

THE LIFESTYLE EDITION

WHITE IBIZA



TASTE · WELLNESS · ART · LIVING · STYLE · ARCHITECTURE · INTERIORS · DESIGN · TRAVEL

FORTUNE FAVOURS THE BOLD

FUSING ANCIENT ROOTS WITH BOLD FUTURISTIC
DESIGN, INTERIOR DESIGNERS ALI PITTAM AND
ROBERTA JURADO HAVE CRAFTED SOMETHING
TRULY UNIQUE IN CAN SAKHARA

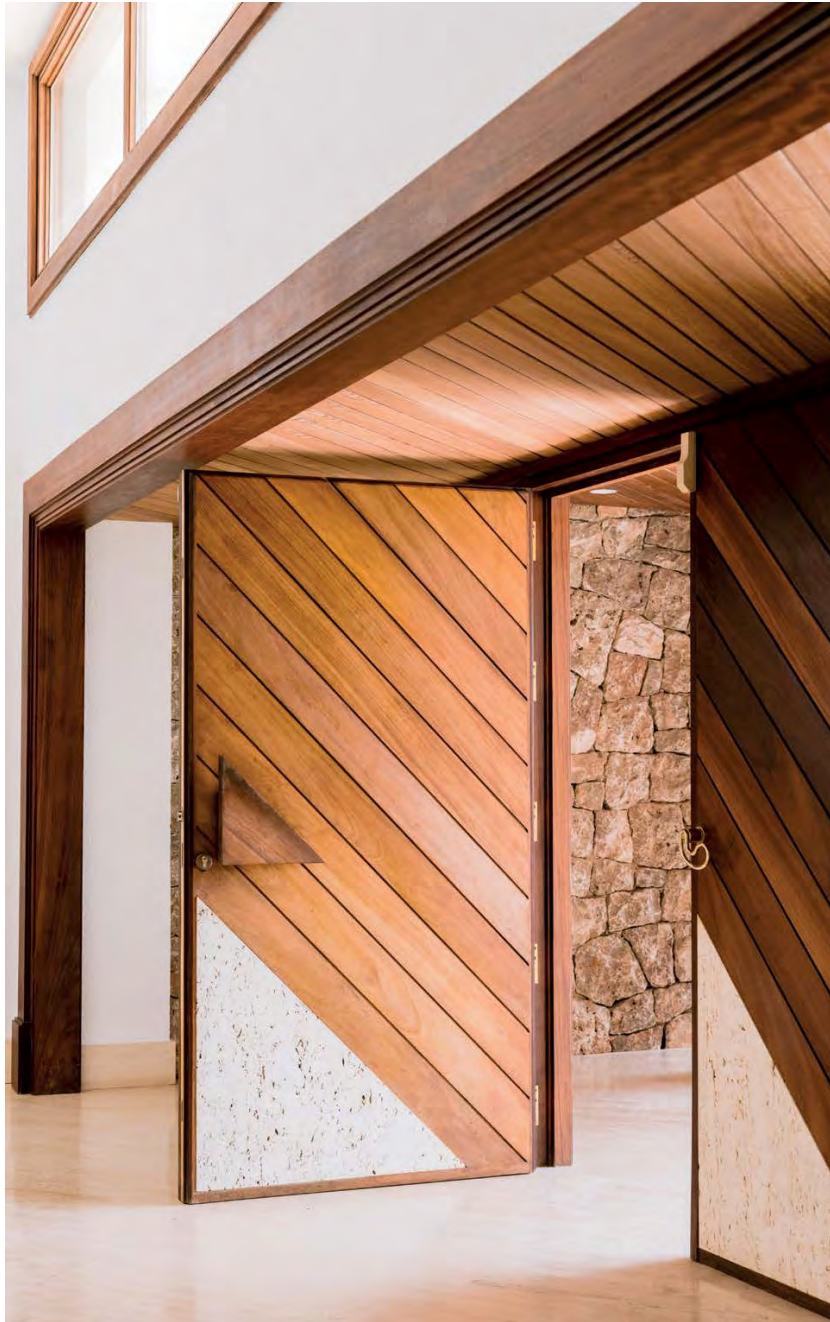
Words: Danni Landa Photos: Sayana Cairo

Ibiza's extraordinary beauty serves as the perfect backdrop for the simplicity frequently found in the island's vernacular architecture and design. It's easy to fall in love with the Mediterranean palette when it comes wrapped in the exquisite light and ethereal spirit of the island. But every so often, someone steps out of the box to create an offbeat home that is not Ibiza as we know it, and yet is also Ibiza to its very core.

Can Sakhara is totally unique: there is no other villa with this vibe on the island. Imagine Frank Lloyd Wright making martinis for Slim Aarons while Hockney paints Bowie in the swimming pool and you start to get the idea. You could even be forgiven for thinking the twinkling lights visible from the pool deck are downtown LA rather than Ibiza's buzzy Playa d'en Bossa. This house is audacious, decadent and very rock and roll.

Interiors expert Ali Pittam was first approached about the redecoration of this seven-bedroom Sa Carroca home via an estate agent in 2022. "It's such a striking piece of architecture," says the Can Can Design founder. "It definitely needed a strong hand." Based in Ibiza since 2012, Ali's skills are grounded in decades of intuitive visuality, fuelled by an inherent taste bordering on eccentric and a deep passion for art, music and design. She called on her long-time collaborator, Roberta Jurado of





Box3 Interiors, telling her: “It’s very masculine, very graphic, very angular.” Roberta jumped on board immediately. In any other hands, Can Sakhara could have turned out radically different.

The house is named after an ancient Egyptian village in the Giza Governate, the location of the oldest complete stone structure in the world – the Pyramid of Djoser. The shapes that inspired much of Can Sakhara’s architecture are easily recognisable within Djoser’s stepped design and triangular forms. Crisp, precise edges criss-cross the plot, appearing antithetical to the organic shapes of the surrounding landscape, but each downward line is having an intentional conversation with the slope of the wooded hillside alongside the house. This very contemporary house has not been designed despite the natural world around it, but in homage to it.

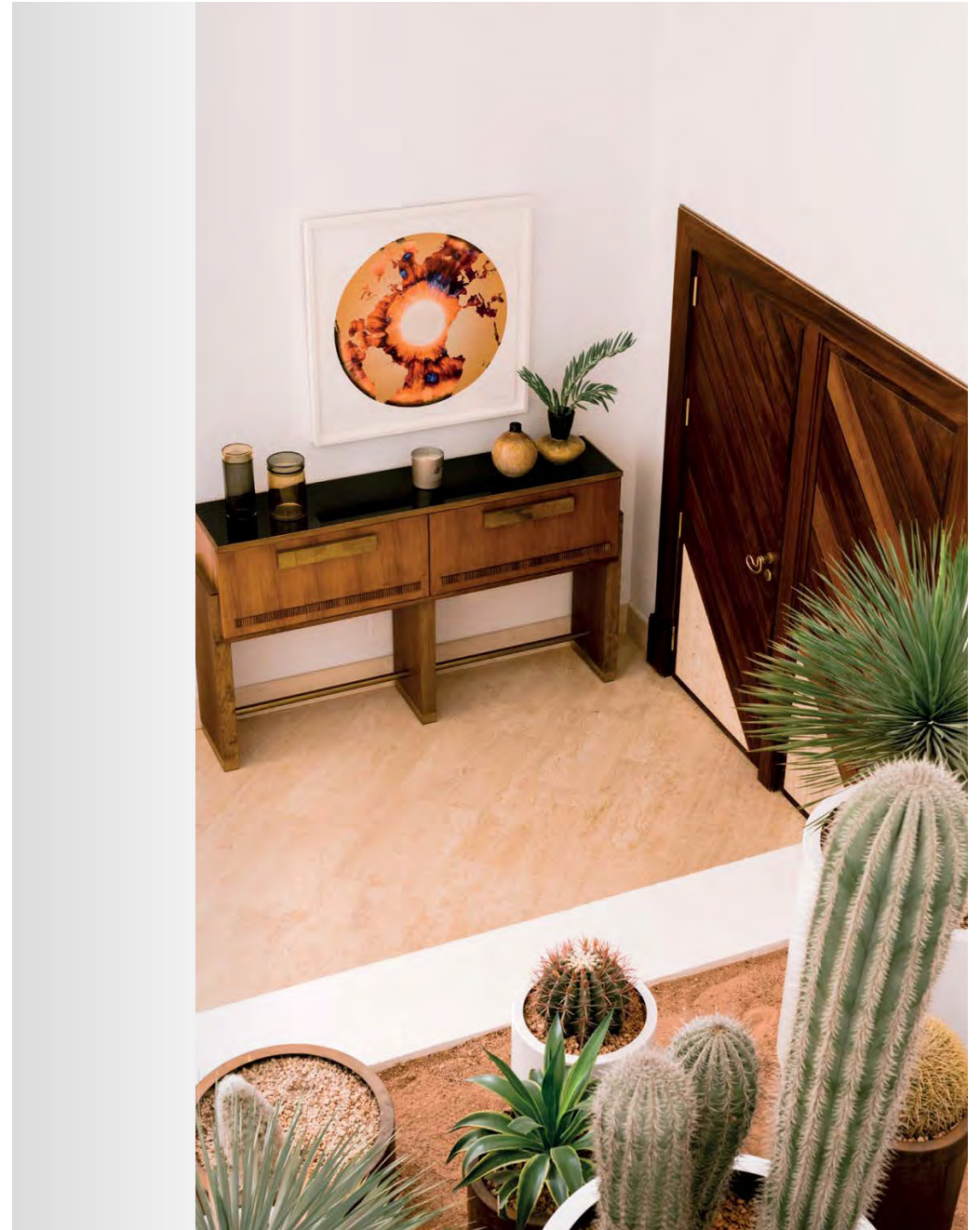
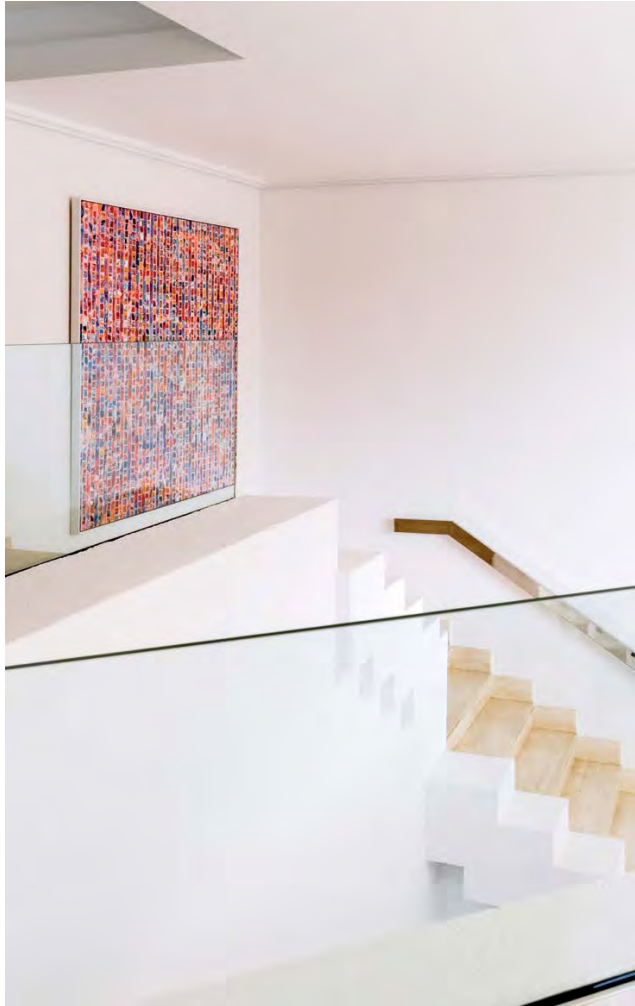
It took a while for the new owner to fully assimilate the confidence with which Can Sakhara had been designed. Completed around 1990, the structure is imbued with all the braggadocio of the era, its sharp opulence the antithesis to the whitewashed curves seen in most Ibiza homes. Luckily, Ali and Roberta instantly saw the appeal of retaining the original detailing, knowing these bold elements would make Can Sakhara one of the island’s most sought-after holiday rental villas.

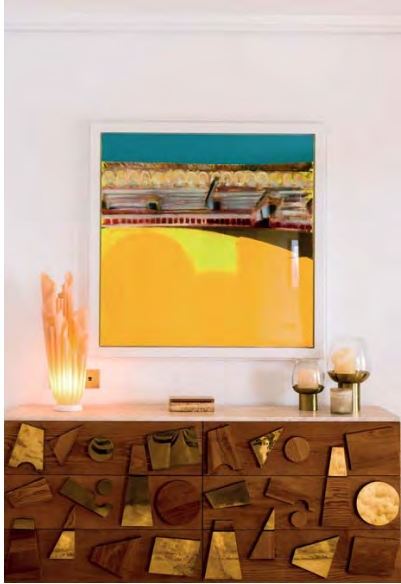
Triangles of travertine are inlaid within the diagonal iroko wood panels of the front doors, adorned with curvaceous brass handles. These shapes further accentuate the pyramidal forms concealed in the architecture’s implied meaning. Ancient Egyptian silhouettes are repeated in the zigzag of the staircase, leading from the entrance hall to the second floor,

where a gleaming chrome handrail oozes disco-age cool. Below is a trilateral void filled with cacti of various sizes that cast spiky shadows on the wall as the sun moves across the space.

For all its vintage vibe, Can Sakhara is becoming impressively high-tech, but in Ali’s opinion, technical components must always fit the overall schema. She spent weeks working with Robert Cashin from Concept Installations to find the perfect greyish-brass finish for the outlets and switches. Even the Control4 and KNX home automation panels have bespoke wall plates. With such a varied number of metal finishes throughout the house, it was important each surface related to the other. Outside, the tech pièce-de-résistance is an enormous C-Seed TV embedded in the lawn facing the pool. Also sourced and installed by Concept Installations, it takes 30 seconds to achieve full height, revolves 180 degrees and is designed for daytime and nighttime viewing. While the latest mod-cons create a seamless automated experience, the décor necessitated a robust individuality.

Normally, designers pick out furniture before slotting it all into a mock-up of the floor plan. “I don’t work quite so rigidly,” she says. “It’s very much an organic process. We plan out the major pieces, like sofas, tables and such, and then I bring loads of stuff to the site. As the builders are moving out, we put the main furniture in and then start adding layers with pieces from our own collections. We never really know what’s going to work until it’s there.” The upside of this beautiful chaos is unexpected moments of synchronicity. A vibrant purple swan chair by Artifort, which would look at home in a 1960s bordello, sits in front of a limited-





edition print of Wildcat Will's *Jane Birkin with Butterflies*. The art tempers the colour of the chair. Together, they make total sense.

Art always plays a big role in Ali's designs and Can Sakhara lends itself to spectacular pieces. Another classic chair – an original Eames lounge and ottoman upholstered in milky leather – is accompanied by a stunning black and white photograph by Ibiza-based artist Lolo Loren. The image is hazy, a woman crouched, facing away from the lens, her skin reflected in the colours of the chair and the glow of a Murano glass Carlo Nason floor lamp. The vignette is completed with a stack of books and a fluffy flokati rug.

Loren's work appears again in the primary suite, this time an oil painting. "There's a circular shape at its centre, like the Bocci pendant lights hanging beside the bed, and the curves on the bedspread and



custom headboard,” says Ali. “It has pink as a base like the Baxter chair beneath it. This painting brings it all together.” Other pieces throughout the house include Ali’s hand-picked, typically eclectic selection from the brilliant artists represented by Manifold Editions and West Contemporary Art.

A Gary Hulme sits next to a Paul Morrison in front of a custom-made, retro pool table, felted in a zingy paprika. There’s a working vintage jukebox next to the bar and it’s easy to imagine a pitcher of Mai Tais being passed around to a soundtrack of classic funk and soul. At the top of the stairs hangs a colour-filled work by Nicholas Kontaxis, a young, largely non-verbal, neurodiverse artist whose approach to life fills his paintings with dense emotionality. A finely tuned cohesion between art, architecture and décor filters through every room.

Can Sakhara rejects trend and tradition, refusing to adhere to the prescribed idea of Ibiza style, preferring to carve out a unique space in the island’s design landscape. There is nothing neutral about it. “I think with every project you’ve got to be led by two things,” says Ali. “First, how the client lives. But, just as importantly, you’ve got to consider the shape, style and feel of the house. With Can Sakhara, it was impossible not to be bold.”

