





AD100 designer *Martyn Lawrence Bullard* conjures a breathtakingly
dramatic retreat in Mexico

TEXT BY MARTYN LAWRENCE BULLARD PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN



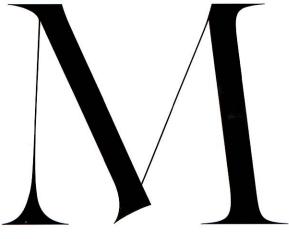


ABOVE A KERRY JOYCE PERFORMANCE FABRIC COVERS CUSTOM SOFAS IN THE LIVING ROOM. VINTAGE JEAN GILLON ARMCHAIRS. RIGHT AN APPARATUS LIGHT FIXTURE HANGS OVER THE CUSTOM KITCHEN ISLAND WITH DORNBRACHT FITTINGS.





LEFT ARTO TILE CLADS A CUSTOM BAR WITH BESPOKE STOOLS PAUL MARRA PENDANT.



exico has always held a great allure for me. The beauty and diversity of the terrain, the many wonderful people I've gotten to know, not to mention the delicious food and obligatory margaritas. I've been lucky to work on several homes around this magical country over the years. None, however, has been as inspiring a task as my

latest, Casa El Faro, a modernist aerie perched high on a rocky point on the Baja peninsula overlooking the Sea of Cortez.

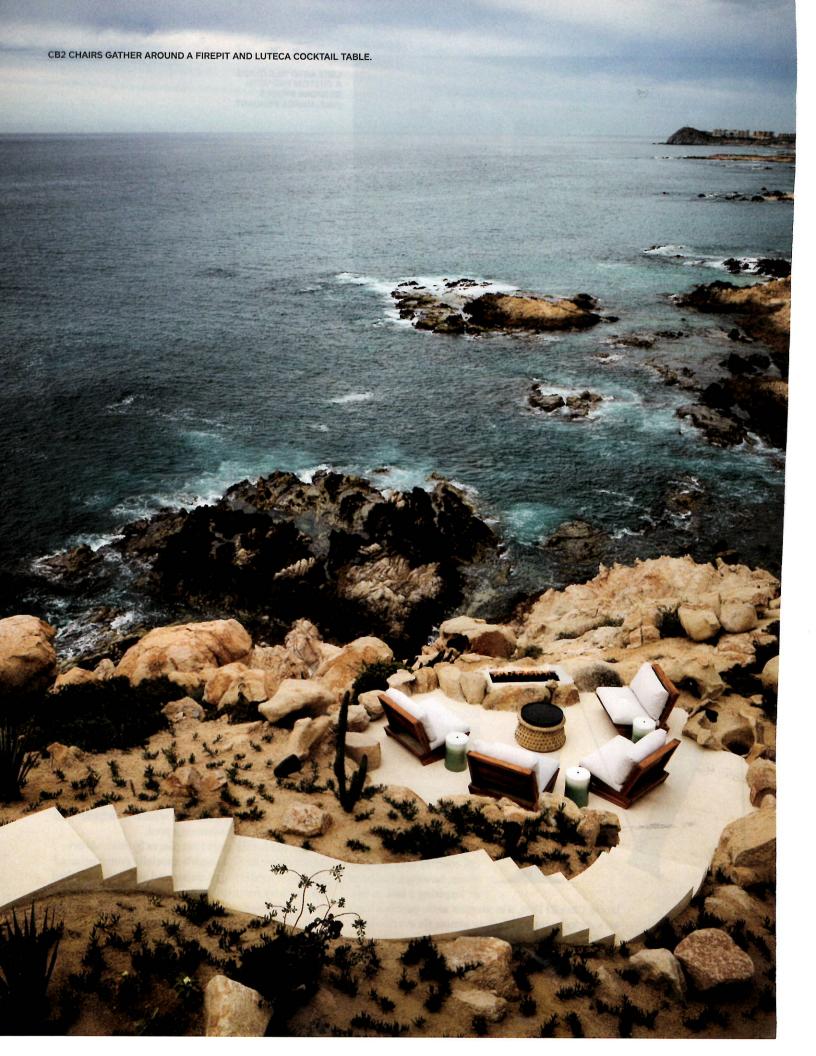
My client, an internationally renowned entrepreneur and philanthropist, didn't just want to build a

contemporary beach house for himself and his family. He wanted to capture the soul of this extraordinary site and build something that would do honor to both the past and future of Mexican art and design. Given this exciting directive, I set about working with architect Juan Zapata to strike the right balance between the interiors and exteriors for this spectacular setting. Mixing clean lines with inspiration from iconic villas in Acapulco in its mid-20thcentury heyday, we shaped the architectural details and materials in an organic way. Indeed, the colors, materials, and textures used throughout reflect the Baja environment and are all inspired by the local culture and landscape.

Dramatic 16-foot pivoting glass doors open onto an entry hall whose abstractly patterned floor is composed of green, gray, white, and cream marbles, which set the palette for the rest of the house. The whimsical plaster cactus reliefs, modeled on those found in the surrounding topography, were handcarved by local artisans onto the walls and pull the eye upward. The giant woven-rope globe lights were made in a nearby village and have a rustic appeal that I wanted to introduce to soften the grandeur of the 26-foot-high space and bring it back to a beachhouse vibe.

ON THE MAIN FLOOR, an open-plan white lacquered kitchen (a service kitchen and wine cellar are hidden behind doors) leads directly onto the dining and living areas. All the windows that enclose the space can disappear into the walls to create a sweeping expanse out to the pool and terraces on three sides. When open, it turns into an approximately 7,000square-foot indoor/outdoor entertaining zone composed of cooking and grilling stations, a circular tequila bar, a firepit, hanging sofas, a giant retractable screen for outdoor movie-watching, an undulating waterslide, and even built-in whale-watching seats in the curvaceous swimming pool.

For the furnishings I set pieces by midcentury Mexican masters alongside specially commissioned pieces by modern-day artists and artisans. I combed the country for inspiration, as well as furnishings, accessories, and objects. In Guadalajara we found handpainted pottery, embroidered and beaded leather goods, and hand-carved furniture. I shopped Mexico City's amazing art galleries, meeting contemporary artists and commissioning their works, purchasing





IN A GUEST BEDROOM, A PIERRE FREY COTTON STRIPE COVERS THE BED. DANA JOHN BENCH; LAMPS FROM LAWSON-FENNING ON BULLARD-DESIGNED SIDE TABLES; CUSTOM RUG.





The colors, materials, and textures used throughout reflect the <u>Baja</u> environment and are all inspired by the local culture and landscape.



RIGHT IN A GUEST BATH, BENJAMIN MOORE'S TEAL OCEAN ADDS A POP OF COLOR TO CABINETRY AND A MURAL BY MEDINA, REJUVENATION PENDANT; VINTAGE AFGHAN RUG,

# I combed the country for inspiration, as well as furnishings, accessories, and objects.

vintage items from lovingly curated galleries like Chic by Accident and Decada, and visiting the local auction houses to turn up treasures. And I worked with the gallery Luteca, which represents the most celebrated Mexican 20th-century furniture designers, to correctly reproduce some of their greatest pieces (especially helpful for items needed in multiples, like dining chairs and side tables).

TO ENHANCE THE SENSE OF PLACE, I visited San Miguel de Allende, where I discovered locally made pieces that really give spirit to the bookshelves, cocktail tables, and bathrooms. And we commissioned textural woven tapestries from Oaxaca to dress walls throughout.

Two of my favorite spaces pay homage to Mexican art history. A powder room next to the family room is an ode to Frida Kahlo. Here I had the walls decoupaged with Aztec-inspired paintings on 9-by-12-inch parchment sheets that I found unexpectedly in La Ciudadela, a street bazaar in Mexico City. Enchanted by those first few, I eventually tracked down the artist and commissioned 40 more so we could cover all the walls with these ancient mystical tales. I also love the state-of-the-art screening room, where 16-footlong woven leather and canvas sofas create a heavenly cocoon decorated with vintage Mexican movie posters from the 1940s and '50s.

The top floor was given over to the master suite, a true sanctuary with its own spa and massage room, yoga and meditation terrace, a champagne and oyster bar terrace with an outdoor hot tub, and a firepit. As with the living room below, the glass walls disappear, opening the entire space to the outdoors and offering astounding views of the azure ocean and the breathtaking sunsets. For good measure, we also added a cactus garden and a rooftop putting green for the client, an avid golfer.

In Spanish El Faro means "the lighthouse." And this singular mountaintop home not only is sited to capture panoramic prospects from every room but also, in keeping with its namesake, illuminates the spot at night now seen for miles around. It is truly a beacon for its owner, his family, and their lucky guests.









# resources

All products listed have been identified by the designer of each residence. Contact information was up to date at time of publication.

# CASA TRANQUILA

GES 32-39: Interiors and architecture by 5 Sólidos; cincosolidos.com. PAGES 32-33: Ibiza sofas by RH; rh.com; Sampei floor lamps by Davide Groppi; davidegroppi.com.

PAGE 34: Bouroullec Osso floor lamp by Vibia; vibia.com. Stools by Mattiazzi from Herman Miller; hermanmiller.com. AGE 35: Era round armchairs by Michael Thonet: dwr.com. Terho pendant lamps by Mater; materusa.com.

PAGE 36: 2065 pendants by ASTEP; astep.design.

PAGES 38-39: Custom orange rug by GRES; gres.com.co. Side chair in black by Konstantin Greic for Magis; magisdesign.com. On custom sofa, Sunbrella fabric; sunbrella.com.

### **FAMILY PLANNING**

GES 40-47: Interiors by Alisa Bloom; alisab.com. Architecture by Bories & Shearron Architecture; boriesandshearron.com.

GES 40-41: Custom cabinetry by Alisa Bloom, manufactured by Design Galleria; designgalleria.net. Range by Wolf; subzero-wolf.com. Sinks by Bories & Shearron Architecture, with Lot fittings by Dornbracht; dornbracht.com. Fungi pendant light by Eric Schmitt Studios; ericschmitt.com. Caribou barstools by Ochre; ochre.net. Ybu dining table by Jean Pierre Tortil from Avenue Road; avenue-road.com. Alpha dining chairs by Brodie Neill from The Future Perfect; the future perfect.com.

PAGE 42: In sitting area, hanging chair from Hammock Town; hammocktown .com; with cushions of La Tortue velvet by Brunschwig & Fils; kravet.com. Ploum sofa by R. & E. Bouroullec for Ligne Roset; ligne-roset.com. Slit table by Hay; hay.com. Custom rug by Alisa Bloom from Stark Carpet; starkcarpet.com. PAGE 43: In living room, Aria chair by Paul Mathieu from Ralph Pucci International; ralphpucci.com; in Nickelby in black by Brunschwig & Fils; kravet .com. P5 Dudotta armchair by Lazzarini & Pickering for Marta Sala Editions from The Future Perfect: thefutureperfect.com. Vintage Tender sofa by Carlo Colombo from 1stdibs; 1stdibs.com; in Montgomery in mink from Clarence House; clarence house.com. Custom curtains of Town in pewter by Romo; romo.com; and Tranquil sheer in water by Rogers & Goffigon; rogersandgoffigon.com. H Loom rug by Stark Carpet; starkcarpet.com. PAGE 44: On master bedroom walls,

Quietude wool sateen in cobblestone

in Bridget in meringue by Pierre Frey;

pierrefrey.com. Kona Chest nightstands

Giac bed by DLV Designs; dlvdesigns.com;

by Weitzner; weitznerlimited.com.

by Barbara Barry for Baker Furniture: bakerfurniture.com. Mirror by Kiko Lopez from Maison Gerard; maison gerard.com. Imperiale rug by Mansour Modern; mansourmodern.com. In master bath, Diva tub by Devon & Devon; devon-devon.com. Sade tub filler by Graff; graff-designs.com. Izis sconce by Pouenat Ferronier from Holly Hunt; hollyhunt.com. Custom stone sink by Bories & Shearron Architecture, with Mem fittings by Dornbracht; dornbracht .com. Wall mirror by Bories & Shearron Architecture and powder coated metal vanity by Alisa Bloom, both fabricated by Nella Vetrina; nellavetrina.com. PAGE 45: In powder room, pendant from Cyan Design: cyan.design. Isla wall-mounted faucet with Metal Geode handles by Waterworks; waterworks .com. On Ada's room walls, Quickstep by Jab Anstoetz; jab.de. Custom bed covered in Vanity Fair in rose quartz by Holly Hunt; hollyhunt.com. On Willem's room walls, Taylor by Bart Halpern; dev.barthalpern.com. Custom rug by Stark Carpet; starkcarpet.com. \$ 46–47: Barnaby chair from Morlen Sinoway; morlensinoway.com; in Coda by Kvadrat; maharam.com. Conway basket from CB2; cb2.com. Greene End Table from Room & Board; roomandboard.com. Sherazade daybed from Edra; edra.com; in Audley in norsk blue by Zoffany; stylelibrary.com. On wall, Bellewood by Rebel Walls; rebelwalls.com.

### POINT BREAK

PAGES 48-55: Interiors by Commune Design; communedesign.com. Architecture by Feldman Architecture; feldmanarchitecture.com. Landscape design by Ground Studio Landscape Architecture; groundstudio.com. Built by RJL Construction; rjlconstruction.com. Art consulting by Allison Harding; allisonharding.com.

AGES 48-49: Custom concrete bench with cushions of Lino in charcoal by Nomi; nomiinc.com. Jenner lounger chairs in fog by Concreteworks; concreteworks.com. Starboard and teak Mountain lounge chairs by Michael Boyd Plane Furniture; planefurniture.com. Ceramic stools by Sunja Park for Commune Design; communedesign.com. PAGE 50: In the board room, custom island with PaperStone countertop; paperstoneproducts.net. Natural brass sink fittings by Vola; vola.com. Wrought iron and leather stools by Garza Construction; garza-construction.com. In the kitchen, Calyx pendants by Atelier Areti; atelierareti.com. Natural brass sink fittings by Vola; vola.com. Wolf range; subzero-wolf.com. BDDW stools: bddw.com.

PAGES 52-53: In living room, Vincent Van Duysen sofa for Arflex; arflex.com; in Métamorphose Renaissances by Élitis; elitis.fr. Utrecht XL chairs by Gerrit Rietveld from Cassina; cassina.com; covered in Nigel's Tartan casaque fabric by Hermès; hermes.com. Brass fire screen by Tanya Aguiñiga; tanyaanguiniga.com. 54: In the master bedroom, textile wall hanging by Kira Dominguez Hultgren; kiradominguezhultgren.com. Ceramic table lamp by Victoria Morris Pottery; victoriamorrispottery.com. Custom bed and connected nightstands in by Commune Design; communedesign .com. Bedding by Commune Design for Hamburg House: hamburghouse.com. Kaleidoscope rug by Commune Design for Christopher Farr; christopherfarr .com. Chaise by Greta Grossman for Gubi; gubi.com; upholstered in Majolica by Kravet; kravet.com. In guest bath, tile by Commune Design; communedesign .com. Natural brass shower fittings by Vola: vola.com.

AGE 55: A niche in the entry foyer is lined in Mirakel fabric by Josef Frank for Svenskt Tenn; svenskttenn.se. Cast brass drawer pulls by Lisa Eisner for Commune Design; communedesign.com. On the beach, Jenner lounge chairs by Concreteworks: concreteworks.com. In the interior courtyard, powder-coated metal outdoor sofa by Ten10: ten10site .com: upholstered in Denim Jean by Pierre Frey: pierrefrey.com, Custom teak bench by Commune Design with cushion of Stella/Nero; communedesign.com. Lounge chairs by Garza Marfa; garzamarfa.com. Custom fireplace by Stan Bitters; stanbitters.com. Outdoor floor lamp by Paola Lenti; ddc.com.

# **ENDLESS SUMMER**

PAGES 64-67: Interiors by Victoria Hagan; victoriahagan.com. Architecture by Boris Baranovich Architects; bbanyc.com. Landscape design by SMI Landscape Architecture; smilandscape architecture.com.

PAGE 66: In the sunroom, custom oak dining table by Démiurge New York; demiurgenewyork.com. On sitting room walls, Van Courtland Blue by Benjamin Moore; benjaminmoore.com. Antique Edwardian armchair from Yew Tree House Antiques; yewtreehouseantiques .com; and bespoke sofa, both in Holland & Sherry fabrics; hollandandsherry.com. Regency ottoman from Howe London; howelondon.com; in a Romo fabric; romo.com. Curtains of a Lisa Fine Textiles print; lisafinetextiles.com. Antique Malayer rug atop rug by Mitchell Denburg; mitchelldenburg.com.

PAGE 67: Majestic freestanding range by ILVE; ilveusa.com. Custom island by Démiurge New York; demiurgenewyork .com. Enamel Oval ceiling lights from White on White: whiteonwhite.com, Idris by Ait Manos tile in white by Ann Sacks; annsacks.com

### TOP OF THE ROCK

PAGES 74-83: Interiors by Martyn Lawrence Bullard; martynlawrence bullard.com. Architecture by Ogarrio-Zapata Arquitectos; ogarriozapata.com. PAGES 74-75: Pool designed by architect Juan Zapata; ogarriozapata.com; using Bisazza tiles; bisazza.com; chaise longues by Martyn Lawrence Bullard for Harbour 1976; harbouroutdoor.com. GE 76: In the living room, custom sofas by Martyn Lawrence Bullard Atelier; martynlawrencebullard.com; in a Kerry Joyce performance fabric; kerryjoyce textiles.com. Ceramic lamps by Lawson Fenning: lawsonfenning.com. Cocktail table with organic bamboo base and glass top from Vito Selma; vitoselma.com. In the kitchen, pendant by Apparatus; apparatusstudio.com. Sink fittings by Dornbracht; dornbracht.com. AGE 77: Custom bar with glazed brick tile by Arto; arto.com. Bespoke stools by Martyn Lawrence Bullard; martyn lawrencebullard.com. Custom string pendant by Paul Marra; paulmarradesign .com; with shade of Amazonie fabric by Pierre Frey; pierrefrey.com. PAGE 78: CB2 chairs; cb2.com. Cocktail table by Luteca Furniture; luteca.com. PAGE 79: On terrace, ceiling mural in Benjamin Moore's Philipsburg Blue Fresh; benjaminmoore.com, Canvas armchairs by Martyn Lawrence Bullard for Harbour 1976; harbouroutdoor.com; in a fabric by Holly Hunt; hollyhunt.com. PAGES 80-81: In guest bedroom, Oaxacan woven panel custom by Voila! Creative Studio; voilacreativestudio.com. On bed and headboard, Cactus cotton stripe by Pierre Frey; pierrefrey.com. Custom side tables by Martyn Lawrence Bullard Atelier; martynlawrencebullard .com. Ceramic lamps by Lawson-Fenning; lawsonfenning.com. Bench by Dana John; danajohn.com; in Daffodil fabric by Janus et Cie; janusetcie.com. Custom vanity, both in Teal Ocean by Benjamin Moore; benjaminmoore.com. Pendant by Rejuvenation: rejuvenation.com. Sink fittings by Dornbracht; dornbracht.com. Sconce by Blueprint Lighting: blueprint lighting.com. Vintage Afghan rug from

Mansour; mansour.com. PAGES 82-83: Custom bunk bed steps painted in Reflecting Pool by Sherwin Williams (second step); sherwin-williams .com; Blue Jean by Benjamin Moore (third step); benjaminmoore.com; Teal Ocean by Benjamin Moore (fourth step); benjaminmoore.com; Naval by Sherwin Williams (fifth step); sherwin-williams .com. Indigo/Cinnamon lumbar pillow by Carolina Irving; carolinairvingtextiles .com. Indian Red throw by Martyn Lawrence Bullard Atelier; martyn lawrencebullard.com.

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