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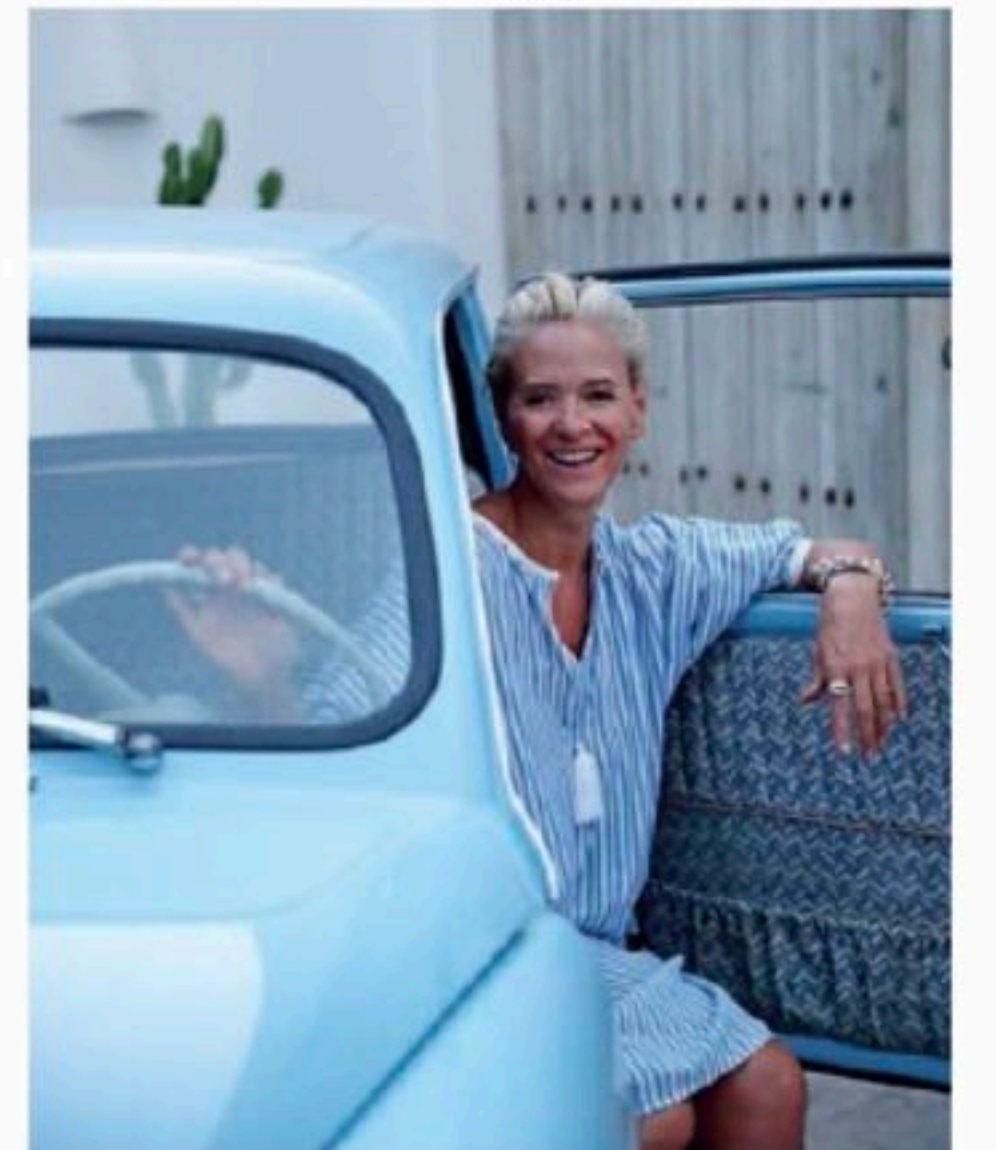
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Enlisting the help of London-based South African designer Hubert Zandberg, a British couple transformed a nondescript Ibizan house into a holiday home defined by its blue-and-white palette while being serenely **cradled in nature**



WORDS KERRY N FISCHER PHOTOGRAPHY ELSA YOUNG & FRANK FEATURES

THIS SPREAD, FROM LEFT
The view across the outdoor dining area of the courtyard towards the guest house; homeowners Deborah Brett and her husband Tom Edmunds discovered the sky blue Fiat Cinquecento in an old abandoned garage, restored it and found an upholsterer to remake all the seats.

**WHO CREATIVE LONDON COUPLE
WHERE IBIZA, BALEARIC ISLANDS, SPAIN
WHAT SUMMER HOLIDAY RETREAT
DESIGNER HUBERT ZANDBERG**

It's hard to imagine that the Ibiza home of British fashion editor Deborah Brett and her writer-director husband Tom Edmunds was once the wild card in a quartet of homes they were shown to buy. 'It looked like something out of *Narcos*,' laughs Deborah, as she recalls their first viewing. 'We looked straight 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 all the windows, to the property's incredible location.'

'When we discovered the house had access via a dirt path to our favourite beach, a rarity in Ibiza, the deal was sealed,' says Tom. With uninterrupted views towards Es Vedrà, an uninhabited island steeped in folklore, the location is all the more spectacular.

For Deborah, who has been going to the Balearic Islands ever since she was a child, the desire to recreate her childhood holidays for her own children, Phineas (10), Hermione (8) and Ottilie (5), was a strong motivator. In fact, the London couple had made Ibiza their summer destination of choice long before they had children. 'There is a sensibility to the Balearics that we love,' says Deborah. 'A wildness where the smell of pine trees and the red dirt roads offer a necessary balm that is a contrast to our life in the city.'

Initially they did nothing more than a quick styling job on the house, painting everything white to give a more calming atmosphere. Because of heritage regulations, they couldn't change the structure of the house and had to keep the original façade and footprint. The main thrusts of the rebuild and renovation, then, were to make the house more family-friendly, and focus on the outdoor living spaces.

Working with their local builder, Jon Broekman, Deborah and Tom reconfigured the spaces to create a two-storey house with the living and kitchen areas as well as two children's bedrooms on the ground floor, while the master en suite is upstairs. 'We love having guests but there's something quite wonderful about everyone having their own space, hence the self-contained two-bedroom cottage just across the courtyard, and a one-bedroom suite underneath the pool for errant godparents,' says Deborah.

When it came to the interiors, Deborah and Tom knew exactly what they wanted too. 'We both felt quite strongly that we wanted a blue and white house. Not a crisp Nantucket-type nautical scheme but more of a faded, worn and beachy look with lots of natural textures and earthy elements to marry with the mood of the island,' Deborah explains. 'In fact, from the very first moment that I walked

into the massive courtyard, I told Tom that I wanted to tile the entire area in blue and white tiles and to sink the vegetation and trees down into the ground.' This was a bold move but one that has successfully set the tone for the rest of the home's interior scheme.

The couple were quick to enlist the help of interior designer Hubert Zandberg, who had previously worked with them on their London house. 'I knew that Hubert would be brilliant at scaling the interiors up a notch to make our ideas bolder and more sassy,' says Deborah.

'My role was to give another point of view,' says Zandberg. 'Both Deborah and Tom are incredibly creative with very sophisticated taste levels, so it was very much a process of collaboration where we facilitated their wishes to create a bolder, more glamorous result.'

Although based in London, Zandberg's childhood in South Africa has given him an instinctive feel for the rough textures and natural elements that the couple were looking for. Highly regarded for his eclectic yet highly considered approach to interiors, he kept to the monochromatic blue theme but used everything from raw brick to stone, rope, leather, wicker and straw to ground the various blues and patterns that have been employed throughout.

'In any other incarnation, so much pattern and different shades of blue might have been overwhelming, but here the natural textures work to anchor the elements and are read as neutral,' says Zandberg, whose exhaustive design knowledge and uncanny knack for sourcing the unusual and the interesting was put to good use. He and his team concentrated on finding the best artisans on the island and personally visited every workshop and studio to establish a high standard of craftsmanship and discover the local materials on offer.

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

Similarly, Deborah and Zandberg guided the aesthetic process to create an eloquent decorative expression that is both timeless and dynamic.

'The house really came into its own last summer in that it felt complete,' adds Deborah. 'This is a place where both Tom and I get much creative refuelling – it allows us the space as a family to regroup and lead a simpler life for a while. You can't put a price on that.' With her recent foray into ceramics and Tom's debut feature film *Dead in a Week* released late last year, it's a place that will become ever more important to their creative process. hzinteriors.com



OPPOSITE PAGE
A rope-clad console table from Hubert Zandberg Interiors sits below three nature-inspired indigo artworks. The small handcarved wooden stools are Ethiopian coffee stands.



THIS SPREAD, FROM LEFT

An uncomplicated entrance to the main living area of the house features a large line painting by Tanya Ling, which sets the colour tone for the interiors. A small industrial stool from the Clignancourt flea market in Paris bears a ceramic vase handmade by Deborah; in the living room a simple built-in sofa is made comfortable with an abundance of blue-toned cushions. Table lamps are ceramic pineapple vases reinvented as lights. The pair of graphic palm-leaf stools are from Hubert Zandberg Interiors, as is the Berber rug.



THIS SPREAD, FROM LEFT

The supremely elegant oak bath is from Scottish company Wooden Baths Limited. African-gourd shaped basket and river reed stool are both from Hubert Zandberg Interiors; in the master bedroom, a golden yellow throw from Once Milano (oncemilano.com) lifts the calm tones of the predominantly natural materials employed, including a striking rope headboard and cushions upholstered in fabrics from Fermoie (fermoie.com). Vintage brass lamps sit atop reclaimed timber sidetables. The floors are tiled in 'Dandelion' stone-grey encaustic tiles from Marrakech Design (marrakechdesign.se).



'I knew that Hubert would be brilliant at scaling the interiors up a notch to make our ideas bolder and more sassy.'
- Deborah



THIS PAGE
The view from the dining area on the veranda across to Es Vedrà island – the perfect vantage point to for outdoor dining.

RECIPE

**WHOLE GRILLED
YELLOWTAIL**

- 1 whole yellowtail (1-1.5kg),
cleaned
- Coarse sea salt and ground
black pepper
- 1 large lemon, thickly sliced
- 1 large fennel bulb, thinly
sliced
- 125ml dry white wine
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Boiled new potatoes in
garlic butter, to serve
- Lemon wedges, to serve

Preheat the oven to 200°C. Season the inside of the yellowtail's belly cavity with salt and pepper and add the lemon slices. Rub the skin of the fish with olive oil and season it. Scatter the sliced fennel into a roasting dish and pour the white wine into the base of the dish. Place the fish on top of the fennel and cover with a lid or foil. Cook the fish in the oven for 15 minutes, allowing it to steam, covered, in the wine before removing the lid and roasting it for a further 8-10 minutes uncovered. The flesh should flake easily when cooked.

Serve the yellowtail with the grilled fennel, boiled new potatoes in garlic butter and lemon wedges for squeezing over the fish.
SERVES 4



RECIPE, STYLING & PHOTOGRAPHY **GEORGIA EAST**

CASH IRON CASSEROLE DISH FROM LE CRUESSET. FOR SUPPLIERS' DETAILS SEE S10 CRISTS PAGE

JUST TRY IT *A genuinely easy dish to master, whole grilled fish makes for an impressive dinner centrepiece – especially when using sustainable and delicious yellowtail.*