

# INSIDE

INSPIRING HOMES WITH HEART

## SURPRISING SPACES

Creating dream homes wherever you are

DESIGNER  
FAVOURITES  
*"The room  
I love"*

116

### HOT BUYS

- ♦ decor essentials
- ♦ new bedheads
- colour-pop cushions
- ♦ party glasses

### TINY GARDEN GOALS

Low maintenance  
& high impact

*Global style 2019*  
Renovation inspiration

**ASK AN  
EXPERT**  
How to find  
a builder



\$8.50 NZ \$9.50 JULY 2019



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**WINTER NIGHTS OUR GUIDE TO TOASTY OUTDOOR HEATING**



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## CHEAT SHEET

**Who lives here** UK fashion editor Deborah Brett; her writer/director husband Tom Edmunds; and their children Phineas, 11, Hermione, 9, and Otille, 5.

**Style of home** A rundown three-bedroom beach house on the west coast of Ibiza, restored and extended into a striking and spacious light-filled home with expansive entertaining zones and a self-contained cottage for guests.



The design and planning phase was spread out over two years but the actual build took 12 months.



LOCATION | BALEARIC ISLANDS, SPAIN

# VIVA IBIZA

A HOLIDAY HOME HAS  
COME TO LIFE WITH THE  
GUIDING LIGHT OF ITS  
CREATIVE OWNERS

WORDS JACKIE BRYGEL & KERRY N FISCHER

PHOTOGRAPHY ELSA YOUNG/FRANK FEATURES

**COURTYARD** Owner Deborah Brett studied fashion and textiles at university and was well-placed to take on the project. The oversized antique wooden doors were restored and sky-blue and white Graciosa tiles from Molise Factory custom-made for the flooring.



**E**ncased by coastal greenery on the island of Ibiza, metres from the cobalt waters of the Mediterranean, a unique hideaway awaits. And it's one that proves dreams really can come true. The lucky owners are London fashion editor-turned-ceramicist Deborah Brett and her writer/film director husband Tom Edmunds, but when they first wandered through the property six years ago, it was anything but the idyllic getaway they'd envisaged.

In fact, recalls Deborah with a laugh, "It looked like something out of [gritty Netflix crime series] *Narcos*." Yet despite the home's neglected state, it was a done deal. Deborah and Tom had fallen instantly in love with the sublime setting and views of nearby Es Vedrà, a small rocky island steeped in folklore. "We looked past the dead trees and obligatory Buddha in the garden, past the proliferation of bright orange crenellated walls and gauche tower with thick bars on the windows," says Deborah. Indeed, there was no stopping the couple – especially when they discovered that the house had direct access to their favourite beach.

Having holidayed on the island many times as a child, and with Tom before starting their family, Deborah never doubted they had found their ideal summer destination. Ibiza may be known as a party island for its nightlife, but true devotees cherish its sprinkling of sleepy villages and tranquil sandy coves. "There is a sensibility to the Balearic Islands that we love," says Deborah. "A wildness, where the smell of pine trees and the red dirt roads offer a balm that is a contrast to our life in the city."

Happily, Deborah and Tom were in no rush to jump into an extensive renovation. Instead, the couple opted for a quick spruce-up, painting the walls a crisp white while they considered their options, in the knowledge it wouldn't be smooth sailing. "Anyone who's tried to buy a home in Ibiza will know that it's

an epic endeavour," says Deborah. "Getting your building plans passed is no less laborious. It was three years before we could make changes, but by then we'd had enough time to experience the house and understand how we wanted to live in it."

Teaming up with their local builder, John Broekman, they reconfigured the layout, putting the living areas and children's bedrooms on the pool level and the parents' retreat upstairs. When it came to the interiors, the couple enlisted the expertise of leading South African-raised, UK-based designer Hubert Zandberg, whose work through Hubert Zandberg Interiors (HZI) can also be seen in Deborah's London home. "I knew Hubert would be brilliant at scaling the interiors up a notch to make our ideas bolder and more sassy," she says.

And that has certainly been achieved. A study in timeless sun-bleached style, Deborah and Tom's second home is softened by an eclectic mix of finishes and furnishings, many showcasing the handiwork of local artisans using natural materials, such as bamboo, leather, straw and stone, to striking effect.

"We both felt quite strongly that we wanted a blue and white house... more of a faded, worn and beachy look with lots of natural textures and earthy elements to marry the mood of the island," says Deborah. Outside on the expansive patio, the graphic floor leaves an indelible impression. "The first time I walked into the massive courtyard, I told Tom that I wanted to tile the entire area in blue and white tiles, and sink the trees and vegetation down into the ground," she explains.

Yet the true beauty of the home is that it appears at one with its surroundings, basking in the relaxed lifestyle of an endless summer. "This is a place where Tom and I can refuel creatively, as it allows us the space as a family to regroup and lead a simpler life for a while," says Deborah. "You can't put a price on that."

See Deborah's ceramics on Instagram @dbceramic.

View Hubert Zandberg's design work at hzinteriors.com

**LIVING ROOM** An abundance of soft, blue-toned cushions takes this built-in sofa into the 'comfort' zone. The woven chair is vintage Mexican. Both pineapple table lamps are converted vases. Leather butterfly chair, stools and Berber rug. HZI.

**GARDEN (opposite left)** The woven-cane hanging chair in the children's play area was a local buy.

**VERANDAH (opposite right)** Lined with sun-dried tree trunks, the ceiling above the seat is a stunning feature.



**KITCHEN** Black stile benches look great with the reclaimed timber chipboards and seagrass pendant lights bought through H&M. Stools from Moko Market, Paris. **HALLWAY** A line painting by Finnish designer/artist Taina Lyytikäinen was the tone for the home. Resting on a heavy ripetal stool from Paris's famed Clémentine market is a rustic vase by Robert Rauschenberg.

"IN ANY OTHER INCARNATION, SO MUCH PATTERN AND SO MANY DIFFERENT SHADES OF BLUE MIGHT HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMING, BUT HERE THE NATURAL TEXTURES ANCHOR THE ELEMENTS AND READ AS NEUTRAL" HUBERT ZANDBERG, INTERIOR DESIGNER



#### BRIGHT IDEA

Continuity is key in a house like this. Having the stairs the same colour as the walls achieves this while differentiating them from the floors above and below. They 'talk to' the white stairs in the background, too.



**GREAT FINDS**

**mediterranean melt**

Think deep blues and sandy hues.



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT** Charki cone pendant, \$99; Barefoot Gypsy, Tensira handwoven throw, \$129; Gingerfinch, Clara wide-brim straw hat, \$145; Toast, Tip Toe patterned cushion, \$76; Domayne, New Berber Marrakech Collection rug (300cm x 255cm), POA; Loom Rugs.



**GUEST BEDROOM** (clockwise from top left) A large wooden wardrobe with cane doors and an indoor plant to go with the vintage side table, a small wooden nightstand with a lamp and a plant, a bed with a teal headboard and a blue and white striped duvet, and a small wooden nightstand with a lamp and a plant. **TERRACE (opposite top)** Miniature boats feature in the home, constantly reminding the occupants that they are close to the water. **GUEST BATHROOM (opposite bottom)** Glazed ceramic tiles in a herringbone pattern set off the bathroom's design. Behind the door, the interior is a bright, airy space with a large window and a small wooden table. They perch on attractive Chinese con-

2014 HUNTER

## LESSONS LEARNT

"THE MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED  
IN A PROJECT SUCH AS  
THIS, THE MERRIER"

HUBERT ZANDBERG, INTERIOR DESIGNER

"Collaborative design is such a potent and magical thing in that everyone brings their strengths to the overall concept. Tom, for example, didn't want clutter in the house and so that guided us enormously throughout the entire process. Consequently, nothing is here without a reason."

"IT WAS A REAL MELTING POT OF  
AESTHETICS - ECLECTICISM AND  
VINTAGE FINDS MIXED WITH LOCAL  
ARTISANS MAKING FURNITURE  
SPECIFIC TO THE HOME"

DEBORAH BRETT, OWNER

