

Galerie

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Extraordinary
Homes by
Francis Sultana,
Peter Marino,
and Holly Hunt

Insider's Guides
to Tangier,
Newport, and
the Hamptons

FLIGHTS OF FANCY

Where the Art and Design Worlds Are Traveling Now

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About five years ago, longtime clients of designer Francis Sultana summoned him to the Côte d'Azur in France for what would be their fourth project together.



The couple had acquired a property with two houses in a lovely location, tucked away in the hills outside Cannes, offering sensational views. Both structures called for major renovations.

The site's charming original house, now the guest cottage, had been built in the 1960s, while the main, larger residence was added later, in the '90s, by owners with a particularly Americanized vision of the South of France. Sultana took both houses "down to a shell," as he puts it, and rebuilt the interiors.

"They wanted a comfortable place where they could be with family and friends," says the designer. "Everyone with their independence between the main house and the guest cottage and the pool." Sultana's focus was on enhancing the indoor-outdoor living, which also entailed redesigning the gardens and adding a lawn where children can play.

Sultana compares the property to a classic American estate. In addition to the 20,000-square-foot main residence and the 8,000-square-foot guesthouse—each with five bedrooms and five baths—there is also a pool house and an outdoor kitchen for grilling. Everything is designed to function year-round.

For Sultana, one of the main challenges was to conjure a more consistent, unified feeling of laid-back Riviera chic across the entire property. "I wanted to keep the style in a low-key way, to keep it all relaxed," he says.

When it came to the interiors, the designer says, the clients "wanted to create something a bit 1950s, Grace Kelly on the Côte d'Azur. Very dolce vita." He responded with a palette dominated by gold tones and citrusy hues as well as a →

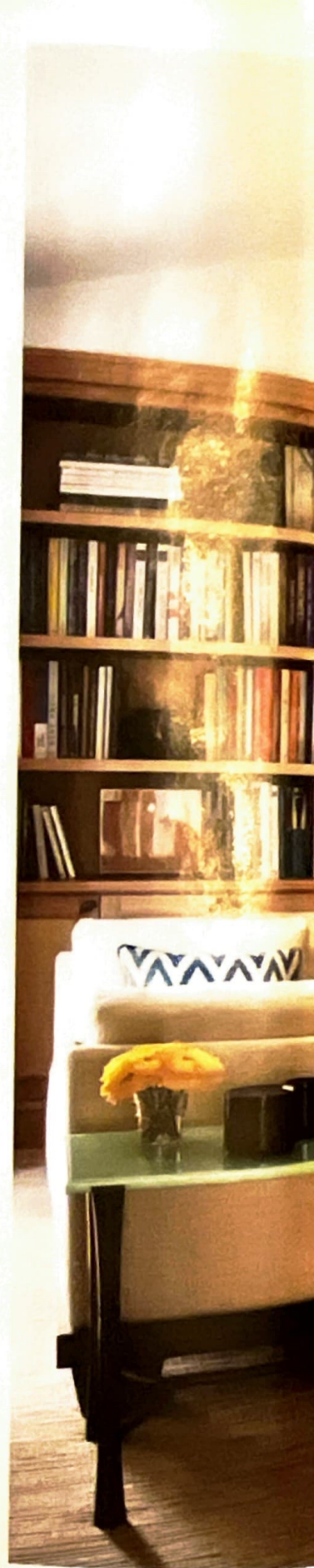
A George Condo painting presides over the main house's entrance hall, which features a Mattia Bonetti hanging lantern and a console table topped by André Dubreuil lamps; the rug, stair runner, and wall sconce are by Sultana. OPPOSITE: On the pool deck, Santa Barbara umbrellas shade chaise longues designed by Sultana with cushions in a Perennials fabric.



spirited array of custom furnishings and decorative elements he commissioned from Mattia Bonetti and the late André Dubreuil, both masters of highly original, often fanciful objects.

There is the sunny salon, for example, which Sultana anchored with plump, yellow-upholstered Bonetti sofas, their backs undulating like pairs of lips. Joining them are multiple tables by Dubreuil and lamps by both designers, not least one of Bonetti's torchère floor lamps with branching lights that protrude surreally from a serpentine column.

Sultana also commissioned Bonetti to create a floor-to-ceiling decorative screen to provide partial separation between the salon's bar and the dining room. The openwork design of large yellow and white floral forms echoes details on the Bonetti dining table nearby. "I wanted something like an architectural intervention by Mattia," says Sultana, "to complement the sculptural qualities of the furniture, to give it all strength."





For the guesthouse living room, Sultana created the mirror and floor lamps that surround the Jamb mantelpiece, as well as the sofas and glass-top end tables; the cocktail table is by Mattia Bonetti, the gueridon is by Garouste & Bonetti, the rattan chair is by Bonacina, and the painting is by Sue Williams.
LEFT: Sultana designed the outdoor breakfast area's table, chairs, and banquette, which is cushioned in a Perennials fabric; the umbrella is by Santa Barbara.



FROM TOP: An expansive sofa on the main deck is upholstered in a Perennials fabric. O'Sullivan outfitted a lounge area with a Mario Bellini sofa, Mammi tables, and a rug from The Rug Company. A custom bed in a Dedar fabric is framed by a de Gournay wall covering.



The primary cabin is the place where the most design magic happened. Storage was eliminated from the main bedroom, and the walls were lined with gold-embroidered lambswool. Bedside tables are custom creations in honey-colored burl with blue onyx tops. "Jean-Michel Frank is definitely a go-to inspiration," confesses O'Sullivan. The space's pièce de résistance is a bespoke dressing table finished in navy blue shagreen, with lacquered-wood door handles adorned with long ivory silk tassels.

But although many pieces were custom created in the designer's studio, he likes to include plenty of unique, patinated discoveries as well. "We went on fabulous shopping trips together," says O'Sullivan, who sourced a Fornasetti malachite lamp from Alfies Antique Market in London and other selections from PAD. "She likes FontanaArte lights and the midcentury, so we worked from that, too."

Contemporary luxury comes in the form of mega-sofas by Charles Zana and Achille Salvagni, while vintage modular Camaleonda seating by Mario Bellini, upholstered in zingy orange velvet, fills a casual sitting room that looks out to a balcony. "It's also a workspace, so it needed to be less formal," says O'Sullivan.

Color was a constant consideration: The artist client has a keenly developed sense of it, and O'Sullivan—wearing a lemon-yellow, fine-knit polo shirt; black trousers; and dashing turquoise socks—definitely has his own as well. He is also a stickler for the perfect finish. In the sky lounge, a cocktail table crafted by his studio has three leaves that fan from a burl base, their tops clad in parchment.

Although reluctant to remove all the existing paneling—"A good client doesn't mind a bit of salvage," says O'Sullivan—the one thing the boat needed was a decent gym. The original was completely stripped out, and with full-height windows installed, it is now a high-tech, indoor-outdoor fitness zone. "We went full contemporary," he says of the workout area, for which he continued the teak of the deck and put in perforated doors. "It does feel like a different sort of space. You really need that sometimes on a boat." That said, it's hard to imagine anyone getting cabin fever on this skillfully reappointed yacht. bryanosullivan.com —CAROLINE ROUX