The bench is vintage Mexican



## CHILDREN'S ROOM

'It has joy and whimsy, elements that as adults we often miss in our own interiors,' says Martyn.

Custom **bunk beds** with **pillows** in Aegean Stripe by Carolina Irving, MLB Atelier



## home truths

### THE COLOUR THAT EVOKES SUMMER?

All tones of turquoise.

### IDEAL HOLIDAY DESTINATION?

Italy - from Umbria to Capri, the entire country is a vacation destination that touches and inspires all the senses.

### FAVOURITE SUMMER FOOD?

Chilled watermelon with sea salt.

### ESSENTIAL ITEM IN THE WARMER MONTHS?

Sunscreen. I always love a little tan - that summer glow that makes everything look better - but carefully monitored with a dose of high-factor sunscreen, preferably lightly fragranced with coconut.

### SUMMER AT THE BEACH OR IN THE MOUNTAINS?

I love the ocean, so always at the beach for me.