



est

unforgettable spaces
& inspired design

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VILLA MANDRA Raw beauty by K-STUDIO on Mykonos

SET IN STONE Casa Salvatori in the heart of Milan's design district

MODERN HISTORY Inside Château de Fabrègues

AUSTRALIAN DESIGN Near & Far



Made in CAPRI

PHOTOGRAPHY James Geer
WORDS Emma-Kate Wilson

A Melbourne-based family who were yearning for European sunshine during the cold winter months, found the perfect Capri home two years ago in the Bay of Naples.



The water-side home honours views of the Faraglioni, the limestone cliffs, the boats and the Mediterranean Sea — even from the shower.





Local joiners crafted the kitchen with Austrian Oak doors and local limestone benchtops, complemented with Capri artisan dinnerware from Eureka di Pollicino.

Uschi and Danny Schwartz had been looking for the perfect sun-soaked villa in which to spend Italian summers with their young son Benji and friends, but didn't expect to stumble across one by chance while having lunch at a restaurant below the property. "It took our breath away," says Uschi. After the first inspection, they realised the villa, perched on a steep decline, needed a complete renovation; perfectly suiting the young family who wanted to impart their own style.

The Capri summer home had formerly been part of an Italian politician and property magnate who subdivided his Palazzo and sold off subsections. The Schwartz's 3,000 sqm property housed the centuries-old stone cistern that had been transformed into a villa in 1974. Facing south, the home overlooks the famous Faraglioni islands and has private access to the sea, surrounding pine forest and limestone cliffs.

The first changes were to open the living space to reflect their breezy, informal Australian lifestyle while honouring the Mediterranean environment and forest. They gutted the interior, only keeping the original external stone walls, added windows to maximise the views and renovated the basement to create a separate guest apartment.

Inspired by the stunning vistas, they kept the furniture clean, fresh and natural to harmoniously blend with the surroundings. "The colour scheme was intended to be very natural and calm and was not to deflect from the intensely beautiful outdoor landscape and surroundings," Uschi says. The three-levelled interior consistently reflects the exterior with natural woven artworks made on the island from Eco Capri and dinnerware by local artisans Eureka di Pollicino, handmade and painted in Capri.



“When we had our first inspection, we saw a villa in steep decline. The 3,000 sqm garden was a total mess, and the villa, which had been renovated in the 1980s, was carved up into tiny rooms.”



“We wanted something by the Mediterranean Sea, and our location is incredibly private, surrounded by vast limestone cliffs, natural pine forest and the sea.”

Many of the interior features reflect the family’s travels; clean, white sofas from the Conran Store in London; handwoven ceiling pendants from Tunisia bought at Mona Market in Le Marais Paris and Italian Terracotta tiles designed by Patricia Urquiola. These pieces are offset with commissioned paintings from Australian artists Karen Hayman and Mark Schaller.

Fermob furniture was chosen consistently throughout, adding vintage pops of colour to celebrate the surrounding tonal and textural palette, including the Mediterranean terraced garden they established from the ground up. “We love the Hibiscus, local Italian rosemary, oleanders, citrus trees and red lantana,” Uschi says. “We also have yuccas, banana plants, tropical ferns, birds of paradise and an assortment of Mediterranean succulents.”

“The mood reflects a Mediterranean summer, informal days spent swimming in rock pools and exploring the natural beauty of the island. We love cooking and always dine together as a family or with friends for every meal.” Together, Uschi and Danny have built the perfect summer home, with multi-layered spots for aperitivi, siestas and watching the changing light on the Faraglioni in the Capri sun.

The Schwartz’ added a saltwater pool, constructed in concrete and stone and set into the terraced stone wall, overlooking the bay.





Spending quality family time on the outdoor Fermob furniture down by the water's edge is one of the young family's favourite pastimes. They bring a picnic and take shade under the rustic bamboo pergola; rinsing off in the salty sea after lunch.



RISTORANTE
Torre Saracena