



ABOVE: A view of Plage du Buse at Roquebrune-Cap-Martin from Eileen Gray's E-1027.
OPPOSITE: An opulent belle époque-style living room at Les Cèdres on Cap Ferrat.

and arched loggias, elements also featured at Santo Sospir in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat (p. 144), a traditional local 1930s villa that Jean Cocteau later "tattooed."

After the Second World War, the postwar period from the 1950s onward brought glamour to the coast and a jet set crowd, driven by the Cannes Film Festival, Brigitte Bardot (Octopussy, p. 22), the roaring engines of automobiles, the advent of the Space Age, and Slim Aarons's aspirational photography. Modernism matured with dynamic geometries of concrete, steel, and glass floating on dramatic natural sites, influenced by Californian Case Study Houses, as seen at Villa Bloc (p. 60) and Villa Galaxie (p. 28). The organic architecture of Jacques Couëlle (p. 118) and Antti Lovag (pp. 44 and 108) took an alternative approach, mirroring the shapes of the landscape with cave-like forms.

For over a century, the Côte d'Azur has been a playground for new domestic architecture. Yet recently, more light has been shone on the

authentic beauty of the regional vernacular, leaning into what designer Pierre Yovanovitch describes as "rustic sophistication" (p. 216). Renewed patronage of local crafts such as stonemasonry and trompe l'oeil is today accompanied by an anthropological interest in old houses and their stories (Maison Vime, p. 158, and Mas de la tour, p. 194). It is through this lens that we explore Provençal vernacular houses, from the 17th-century château to the agricultural *mas* and the *hôtel particulier*, venturing north into the hills and west toward Arles.

Urbanization has left an impression on the Côte d'Azur, yet creativity and charm still remain. Twentieth-century artistic heritage has been preserved by a circuit of art foundations and institutions such as the Fondation CAB (p. 102). Heritage preservation across the coast opens up many residences and gardens to the public, while a more experimental contemporary design scene can be seen in the vibrant residences of Marseille. As nostalgia for the authentic architecture

and interiors of the past certainly grows stronger, photographs and films are increasingly treasured, as newcomers and developers often demolish houses to make way for their own dreams.

Even in the face of change and reinvention, many design qualities of Côte d'Azur living endure across time, resulting in a hybrid architecture informed by vernacular knowledge, cultural development, and eccentric personalities. Walls often become canvases for murals, art, and trompe l'oeil; windows and openings are carefully placed to frame views of the landscape; the heat of the abundant sunlight is mediated by architectural devices from shaded loggias to careful orientation; indoor living spaces flow outdoors onto terraces, into gardens, and down to the sea; eclectic collections of objects and furniture are layered informally with accumulative energy. Together, these characteristics define what living on the Côte d'Azur means today: vitality, creativity, nature, imagination, contemplation, and pleasure.

