



Contemporary Living

A modern project of inspired quality, creativity and elegance... designed for the 21st century



Photo: David Torres

Villa Fortuna

The Birth of a Concept

IN THIS FIRST ARTICLE OF A THREE-PART SERIES CHRONICLING THE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER CONSTRUCTION PROCESS OF AN EXCEPTIONAL VILLA IN LA ZAGAleta, WE INTRODUCE THE INNOVATIVE CONCEPT AND CREATIVE TEAM BEHIND THE PROJECT.

By Michel Cruz.



Photo: David Toms

"We wanted to create a truly spectacular modern home that would be a showcase of refined contemporary living," says Carlos, "but in this concept there was no room for compromise on location, so we found a solution that combines the best of both elements."

As the designer of some of the most evocative modern homes along this stretch of the Mediterranean, Lamas is in his element when shaping villas around luxury 21st century aesthetics and lifestyles.

"Our concept was not to create an avant-garde home that looks fantastic in magazines but would be impractical and unpleasant to live in. A true modern design reference is one that looks amazing and sets new standards but also functions on a personal level. What we are creating here, after all, is not a public icon but a private villa where a family will live, entertain and feel at home. It is with this brief to ourselves in mind that we set out to design a luxury living concept that transcends fads and trends, and has the credentials to become a modern classic."

AN ASSEMBLY OF TALENT

Know-how is something accumulated through training and experience, but when combined with innate talent this expertise rises above the rest to produce work of inspired quality and creativity. Add passion to the potion and you reach the pinnacle of every field and profession. It is exactly such a team of professionals that has gathered to contribute their respective skill sets to this project, with Udo of Atlas Group ensuring the highest standards of construction, Victor Periañez of Illusion responsible for state-of-the-art home entertainment and automated systems, and Gonzalo Moreno of Gunni & Trentino heading up the bespoke interior dressing of the villa.

This desire to work with the best also ensures the collaboration of suppliers and companies such as Román Clavero, the leading window and door makers in this region.

The villa that is the product of their combined skills occupies a convex contour of a hilly promontory, a fact from which it derives its imposing panorama – but in spite of which the property appears remarkably level. "We have resisted creating a cavernous house or one that



the styling is contemporary and employs the latest technology and materials in combination with personalised production.

As a result everything – from windows and doors, soft furnishings and the kitchen to the indoor pool, water features, lighting and electronic systems – is designed and created especially for Villa Fortuna. Under the guidance of José Carlos Román Ocaña, Roman Clavero are creating doors, windows and dressing rooms from the finest woods and modern synthetic materials. Renowned for their ability to produce frames and glazing to any imaginable style, configuration and arrangement, Román Clavero have fitted the most luxurious villas and resort hotels in this part of Spain, and are designing a series of features yet to be seen elsewhere.

In addition to panoramic fold-away glass screens these include a glass ledge on the first floor balcony that is comfortable to walk on but also allows

natural light to flow onto the ground floor terrace and the living room. Other features include his and hers dressing areas made to professional boutique standards and integrated with ambience and sensor-controlled lighting created by automation specialists Illusion.

In order to set a mood for the home that is both modern and homely, Victor Periañez and his team are applying different lighting types and technologies that incorporate both technical and decorative fixtures. Divided into ambient, functional indoor and outdoor lighting, they come together in an interplay that is designed with each individual area's space, natural light and use in mind.

Integral within this aesthetic brief is the desire to create a system that is optimally energy-efficient and incorporated into the villa's automated network, so that the entire system can be controlled from a single touch screen or personalised hand-

held device. Dimmers that even work on LEDs and fluorescents are used in the home's lighting circuits and set into the stone walls, while sensors negate the need to fumble in the dark or waste electricity. Illusion have also designed an Ethernet network that will operate high-speed internet access as well as the state-of-the-art audio-visual installations. The system, which also controls climate settings, irrigation, security, cameras, water features and electric curtains and shutters, is easily operable from an in-wall iPad dock station, fixed touch panels in the main bedroom suites, a hand-held iPad dock station in the living room and a waterproof touch panel for use in the indoor pool. Using this custom-designed electronic control system you can not only enjoy a magic mirror TV in the master bedroom, and wall projection in the indoor spa, but also automatically simulate your normal light patterns while away.

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"Our challenge has been to create a refined and comfortable contemporary living environment that matches the stunning location and the architectural finesse of Villa Fortuna"



"A true modern design reference is one that looks amazing and sets new standards but also functions on a personal level"

the bathrooms have the look and feel of a private spa, complete with gorgeous walk-in rainshowers and freestanding baths. All these spaces are decorated with the finest hand-made cabinetry, collectable Italian pieces, decorative elements and artwork, as well as integrating high-tech gadgetry such as domotics, touchscreen controls and flatscreen televisions in a way that adds to, rather than detracts from, the visual effect.

21ST CENTURY LUXURY

Transforming an existing property into a signature modern home requires conceptual skill on the part of the architect and organisational and technical expertise from the teams involved in its

construction. "Usually there are all kinds of compromises when you embark upon a project of this kind, but we have limited our concessions to the bare minimum by forcing ourselves to come up with solutions that are visually and functionally elegant and in keeping with our concept," says Carlos Lamas.

The result is a free-flowing villa full of light and dramatic perspectives whose treatment of volumes is such that it belies the actual space. Rather than producing an unending succession of Bauhaus-like right angles, the architect has allowed his pencil to leave the ruler and weave sensual forms that are modern yet without the need for cold regimentation of form. "This ability to escape

the bonds of straight lines allows us to work with the natural shape of the land, the angled vistas, and create parabolic focal points that offer a diversity of perspectives to enjoy from the stylish living room, the terrace, garden and pool deck, the bedroom suites, the state-of-the-art kitchen and even the indoor pool and spa."

And so Villa Fortuna takes shape in the green hills of La Zagaleta, promising to become a singular property even here. In the words of Carlos Lamas, "It really is a transformation; in a few months time, where construction is taking place now you will enter a private domain created around a concept of modern style and elegance designed for the 21st century."