

# IMAGICASA

ARCHITECTURE - INTERIOR - DECORATION - ART - DESIGN - TRAVEL - CARS - LIFESTYLE / **DESIGN 2021** / BE-NL €12,95 / UK £12





# MAS

PLA DE  
CALABUIG

The estate called Mas Pla de Calabuig is located in a small piece of paradise in Empordà, the heart of Catalonia. This place of tranquility, which consists of three hectares, boasts exquisite furnishings with a good taste for details and a unique Mediterranean garden. Interior designer Carme Pardo created this family home looking out over the most beautiful views. A simple, sober and timeless universe where local craftsmanship is skillfully honoured.





that there were three independent houses on the same estate. This gives a large family the opportunity to spend a lot of time together and still be able to live at their own pace. The interior designer Carme Pardo managed to create a magnificent and serene retreat, full of natural colours, thatched ceilings, centuries-old doors and Moroccan decoration. In short, immense beauty in one place. With her own tastes and those of her clients in mind, she restored the floors, ordered a handmade thatched roof from fibreglass company Pont de Querós, improved the garden and decorated every corner of the remaining seven bedrooms and five bathrooms to her taste. 'I wanted to keep the rustic feel, but because the buildings already had the uniqueness of the walls, finishes and beams, I gave them a more modern touch, with vintage furniture, some contemporary lamps and a built-in bookcase in the main house,' explains the interior designer.

The estate consists of three houses and a studio, spread over a total of 600 square metres, each with its own style but still maintain-

ing a harmony in the whole. All four evoke an atmosphere of simplicity and serenity. The property has two entrances, one with a 100-metre driveway, which is majestically accompanied by cypress and lavender trees. The property is landscaped with a careful selection of Mediterranean plants that move towards the balance of the Empordà air. 'This magical place has the perfect amount of unevenness to keep it authentic and real,' says owner Carme Pardo. When you step into the main building, you immediately move



The Mas Pla de Calabuig estate is beautifully surrounded by cypress, olive trees, lavender and wheat fields. This Mediterranean environment provides an excellent combination of both nature and remains of the Middle Ages. Moreover, in the midst of sea and mountains, it's no surprise that this family resort is known as the little Catalan Tuscany. When the couple Carme and Enric Pardo discovered this farmhouse, previously renovated by a well-known designer, they did not

## 'HAPPINESS IS NOT A COINCIDENCE, IT'S A CHOICE'

hesitate any longer. She is an interior designer by profession in Barcelona, which lent itself perfectly to discovering the potential of the place. Her knowledge also facilitated the renovation process. How the couple found the property was already promising. With only a simple rearrangement to accommodate a large family who also like to receive many friends, it seemed to be a renovation of short duration. Moreover, the great advantage was







to the sensations of experiencing intense emotions and let yourself be carried away by the comfort. This aura makes every visitor enjoy themselves immediately. The building was decorated in an eclectic style with lime-stone walls, wood-beamed ceilings and large windows overlooking the beautiful garden. The guest house next to the main building has been decorated with details made by local craftsmen, with noble materials such as thatched ceilings, rattan furniture and esparto grass bull's heads, giving the house a special charm. Then there is the studio, which translates into an intimate and special space. 'The purity of white invades your mind, while the sun brings in natural light. Every resident here is taken to the deepest part of themselves,' says Carme Pardo. Moreover, this unique Mediterranean property enjoys a vegetable garden with seasonal produce and is surrounded by a beautiful swimming pool and accompanying pool house. The latter is

underlined by the flat stones. The swimming pool in grey cement also fits perfectly into the decor here. Furthermore, the large metal pergola with its natural shade will protect the residents from the sun and heat. The wooden sunbeds with custom-made mattresses will give you an appeal for laziness. 'Just come and enjoy the freedom of doing nothing. Sometimes by doing nothing, you do everything,' says the owner. So it will not surprise you that this property is among the best luxury rentals in Spain.

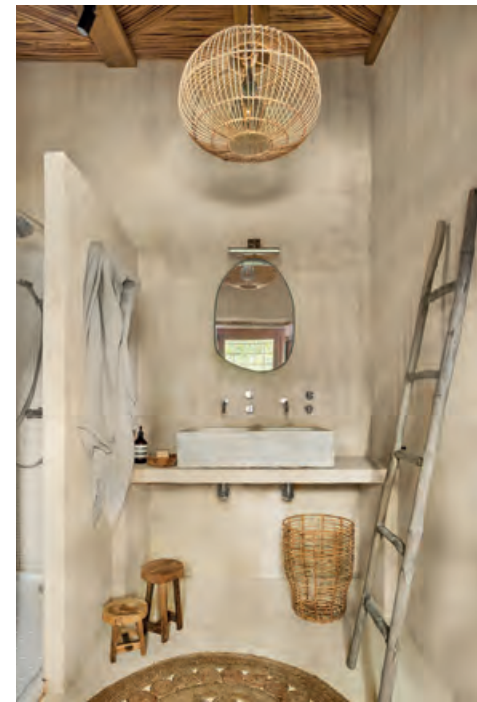
#### LOCAL CRAFTS AND NATURAL MATERIALS

The interior designer chose raw and hand-made materials in all buildings, mostly local and with a preference for rattan, linen and

### 'A SECRET PLACE WITH THE PERFECT AMOUNT OF UNEVENNESS'

virgin wool. Some damaged ceilings were covered with reeds which was custom-made by local craftsmen. Pardo was guided by chromatic colour palettes alternating with mineral and vegetable tones. The spirit of the south predominates, thanks to the patinated walls, shelves of brick and the use of neutral and natural materials. The furniture made of rattan or woven straw, the old parquet floors and doors and marble sinks fit perfectly into this spirit. In the living room of the main building, she opted for

a bookcase in walnut and metal and coffee tables from Zara Home. Furthermore, the open kitchen emerges as a spacious, functional and uncluttered room. The fronts of the cabinets and the worktop are covered with stainless steel, which evokes a serene



feeling. The antique parquet floor meets the oak table called Bigfoot and the sideboard from the 1960s, found in an antique shop in Germany. In short, it is a mix of rustic with mid-century furniture coming straight from Germany and France, contemporary Italian design pieces, art and antiques from China, as well as handmade products like the large rug in the middle of the living room. The guest house is characterised by white stucco walls and furniture, details of local crafts and natural materials such as esparto grass and linen, which blend perfectly with the more contemporary elements. The cushions in the seven bedrooms were signed by the Spanish weaver Teixidor. The five bathrooms were fitted with a mirror by Olsson & Jensen and the lamp was made by craftsmen from La Bisal. Wood is omnipresent; in a wardrobe, from Brucs, and in various pieces of furniture from Taller de las Indias, such as the Berlin teak table, the Rosanne chairs

Photography by Eugeni Pons and Susana Ocaña

made of bamboo and rattan, and the Lounge Chair Cangur. Furthermore, the pool house reminds us of Moroccan houses, as the lime plaster finish on the walls resembles the colour of the desert sand, with cement floors of the same colour. Ancient wooden doors, tables and armchairs made of exotic wood are accompanied by local Mediterranean accents.

Comfort was the guiding principle in the design of Mas Pla de Calabuig, and this is evident in all the buildings. Even the seats outside around the fire are covered with a fabric that is ideal for outdoor use, created by textile manufacturer Güell Lamadrid. Both the decorative objects and the colours for the walls are natural and neutral, as the owner wanted to create a serene atmosphere that

would bring well-being and a certain isolation. In our opinion, this goal has been more than achieved: in this place you can live in peace. Pardo's motto is: 'Enjoy life today because yesterday is gone and tomorrow may never come.' She finally decided to rent out the property, although she hopes to live there with her family for a while in the future.

The whole resulted in a universe of peace and serenity that seeks the timeless with a large dose of local crafts. This group of small houses with garden and swimming pool, owned by the interior designer Carme Pardo, is rented out to people looking for wellbeing and a quiet environment with a dose of good taste. Mas Pla de Calabuig is a wonderful place situated in a piece of rare, unspoilt nature. ❁

(Text: Elke Aerts)

