

HOMES & GARDENS®

AUGUST 2010 £3.70

SIMPLE FRENCH STYLE

HOMES WITH EFFORTLESS CHIC FROM CAP D'ANTIBES TO GASCONY

BUY THE BEST
■ FLOOR TILES
■ BEAUTIFUL BEDS
■ FRENCH FLAIR BY POST

OUTDOOR LIVING

IDEAS FOR SUMMER ENTERTAINING
CLEVER WATER FEATURES
GARDENS WITH PANACHE

Insider's Guide to France

**TRICIA GUILD,
BEN PENTREATH
& PRISCILLA CARLUCCIO
SHARE THEIR SECRETS**



9 770018 423221

LIVING ROOM

A simple Provençal-style chandelier hangs unobtrusively in this elegant space. The Sobens had the ceiling raised to house spotlights and air conditioning within its lower section.

Sofas, Meridiani Bogart, from £3,080, Cheetah Design, 01797 270149, cheetahdesign.net.

Patterned cushions in Coutances Negatif F2430, £71.67m, Pierre Frey, 020 7376 5599, pierrefrey.com.

RELAXED APPROACH

Danielle and Anthony Soben have bright and spacious Seventies

WORDS ANNABEL FREYBERG

achieved a calm, welcoming feel in their home from home on Cap d'Antibes

PHOTOGRAPHS MARK LUSCOMBE-WHYTE

LIVING ROOM

Here, as elsewhere, Pierre de Bourgogne flooring has been used. "It looks like the stone you find at the seaside," says Patrick Tyberghein, who helped the Sobens make the house their own. Blues and sandy neutrals complete the coastal feel.

Carlota coffee table 19074, €6,540, Baltus Collection, 0034 952 764 171, baltuscollection.com. **Sissi chairs**, Paola Navone at Casamilano, 0039 0362 340499, casamilanohome.com. **Flooring**, £82sq m, Marmi e Granito, 020 7622 0438, marmi.co.uk. **Jupp Linszen painting**, Galerie Dans Le Ciel, 0033 4 93 75 34 17, dansleciel.com.

DINING ROOM

The striped rug is a narrower version of the one in the living room so links the adjoining rooms visually. It is still broad enough, though, to make the room feel wider than it is.

Rug, Ashby V17/09, £98.50m; **edged in** T10/22 linen tape, £10.50m; both Roger Oates, 020 7351 2288, rogeroates.com. **Large Brompton metal lanterns**, £134 each, Artisanti, 0845 259 1410, artisanti.com. **For similar chairs**, try DC7030, from £679 each, Wychwood Design, 01993 851575, wychwood-design.co.uk. **Chandelier**, **Lustre Calissane 8 lumières**, €540, Les Comptoirs du Sud, 0033 4 91 21 40 00, comptoirsdusud.com.



SWIMMING POOL

A gloriette was designed for the end of the pool to provide extra shade and, hidden within, a storage cupboard for pool equipment and children's water toys.

Interior and architectural design.
Carter Tyberghein, 020 8871 4800,
cartertyberghein.com.



"Modern, sophisticated and practical." Those were the words Danielle and Anthony Soben used to describe the house they wished to create out of a Seventies property they bought on Cap d'Antibes a few years ago. "With three young children," Danielle explains, "we wanted a relaxed yet luxurious house that would be easy for the family to live in." The couple were also keen to have extended family and friends to stay, and wanted to be sure that everyone would slip into the holiday mood as soon as they arrived.

To achieve their various objectives, the Sobens turned to husband and wife architect and interior design team Laura Carter and Patrick Tyberghein, with whom they had worked very successfully when decorating their family home in London only a few years earlier. Although the French house was of relatively new construction, it had not been very cleverly laid out and seemed unloved. It also lacked certain basics that the Sobens regard as particularly important, namely air conditioning and large bathrooms, and it had a huge, unconverted basement they were



TERRACE

Sand and blue paintwork echo the colour scheme inside, while the rush-covered metal awning, typically Provençal, and contemporary wicker furniture fulfil the Sobens' brief for comfortable holiday living.

San Diego sofa MA0403, from £2,112.38, Manutti at The Modern Garden Company, 01279 653200, moderngarden.co.uk
Wall lanterns PV1918, £459.73 each, Roger Pradier at Elstead Lighting, 01420 590510, elstead-lighting.co.uk

“We wanted to mix cool stone floors with wood, and light cottons and linens in contrasting patterns and textures”

determined to put to good use. Work on the house began during the winter of 2007, when it was stripped back to its barest state. The basement was made good and divided up into a playroom, two guest bedrooms and a staff bedroom. Upstairs, the layout was improved to include a large and much-needed dining room. Underfloor heating was installed throughout the house, and new fireplaces were created in the living room so that the house would be warm during the winter months.

With the interior of the house reconfigured and improved, the Sobens turned their attention to its decoration. The challenge, according to Danielle, was to devise a look that would be fresh and modern but not too urban. “We wanted to mix cool stone floors with wood, and light cottons and linens in contrasting patterns and textures,” she recalls. “We showed Patrick and Laura a number of ideas we had seen in houses that we had visited in this part of France, as well as ideas from magazines and designers. Fortunately, they managed to capture the look, even if we weren’t sure precisely how to express it.”

With the conversion of the basement complete, the bulk of the rooms are now on or below ground level but both Danielle and Anthony confess that one of their



GUEST BEDROOM

The custom-made lit à la polonaise, enhanced by a sunburst mirror, creates a striking focal point in a predominantly cream scheme (also opposite).

Similar bed COL180, £4,900, Bed Bazaar, 01728 723756, bedbazaar.co.uk
Antique sunburst mirror, from £250, Brownrigg Interiors, 01798 344321, brownrigg-interiors.co.uk **Turned Wooden Skittle Lamps** in Old Stone WLB/33, £474.70 each (excluding shade), Porta Romana, 01420 23005, portaromana.co.uk
Throw in Rural in Fern S5, £75m, de Le Cuona, 020 7584 7677, delecuaona.co.uk
Square cushions in Venecia in Sage, £93m, Christopher Farr, 020 7349 0888, christopherfarr.com **Bolster in** Light Linen in Edemame XT/05031K, £118m, Bruno Triplet, 020 7823 9990, brunotriplet.com



MAIN BEDROOM

A pair of oval mirrors echoes the curves of the pendant chandelier and adds quirky character, while upholstery studs on the bed and ottoman lend detail.

Castel oeil de boeuf mirrors, ZDI/1540/00, €480 each, Mis en Demeure, 0033 1 49 98 17 17, misendemeure.fr. **Cushions in Elba Rigato** in Cream and White 149532, £228m, C&C Milano at Kathryn Ireland, 020 7751 4554, kathrynireland.com. **Throw in Jackdaw** in Quartz JAC5, £95m, de Le Cuona, 020 7584 7677, delecuaona.co.uk. **Gassin chandelier** CLA93/R, £1,180 (excludes card shades, £8.22 each), Vaughan, 020 7349 4600, vaughandesigns.com.



favourite spaces is on the first floor. Family and friends can wander wherever they like throughout the rest of the house, but this floor has been turned into a self-contained arrangement for the personal use of Danielle and Anthony. It houses their bedroom and bathroom, dressing room and a study. "It has a beautiful balcony which overlooks the garden and swimming pool, the Cap itself and the sea beyond," says Danielle. "It's the perfect place to watch the sun go down."

Privacy is part and parcel of the Sobens' holiday experience, so they asked Patrick to make sure that each bedroom had a small patio in order for everyone to have somewhere they could go to read and relax on their own if they wanted. With different colour schemes for each bedroom and bathroom – "a typical feature of Provençal homes", says Danielle – the effect is both personal and relaxed.

The overarching emphasis, however, is on sociable group gatherings so the centre of the house is given over to a long, wide, light-filled living room with capacious sofas, and a pool and gliette immediately outside. "From the living room, you can wander though large doors straight out into the garden," says Anthony, gesturing to the immaculate landscaping beyond. "You can spend all day beside the pool and if it gets too hot, we retire inside. At night time, when the pool and garden are lit up, we sit here and still feel that the outside is nearby." ■



GUEST BATHROOM

Sandblasted travertine adds texture to this bathroom, while two mirrors, one classically inspired, bounce back precious light into the small-windowed space.

Bevelled-edge wall mirror FKM3007, £125, Graham and Green, 0845 130 6622, grahamandgreen.co.uk. **Similar travertine**, sandblasted Travertine Romana, from £235sq m, Marmi e Granito, 020 7622 0438, marmi.co.uk.