

BRUTALIST MODERNISM



Caprini & Pellerin renovated a ground floor apartment bathed in natural light and with stunning views over the French Riviera. The architectural challenge of this project was to find a way to reconfigure the three different apartments into one elegant space.

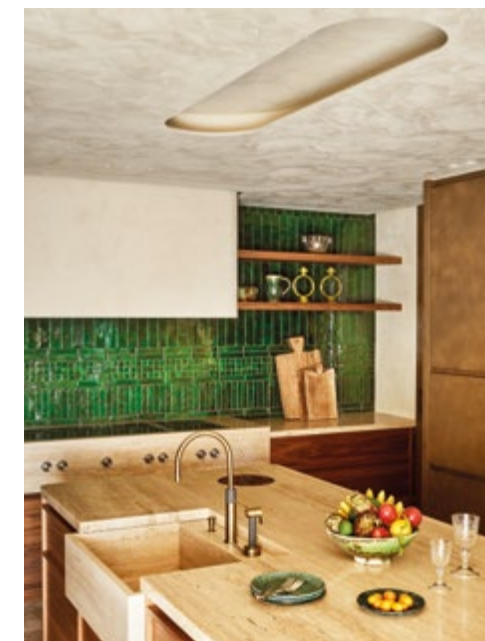
The architecture firm Caprini & Pellerin, based in Cannes, was founded by Kevin Caprini and Jerry Pellerin in 2008. They work on both luxury residential and commercial projects. In that way the architectural firm now has more than 10 years of experience. They have built a fine reputation thanks to the delivery of their timeless designs. Caprini & Pellerin expanded and grew into a team of over twenty designers, architects and consultants who share each other's skills. Their avant-garde vision of luxury with a personal stamp of authenticity and their meticulous focus on details always ensure successful collaborations with their clients. Imagicasa takes you to one of their most recent projects, called Mariposa Apartment, located in their home base Cannes.





transfer all the rooms of their previous villa to this apartment, such as their wine and cigar cellar, hunting room, office, etc., as well as the space to display a large collection of art objects. Thus a first design challenge for the Mariposa project arose. The architects had to think of a way to connect the two diametrically opposed entrances (service and private). They created a corridor more than 20 metres long and structured the entire project around this axis. Several niches allowed the owners to display part of their art collection. In addition, Caprini & Pellerin produced differences in floor levels in order to arrange the different rooms in a balanced way.

WITH THIS DESIGN,
NOTHING WAS LEFT
TO CHANCE



& Pellerin designed this project with respect for the original codes, which allowed the architects to explore new design possibilities.

A CLOSE UP OF THE PROJECT

The apartment called Mariposa is a combination of three different apartments. All three are very different with partition walls and different ceiling heights. Important fundamental work was carried out by the architects Caprini and Pellerin to break through the existing structures and connect the spaces. One of the owners' main wishes was to let in as much natural light as possible and to use the excellent sea view for the different rooms. In addition, the owners had previously lived in a large house and wanted to

Mariposa is located on the upper hills of Cannes on the French Riviera with an amazing view of the city's bay, the Lérins Islands and the Esterel Mountains. The impressive project is located on a private estate of more than 14,000 m², where rare, exotic trees and plants were planted in the 18th century. The building that houses the Mariposa Apartment is a striking architectural icon from the 1970s designed by architects Sir Basil Spence and Eugène Lizerio. Its atypical brutalist and modernist architectural style reminds us of an Inca temple. According to the architectural firm Caprini & Pellerin, this is the most beautiful residence in all of Cannes and they are convinced that it will soon even be included on the World Heritage List. Caprini





FAMILY AFFAIR

The story behind this renovation also surprised us with a striking family affair, as the client is the mother of the architect Jerry Pellerin. She already has 30 years of experience in interior design. This, of course, made the challenge more personal and emotional as he had to get his mother out of her comfort zone so he could make his own architectural interpretation of the design. In this project, his mother had to let go entirely and give her son hundred percent carte blanche. It is a lot to do for someone with her experience, but she did and loves the result. The Caprini & Pellerin architect duo has always been inspired by the constraints of their location. Thanks to their extensive knowledge of the owners' lifestyle and art collection, the architects took all this into account when creating the Mariposa project. In this bespoke project, nothing was left to chance.

INSPIRATION, REFERENCES AND SOPHISTICATED VINTAGE

The brutalist, modernist architecture of the building was the architects' main source of inspiration. The oculus windows and terraces also inspired the curves of the vaulted ceilings and doors. The exterior of the Mariposa Apartment has a primitive almost 'caveman' look. Caprini & Pellerin took this style inside, designing 'cave-like corridors'. They also reproduced the planters on the outside for the inside. The architects were inspired by the handicraft of the Incas, it was definitely one of their creative references for this project. Therefore the chosen materials are noble and some are up-cycled. These give character and authenticity to the apartment. The original materials of the three apartments could not be retained because it were totally different apartments with different styles from



the seventies and nineties. The walls and ceilings were plastered with limestone and all the vaults and arches were made by a craftsman decorator from the Compagnons de France. The woodwork is also handmade, as a tribute to the original techniques. Mariposa was designed to age with authenticity. For the furniture, the architects' own designs were harmonised with some vintage pieces, from the same era as the building, that they found on flea markets. The interior consists of only one material and one colour, namely sand/beige. This sober canvas lends itself perfectly to highlighting the owner's art collection. Only five materials were used throughout the apartment, a very limited palette of materials that ensures continuity. For the floor in the kitchen and corridors, the stone Périgord was used, it is sintered and made through a traditional process. For the living spaces, the architects chose an upcycled oak parquet to give warmth and comfort to these areas. The kitchen cupboards were

given patinated bronze as a reminder of the original door vaults. Walnut was also used in the hunting room, kitchen and office, and the walls and ceilings are in lime plaster. Caprini & Pellerin also contributed to the design, for example, they made the table in the dining room to measure. The owners are also great wine lovers, so the impressive wine cellar was made to measure and turned into the centrepiece of the apartment.

The kitchen with its beautiful details was custom-tailored. The travertine cooking island is made up of walnut cabinets together with patinated bronze doors. The vintage chairs are from the Welcome Gallery and

the sofa is from the manufacturer Paris L'après-midi. The kitchen was covered with green enamelled tiles, which gives a nice contrast to the space. Again, it reminded us of the sixties with the nice round opening separating the dining and living room. In addition, the bathroom has a massive "totem" shower, carved in stone. In a nod to the 1960s and 1970s, travertine stone was used for the sinks in all the bathrooms. On top of that, you can enjoy a magnificent panoramic view. In addition to the two en-suite bedrooms, the master bedroom has a fully customised dressing room with handles from the British DIY store Turnstyle Designs. The bedroom also has direct access to the outdoor



BRUTALIST, MODERNIST ARCHITECTURE WAS THEIR GREATEST INSPIRATION

terrace that overlooks the apartments' private garden. Furthermore, sophisticated lighting work, such as home automation, was used in Mariposa to make the mono-material spaces harmonious.

If the architects had to describe this cosy home in one sentence, it would be: 'This apartment seems to have been sculpted from the stone to create a living space that is both authentic and sophisticated'. The simplicity of Mariposa Apartment transcends its furnishings. A great place to live and enjoy every day. In short, an architecture in function of its inhabitants. (Text: Elke Aerts)

Photography by Alexis Armanet

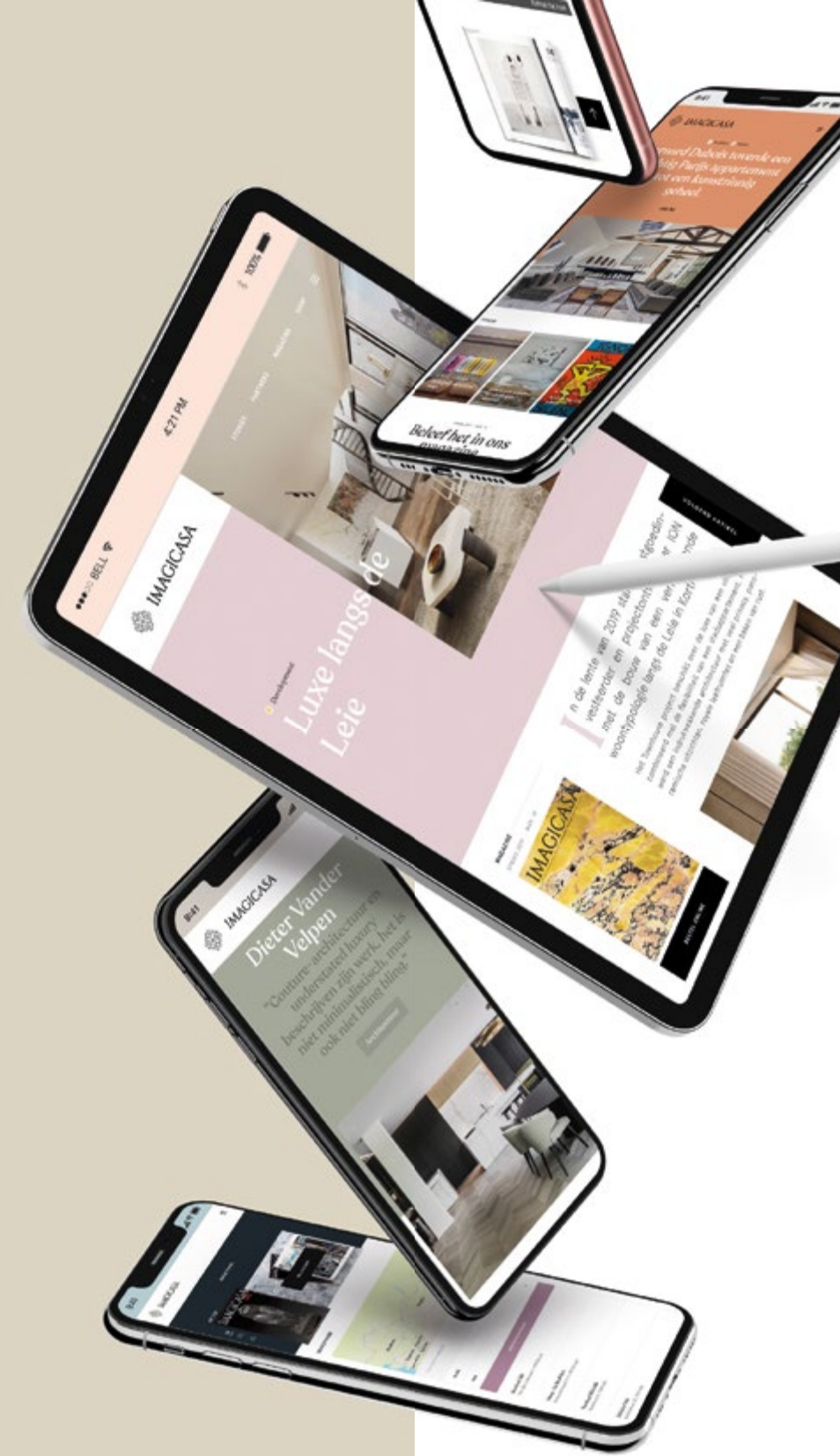
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