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HOME TOUR

Tour a Modern Mediterranean Home in Cannes With Deep Roots in French Craft

Architect Jerry Pellerin builds his dream hillside dwelling with "feet in the water"

By Gay Gassmann
 Photography by Giulio Girardi
 Styled by Sarah de Beasmont
 June 16, 2025

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Tucked into the verdant hills above Cannes, France, in a coveted residential enclave known as Lower California, Villa Nicky overlooks the shimmering Mediterranean with a serene, almost cinematic quality. When architect Jerry Pellerin first visited the site—a former stable and staff quarters for the neighboring estate—he felt an immediate connection. "I wanted to live with my feet in the water," he says, referencing the French expression "les pieds dans l'eau." The place gave him that feeling instantly.

Pellerin, the cofounder of [Caprini & Pellerin](#), a multidisciplinary architecture and design studio based in Cannes, began the renovation in 2019. But it took time for the home to finally be move-in ready. Between launching a major hospitality restoration (the transformation of [Palm Beach Cannes](#), a historic entertainment destination) and relocating the firm's headquarters, his own home had to wait. Designing your own home as an architect, "it's very complicated," Pellerin says.



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Though modest in footprint—about 1,950 square feet—Villa Nicky unfolds vertically in four stories. Entry is at street level, where a discrete doorway and natural skylight offer a quiet welcome. The primary suite sits one level down, followed by the main living area below, where the open salon spills out onto a generous travertine-clad terrace and a swimming pool. Just behind it: the kitchen, storage, and a guest powder room. A final descent reveals a tucked-away studio space built beneath the pool. The home's steep hillside position may have posed logistical challenges—"you can't even park a truck outside," Pellerin notes—but it also allowed him to create a unique architectural experience that descends through layers of the landscape.

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Pellerin shares the space with his wife, their young child, and the family dog. For them, Villa Nicky is more than a home; it's a retreat, a sanctuary, a place where the boundaries between indoors and out dissolve almost entirely. "I always knew what I wanted," he says. "I was lucky to find a place that let me express that."

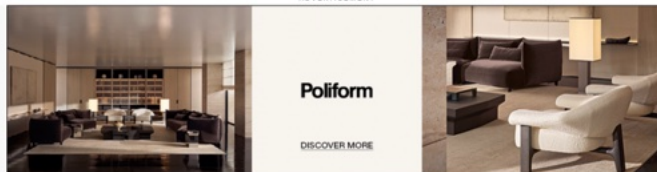


The landscape design is by [Olivia DeRosier](#).



The custom front door—cast in aluminum and crafted as a single piece—makes a major statement. Once again, the flooring is travertine, seamlessly moving from outdoors to indoors.

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The main salon is anchored by a large ceramic sculptural bookcase with artwork by artist [Olivia Capozzi](#) on the shelf. There are vintage furnishings and the coffee table is from [Ettore Sottsass](#). The large built-in sofa is custom by Caprini & Pellerin in pine and concrete.

While his initial plans called for a more eclectic palette of materials, he ultimately opted for restraint. "At first, I imagined many different surfaces," he says. "But in the end, I chose travertine because it grounds the house in the Mediterranean." The stone covers all the floors, interior and exterior, but is used in varied textures and treatments to offer quiet depth. Solid oak, shaped and softened like the wood of a boat, warms the millwork. Cast aluminum appears in unexpected moments—from the custom kitchen counter to the sculptural front door. In one bathroom, a rattan-paneled ceiling adds a touch of coastal



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The color story is equally pared back. Beige dominates, lifted by the blues of the sea and sky just beyond. "The view becomes a material," Pellerin adds. That refined sensibility embodies the design ethos that Caprini & Pellerin has become known for: an embrace of French craftsmanship, a reverence for tradition, and a forward-looking eye. In Villa Nicky, all those ideas come together in a home that feels as effortless as it is intentional.



The main salon opens out onto the large terrace. The curtains are [Holland & Sherry](#) and the glassware is by [Saint-Louis](#). The silver floor lamp is from [Ralph Lauren](#) and the travertine continues as the material for the mantel.



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The Mirax dining room table is custom by [Caprini & Pellerin](#) and the chairs are [Baker Furniture](#). Above hangs a vintage [Uchiwa](#) lantern (1980s) by [Jörg Maser](#). To the right hangs a painting by [Natalia Janczykowa Florini](#) and on the table sits a silver coffee jug by [Jean Despres](#). The kitchen island in the background is one of their custom designs and on top sits a large vase by [Gisela Caponi](#) and the wall appliques are [Pierre Chareau](#). Art: [Natalia Janczykowa Florini](#)



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Entire view of the back façade that looks onto the sea. All the terrace furniture is by [Caprini & Pellerin](#) and the sun umbrellas are by [Cocoon Savoye](#). The plants are in pots from [Poterie de la Madeleine](#).



Outdoor dining with a gracious built-in concrete seating area. The fabrics are [Pierrelina Fabrics](#) and [Loro Piana](#) with vintage wrought-iron chairs. The flooring is travertine.

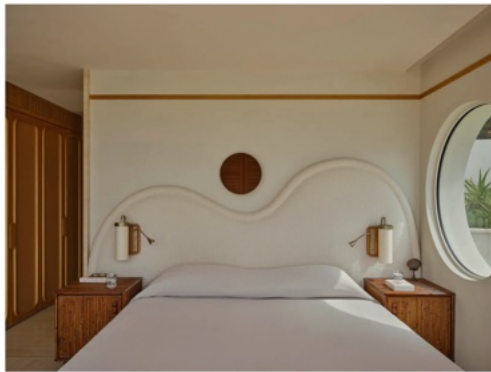


The house is all about indoor/outdoor living. On the terrace are custom sunbeds by [Caprini & Pellerin](#) with fabrics by [Pierrelina Fabrics](#) and [Loro Piana](#).

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The primary bed has a custom wave-shaped headboard topped with a wooden cornice, all nautically inspired. The bed is from [Nesso](#), sheets are [Miralè Sabotino](#), and the side tables are made of bamboo. The nickel reading lights are by [Molag](#) and the custom wall lamps by Caprini & Pellerin. The bronze shell art is by [Giacinto Babartono](#).



The relaxed yet sophisticated bathroom was inspired by beach cabins. There is travertine wallcovering and the double sink is solid travertine as well. The bathtub is from [Desso & Desso](#) and the faucets are [Waterworks](#). The raffia ceiling treatment conceals technical elements and the cabinet and mirror are custom designs by Caprini & Pellerin.



Featuring the three signature materials for this house, the walk-in closet is all oak, travertine, and raffia. The little porthole window offers a view of the sea from the dressing area.



In a practical little office niche located in the primary bedroom suite sits a vintage lamp by [Björkstam](#) and a collectible chair by [Jean Serrano](#). The bench and wardrobe are custom designed in oak with cushion fabric from [Designs of the Time](#). The curtains are [Holland & Sherry](#).



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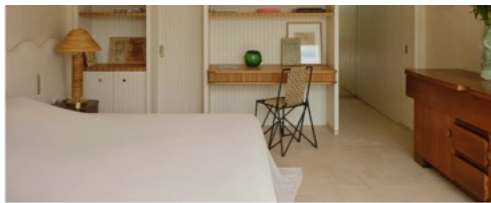
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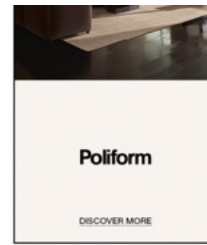
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In keeping with the rest of the house, a quiet and serene guest room with the same mix of vintage and custom designs. Pieces in the room include a desk chair by Jean Grossi, a vintage buffet, and a ceiling light by [Gallerie et Champs](#). The green vase on the desk is by [Gallo Scava](#).



The pool is adorned with an enamelled lava frieze wave pattern crafted in collaboration with [Alessandro Versace](#) and the architects. The petrol blue palette was selected to complement the sea. Caprioli & Pellerin custom sunbeds.

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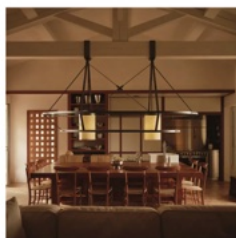
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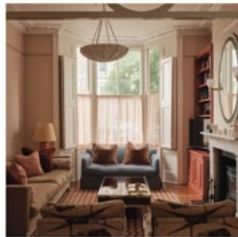


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