

SECRETS OF THE FRENCH RIVIERA

A luxury home on the Côte D'Azur has been remodelled to create the ultimate interior, including one or two surprises.



MEET THE DESIGNERS

Hill House Interiors, created by **Jenny Weiss** and **Helen Bygraves**, has over the last decade attracted an extensive client base ranging from private clients to architects and high profile developers.

Since the company's first project, a luxury five-bedroom show house for Octagon, Hill House has expanded to a hardworking team of 14. Working from prestigious offices in Weybridge, they undertake a wealth of different projects, from a modest request for a dining room makeover to the full scale refurbishment of a country mansion or property developer's penthouse in the middle of Knightsbridge. Jenny and Helen's artistic flair, combined with their love of luxurious materials, specially commissioned furniture, and bold injections of colour, create high impact interiors. The designs are contemporary in essence, looking equally at home in a brand new apartment or a period Mediterranean villa.

Hill House Interiors
Tel: 01932 858900
www.hillhouseinteriors.com

Creating timeless elegance in a newly renovated Art Deco style villa was the brief for Hill House Interiors as they set about creating their latest award winning scheme, on the Côte D'Azur. Although the property looked a little tired, it lies on one of the most exclusive stretches of France's southernmost coastline, close to Cap D'Antibes.

Designers Jenny Weiss and Helen Bygraves have create a modern paradise, with a few surprises on the way.

"We were driven by a desire to move away from the traditional Azur and Provence-style furnishings one might typically associate with the south of France," says Jenny, and this is apparent throughout the scheme. In the central living space at the heart of the villa's impressive open-plan kitchen/living/dining space, a calm, creamy palette of specially commissioned furniture is intermingled with injections of vivid lime.

For cooler evenings as dusk draws in, there is the pleasing option of retiring indoors to stretch out on one of the large bespoke sofas, to gaze into the pebble fired floating fireplace, which takes centre stage in the main living area. The back of the house has been opened

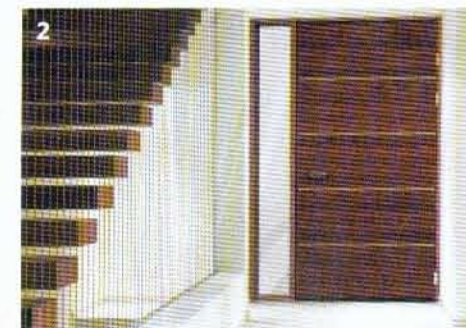
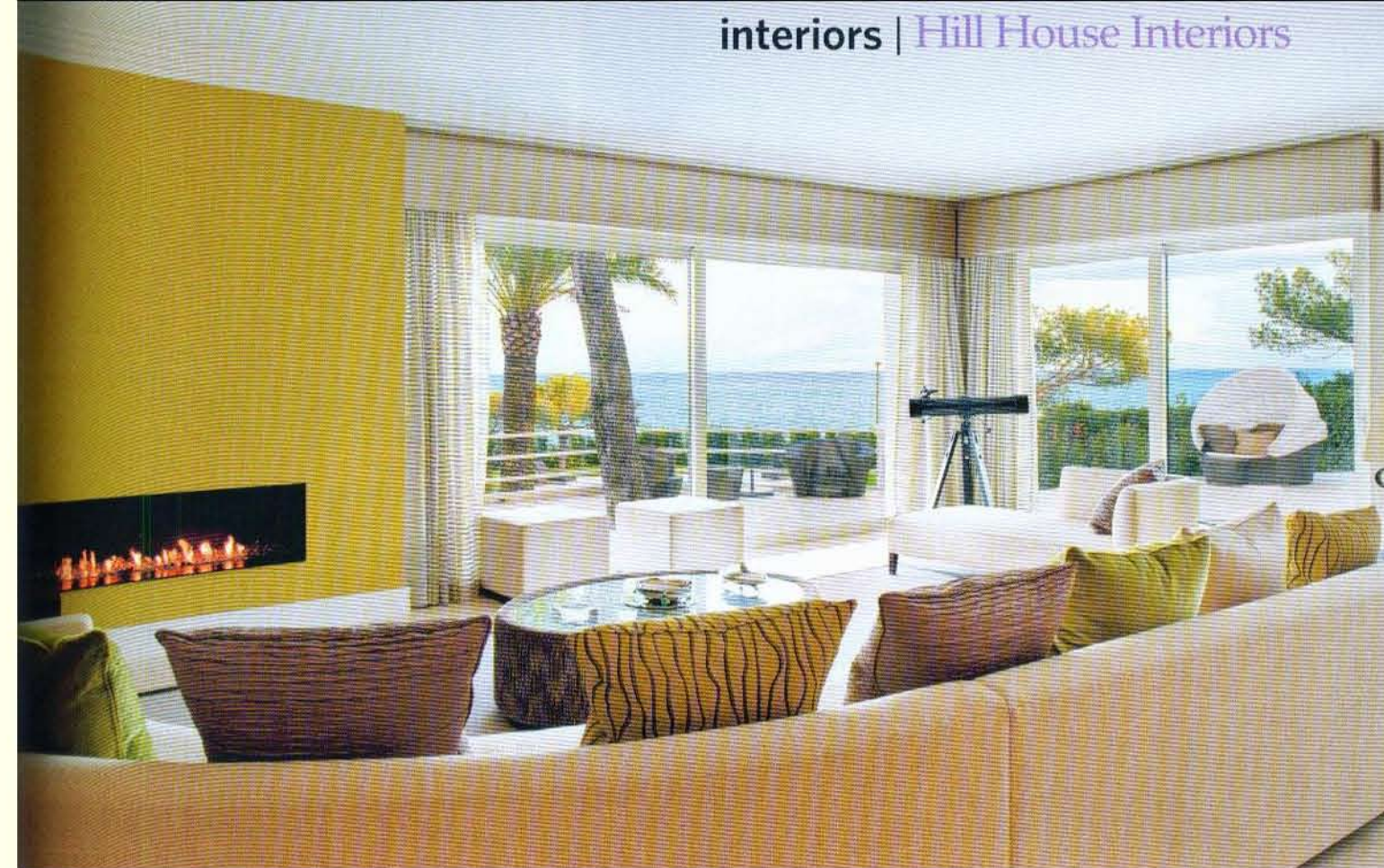
up to allow an abundance of natural light to pour into the space. Sliding glass doors were installed across the property's extensive terraces, framed with voile curtains which billow gently in the sea breeze.

Contemporary dark oak dominates the TV area, which is separated from the rest of the living space with a Zen-like wooden slatted room divider, and acts as a snug retreat.

Behind the TV area, the trump card is a delicious hidden pleasure, a hideaway bedroom discretely concealed behind an invisible door in the open plan living area.

A sense of drama surrounds this veiled boudoir, which is revealed by sliding back a panel of ecru Italian leather set in dark oak. The elegant bedroom comes with a touch of the tribal, sporting tactile faux pony skin wall paper in dramatic ash grey. The cool ceramic floor contrasts with a plethora of tantalising, textured materials, designed to stimulate the senses.

"We were looking to add a hint of magic to the scheme, to rival the villa's enchanting setting," Helen explains, "and there's something utterly bewitching about a hidden space. We really wanted our client to be able to indulge a pure dreamlike fantasy, so we've conjured up an area of their home filled with sheer magic and mystery."



GET THE LOOK

1 RED HOT

The Gazco Studio 3 edge is a close fronted gas cassette fire. UK retail prices from £2,595. If you prefer a wood burning option, try the Stovax Studio 3 profil. Prices start at £2,264. 01392 474056, www.stovax.com

2 CONTEMPORARY

This door from Spirit Doors is made of maple with walnut inlays. These are made bespoke with matching exterior doors also. www.spiritdoors.co.uk

3 STRIKING IT BRIGHT

Be daring with a feature wall. Bright colours allow for tasteful accessorising and can pull a colour scheme together beautifully. Try this India Yellow emulsion from Farrow & Ball. It costs £26.50 for a 2.5 litre tin. 01202 876141, www.farrow-ball.com

4 LIGHT INDULGENCE

The Seapod wall light incorporates a marble crystal design that cleverly reflects the light. RRP is £724.99. 0845 372 0007, www.lightingweb.co.uk

