

## Dysfunctional Modernism



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Surrounded by yucca trees and the Tepozteco Mountain range, the garden of this Santa Catarina home has outdoor sculptures that match the magnificence of the surrounding landscape.

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The porch area includes objects gathered during Picault's travels, as well as leather seat cushions to soften the wood and metal-work chairs.

This country home, designed by Emmanuel Picault and his partner, architect Ludwig Godefroy, is a perfect blend of minimalist cool, brutalism, and Mexican warmth. Inspired by Le Corbusier, Marcel Breuer, Oscar Niemeyer, and Carlo Scarpa, as well as the ancient temples in Petra and Damascus, here modernism meets poetry. Surrounded by yucca trees and the Tepozteco Mountain range, the house is wider than it is tall, a pillared veranda overlooking a long, thin swimming pool (which becomes a lightbox at night) and an outdoor 1950s sculpture of a snake in a bright shade of orange. Its key materials are cement, whitewashed walls, and stone. The entrance door has Mayan symbols made by Spero Daltas in the 1960s. Woven straw chairs and bright pops of color via cushions, throws, and patterned rugs lend the living room an inviting energy, alongside a sculpture by Théo Mercier and a Bird armchair by Harry Bertioia. Elsewhere, a 1950s lamp by Eugenio Escudero illuminates a Moroccan Berber carpet and gold screen doors by Arturo Pani, a mix of registers that zing with energy.

