



LEFT TO RIGHT
The garden combines local and exotic plants for exuberant colour; interior designer Sylvie Langaud in her home with the family pet

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COUNTRYSIDE CHARM

HAPPILY HIDDEN BY VERDANT PINES, THIS COSY HOME CELEBRATES FAMILY LIVING, LOCAL ARCHITECTURE AND ECO-CONSCIOUS DETAILS

To live happily secluded, interior designer Sylvie Langaud and her husband found a magnificent location to build their dream home—at Cap Ferret in southwestern

France. Located halfway between the Bay of Arcachon and the Atlantic Ocean, the villa was designed in the style of a local traditional hut and is surrounded by majestic pines that hide it from view. It sits on a sunny, airy rise with no buildings opposite it, making it a rare find on the Cap Ferret peninsula where plots of land for sale are hard to come by.

“When we came to visit for the first time, we realised straight away that the real attraction was not so much the house, but the site,” says Langaud, the homeowner, who’s an interior designer with Paule-M. “We fell in love with the idyllic setting, with its tall pines.”

BELOW

The wooden house’s exterior was inspired by traditional oyster farmers’ cabins in Cap Ferret

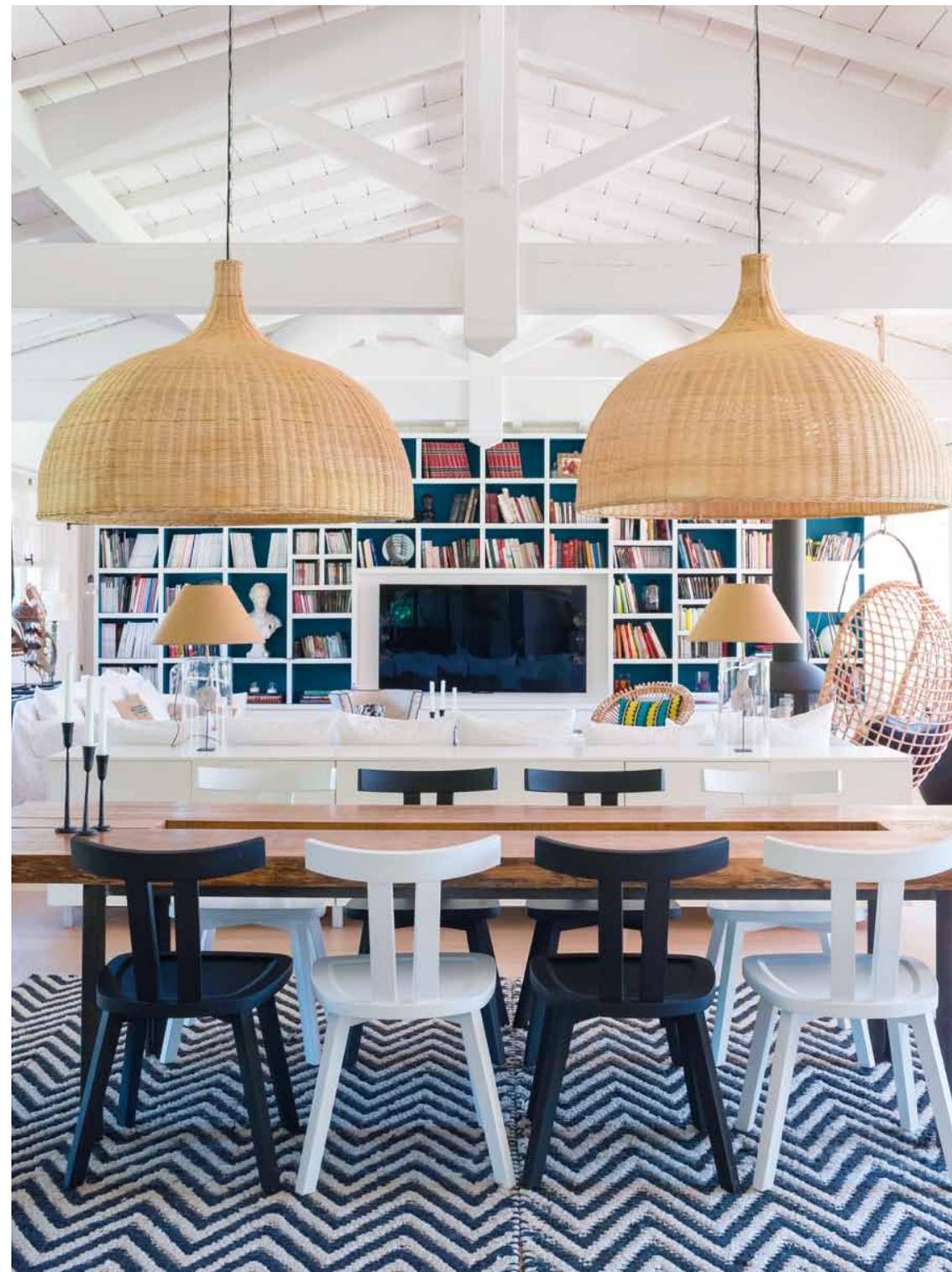
OPPOSITE PAGE

The bespoke bookshelves are the centrepiece in the lounge

LOCAL INSPIRATION

The existing hacienda-style building, which was of no architectural interest and in too poor condition to be renovated, was demolished. In its place, Langaud and her husband have built their dream villa. “We wanted a wooden house based on the traditional oyster farmers’ huts in the area,” says the couple. Sandrine Mercurio Architecte and BMC Builders, both specialists in wooden constructions in the area around the Bay of Arcachon, were a natural choice. The painted cladding with joint covers, the windows with narrow vertical wooden glazing bars and the tiled roof supported by decorated posts are all typical features of the local architecture.

“We didn’t want a house that was too imposing, which is why the surface area is spread out horizontally rather than over multiple floors, and the break in the roof pitch softens the outline,” explains the couple. Another design specification was for the





house to open onto the outside as much as possible. Half of the facade is composed of windows and, to meet the energy-efficient requirements of the French Thermal Regulation RT 2012, they are offset by extra insulation and positioned facing the sun. These large windows allow the occupants to enjoy views of the garden, which was transformed by Les Jardins Bartherotte, landscape gardeners in Cap Ferret. “We really like their work—they use a local style with just a hint of exoticism, such as the palm trees planted around the swimming pool,” says Langaud.



TOP TO BOTTOM Blue paint on the shelves creates a striking contrast with the white woodwork; the couple's tribal art collection adorns the lounge

FAMILY VALUES Above all other things, the project is family-centred. The original design brief was clear—three generations must be able to live together under one roof. The couple explains: “We are a very close family. We live with our retired parents, while our children, who live in Bordeaux, are here every weekend.”

OPPOSITE PAGE With white wood and furniture made of natural materials, the lounge boasts a chic seaside style with a New England feel

With that in mind, the architect designed three distinct spaces. In the main building, there is a single-storey wing for the grandparents, which enjoys direct access to the garden. The first floor is reserved for the couple, where the master suite opens onto a terrace with a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside. And next to the swimming pool is a cabin for the two children, where they have a bedroom each and a shared bathroom.

An original mix of items contributes to the house's simple charm, as opposed to showy luxury



LEFT
The colourful hanging lampshades by Spanish designer Alvaro Catalán de Ocón bring life to the kitchen with a visual element



RIGHT
Gold details on the pendant lights and antique mirror add a luxurious touch to the spacious bathroom



“We realised straight away that the real attraction was the site. We fell in love with the idyllic setting, with its tall pines”



THE
brief

LOCATION
Cap Ferret, France

TYPE OF HOME
Landed

RESIDENTS
6

PROPERTY SIZE
2,400sqft

ARCHITECT
Sandrine Mercurio
Architecte

**INTERIOR
DESIGNER**
Sylvie Langaud

GREEN DETAILS

The lounge in the centre of the house is a space for everyone to gather. With its white painted frame and battens, it has a distinctly seaside feel and a relaxed, chic style that's typical of the local area. The couple has mainly used unfinished, natural materials such as rattan, wood and linen. The dining table is crowned with a superb eucalyptus top made by local craftsman Fabrice Pezon. Other furnishings that feature recycled materials include the kitchen's attractive hanging lights by Spanish designer Alvaro Catalán de Ocón, which were made with recycled plastic bottles. The cupboard doors in the bedrooms are shutters from a Venetian manor, bought from Gilentik, a second-hand goods dealer in Lot-et-Garonne, France. The cushions in the entrance hall and lounge are made from coffee sacks and old sheets. This original mix of items contributes to the house's simple charm, as opposed to showy luxury.

Langaud concludes, “The lounge is my favourite part of the house. I wanted it to be a very welcoming space, with large sofas and plenty of cushions so that everyone can relax here in peace and quiet. I love the evenings when we are all here to talk, read or watch a good film together. It's a good life.”

TOP TO BOTTOM

Bedrooms have been decorated in the same style with light tones and natural materials to create a relaxed, summery feel; the cupboard doors were originally shutters from a Venetian manor

OPPOSITE PAGE

The couple's son's bedroom in the cabin opens onto verdant views of the garden

