



CASA *Summitt*



CASA SUMMITT:
SERIOUSLY MEXICAN, WITHOUT
ARTIFICE OR OVER-SUBTLETY

JIMMY AND BARBARA SUMMITT
OWNERS

JUAN PABLO STONE
CONSTRUCTION

Starting at the gate that marks off the boundaries of the property, Casa Summitt dons its regional dress and invites us to enter a patio where a central quarry-stone fountain is surrounded by large clay-potted palms. From there, we are led on a journey through forms and backgrounds which at times contradict one another, but which always join to create a welcoming space.

«Client satisfaction is most important, it is everything,» notes Juan Pablo, adding that this property was Mr. Summitt's own dream: a house that would be «Mexican to the max».

The construction in the entryway, for example, is not merely tinged with Mexican style; it is completely faithful to the model which inspired it. Corridors run off to each side, occasional tables and armchairs furnish the area, plants sit in clay pots, lanterns illuminate seaside evenings – all details reminiscent of an hacienda. The large house abounds with semi-circular arches, wrought iron railings, rustic wood and leather chairs, traditional curved roof tiles: its ample spaces are well-integrated, and ideally-proportioned. It adheres absolutely to the dictum, «when in Rome, do as the Romans do,» reproducing the layout and dimensions of a prosperous Mexican gentleman's country home, except that this estate is located facing the surf, atop a cliff that adds a touch of drama to its general mood of warmth and composure.

Total contrast

Its rooms are generous and its ceilings high, some vaulted and others supported by strong beams of dark wood. The corridor's arches are white, but their starkness is tempered with a brickwork cornice.

When the sun is behind the clouds, a pair of wood and leather settees with indigo-blue upholstery drowsily keep each other

The patio at the center and the passageways along the perimeter bespeak a typical house in an old village, except that hidden behind this country home there is the ocean.





company on the lawn – one example of Mr. Summitt’s distinctive goal, which was to come to Mexico and live like a Mexican, while at the same time enjoying the beautiful seascape, the ocean breezes, the musical murmur of the tides. This intention became a home where Mexican life is not only visual but also tactile, and in constant motion. «What makes the house work so well is the main axis that divides the vestibule, patio, living room, pool and terrace.»

Anywhere one chooses to look, there are objects, settings, colors and textures that faithfully reproduce a very precise style. A wooden archangel looks defiantly at guests from his stand in an indirectly-lit niche. When night falls, lanterns create such a lush play of shadows that we feel as if we were being shown an updated version of the striking skies for which Mexican cinematographer Gabriel Figueroa was so famous.

The staircase is almost monastic, with an open candelabra whose dozen tapers light the way to prevent stumbling, and not incidentally to shine upon the dense and earnest yellow patina of the walls. The upper floor has a hallway along its perimeter, it has lanterns, it has wrought iron railings, and – so that it may lack absolutely nothing in the way of Mexican country style – it has strong cylindrical wooden columns that permit the roof to be set with decorative tiles.

With the sun’s warmth

All the elements called for by the surroundings, and by the coastal weather, appear in the garden: a pair of palapas, a swimming pool, and a thatched yellow wall. Here the sea wins a sporting match, and the property yields to become a part of the beach, nothing more nor less. At the house’s rear elevation, the sea and sand offer no quarter, but the house fights valiantly for center stage: which it gains after all, because it is impossible to imagine the scene without its proudly constructed projections, balconies and terraces.

In short, «the house is of fine quality, it is spacious and comfortable.» Fourteen months in being built, it meets with the approval of its owners and satisfies their dedication to Mexican design.

Mexican personality and taste permeate all its rooms, never distracted by the pride of place its setting inspires.

The wood and leather seats facing the surf sum up the owner’s way of life, as do the wrought iron, the columns, all the décor.



