



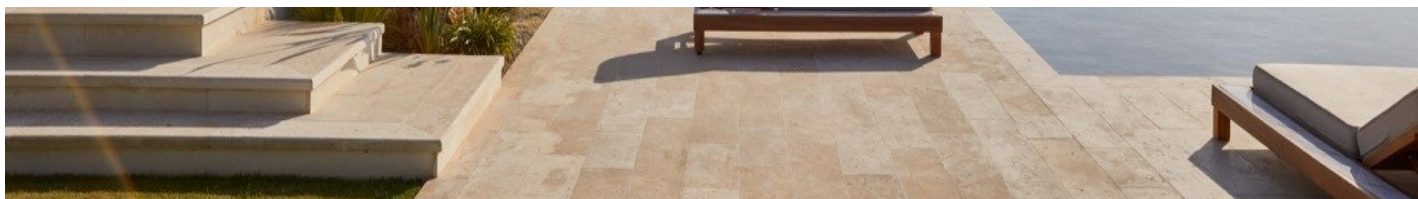
HOMES | HOME TOURS

Home tour: an interior designer's stone house in Crete blending Greek tradition with contemporary design

By Jennifer Choo

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COVER Wooden sun loungers line the infinity pool terrace with a stone pavilion built following Greek tradition, with a hand-cut pergola and mountain views beyond

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Interior designer Cari Giannoulis has created a family retreat in Agios Mattheos, Greece, that draws on Greek tradition, village architecture, natural materials and a commitment to outdoor living

On a Greek wooded hillside in Agios Mattheos, overlooking the sea and Chania's White Mountains, interior designer Cari Giannoulis has built what she calls her most personal project: a 4,000-square-foot stone house that reflects, in its own quiet way, how she believes a home should feel.

The story begins with her husband's childhood. Both his parents were born in Greece (his father in the village of Mazeka, his mother in Asfendiou, near Chania), and he spent summers there. After the couple married in Chania and baptised their three children in the city, they started looking for land. The COVID-19 pandemic pushed them to move from the US to oversee construction while their children attended remote school.

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ABOVE Designer Cari Giannoulis sits on a custom outdoor sofa beneath the wooden pergola surrounded by terracotta planters and banana palms



PHOTO 1 OF 3 The property's exterior shows stone walls and white plastered surfaces with an arched doorway leading to interior space.

The house takes a Π-shape, a nod to Greek tradition and local building methods, with rooms arranged around a central courtyard. Large windows with thin frames blur the line between inside and out, connecting to a pool and Mediterranean garden. The sloped grounds hold an olive grove, vegetable patches and a tennis court.

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