

# AZURE



# DREAM

*A home in the  
French Riviera  
is rebuilt to  
showcase its  
spectacular view*

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An Edge chandelier by Holly Hunt illuminates the dining room, where a photograph by Garry Fabian Miller hangs on the wall. The table, a CZ Design with a bronze base made by JSJ and glass top by Paul Clifford, is flanked by Promemoria chairs. Opposite, CZ designed the property's stained oak front door, which was made by John Spencer Joinery.

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California” is what the locals call this spectacular corner of the Bay of Cannes in the South of France, known for its sweeping ocean views from luxury homes perched on hilltops similar to those in the sunshine state.

However, one home in this picturesque corner of the globe was not taking full advantage of its location. “It might have been a house that was anywhere,” says Anthony Collett, co-founder of Collett-Zarzycki, the architectural and interior design firm tasked with designing a new home on the same site for an affluent London-based family of Middle Eastern origin. “It did not consider the uniqueness of the site.”

Collett-Zarzycki worked in conjunction with local architectural practice Collection Privée to create the seven-bedroom family house, which took 18 months to complete. First on the agenda was, of course, to correct the matter of the view. The new property, a linear building, was positioned to have major spaces looking straight onto the Southern exposure.

Located on a steep slope, the building is set back on the hillside and is designed over two levels, allowing for ample ceiling height on both floors. However, the second design challenge was to give all rooms natural light and ventilation despite the rear of the building’s proximity to the face of the mountain. This was resolved by designing a multitude of courtyard spaces, bringing light, air, and the occasional water feature, into the heart of the building. “There is, I believe, a sense of surprise when one encounters the shafts of light from the courtyards above penetrating the floor-plan on another level. It lends a certain magic to one’s experience of the home,” says Collett, who worked with Collett-Zarzycki colleague Oliver Jobst on the redesign. The added advantage of the flat roofs was to camouflage the house into the surroundings with olive trees and aromatic rosemary hedges.

But what makes this property so special is its effortless melding of Eastern and Western influences. The clients, who are of Muslim faith, requested that some Arabic motifs be incorporated in the predominantly classic contemporary design scheme, which emphasises pale muted colours and simple architectural forms. These subtle references to the client’s origins can be seen in the Arabesque pattern in the central arrival courtyard, the ornate balustrade which leads to the main upper floor terraces, and the domed ceiling in the entrance hall with small star-shaped cutouts for natural light.

“Middle Eastern architecture has always influenced not only myself but the whole of Western architecture,” says Collett. “We have not tried to create a pastiche, but instead endeavoured to absorb some cultural aspects and represent them in a contemporary manner.”

No stranger to luxury properties, Collett-Zarzycki is also designing the Chelsea, London development known as The Glebe, which is set for completion in the summer of 2017 – and reportedly set to be the most expensive place to live in the capital city when finished.

But this beautiful home retains a sense of intimacy in its grandeur, proving that there is an ability to carve out seclusion while living in a space that is carefully linked together. This is perhaps best demonstrated by the arrangement of the areas that make up the family room, the internal courtyard and the large loggia, which overlooks the pool and the view of the Bay of Cannes. As Collett explains: “Each space has its own identity, but they all meld together in a home that is spacious, interesting, intimate but majestic.”

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Near the swimming pool area, an installation of fresh, multi-layered onyx slabs brings light from below and accommodates the pool showers on the reverse side. Opposite, leading to the outdoor decks, the family room is a comfortable space with a sofa by Kingson, sofas, an armchair by Philippe Burriel, and a rug by Perennials. The Kolum Pendant ceiling light by Kevin Kelly and the antique lamp shade sourced from Talisman Custom offer soft lighting.



*There is an ability to carve out **SECLUSION** while living in a **SPACE** that is carefully linked together*

"We **ABSORBED** some Middle Eastern cultural aspects and represented them in a **CONTEMPORARY** manner"





The central feature of the elaborate *Staircase* designed by Eva Jiricna rises up into a skylight

Opposite: Verde Antigua stone decorates the bathroom. The basin and shelf were designed by C-Z and made in Corian, while the Bangles white ceramic stool is by Tucker Robbins