



To the Manor Born

Along the Aegean coast an intriguing new boutique hotel seeks to celebrate and reinvigorate traditional Anatolian-style architecture with a contemporary twist and a healthy injection of Turkish art

TEXT: JO BAKER PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF CASA DELL'ARTE



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When the world "homey" is used to describe a hotel it rarely applies to anything bigger than a few thousand square metres; very few people, after all, can call a manor house home. But for the non-mansion dwellers among us there are hotels like Casa Dell'Arte on the Aegean coast.

Preserving a sense of "home" was the main design aim of the Büyükkusoglus, a prestigious family with a prime piece of ocean-side real estate in Bodrum, Turkey's answer to San Tropez. The 4,500 sq-m all-suite hotel was inspired by the family's former holiday home, and though very large and very decadent, the place feels charmingly "lived in".

"We wanted the hotel to still feel like a house, and to be very social," says matriarch Fatos Büyükkusoglus, who led a group of young architects on the design, and who lives in a smaller house on the property. "We designed a lot of inner courtyards and spaces where guests can come together — at the dinner table, in the

lounge or by the pool."

The hotel is largely made of local stone. It's a modern take on the Anatolian style, a Greek-Armenian mix that was common before the formation of the Turkish republic. The family has its roots in Anatolia, and on a trip there a few years ago Büyükkusoglus had been upset to see old Kayseri houses being knocked down. Her decision to give them new life gave the Casa an extra layer of history. A charming mix of century old relief work — a slab here, a gargoyle there — with angular modern architecture lends the building textural and cultural accents.

The hotel stretches down to the coast in a series of linear spaces, all linked by a view of the sea. Guests enter the property by way of a grand 200-year-old front door (from Edirne, the old Ottoman capital) and check in with a glimpse of ocean; the view hurdles a classic courtyard pool, a series of open chambers, a large living room and a lawn on the way down.



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Though the property is sizeable, the family settled on just 12 suites. As the name suggests, Casa Dell'Arte was designed so that the Büyükkusoglus could share a portion of their 300-piece art collection, and each suite displays four or five well-sized canvasses. The paintings are by modern Turkish artists such as Devrim Erbil and Anan Coker, and they inject colour into an otherwise crisp cream and white landscape. Light retro furniture adds a little chic, with glam accents from the odd animal skin rug. Each room has been named after a sign in the zodiac but the references are subtle, in most just a sparkling blue optical fibre panel in the ceiling that loosely mimics the constellations.

The Casa's common areas are large enough to find privacy in: a beautiful outdoor pool with a covered art gallery each side, a series of small ante-chambers with love seats, sculptures or

bookshelves, and, at the end of the house three connected spaces overlooking the lawn. The double-height dining room and the two large day rooms all subscribe to Fatos Büyükkusoglu's home vision, and they blend the very old and ornate with the new and modern. "I like old pieces," said Ms Büyükkusoglus, "but modern design is much more comfortable, so we selected very ergonomic furniture and combined it with antiques." This sees items such as a contemporary beige couch and plate-glass coffee table feature together with display cabinets from the 18th-century France. A modern dark wood dining table supports antique candelabras; rare old religious frescoes from Russia perch above a salvaged Anatolian fireplace. "In Turkey this mixing is common," says Büyükkusoglus. "People inherit antiques, but they like to use them in interiors that are modern and comfortable."

Out on the lawn white furniture pieces, alone and in pairs, are scattered like statuary, while the terrace provides a good spot for an ocean-view cocktail at sundown. In this place — part-house, part-hotel, part-museum — guests tend to socialise much more, there's an unmistakable pull out of the suites and into the rest of the house. In fact, it's hard not to throw your bags down, put your feet up and move in.

Spurred on by the success of the hotel, yet loath to extend it, the Büyükkusoglus have created another hospitality concept next door. The Casa Dell'Arte Village opened this summer with 38 suites, with plenty of art, a stylish ocean view pool and a free programme of art workshops with in-house artists. The design concept is similarly eclectic, but it can't help but pale slightly next to the original. There really is no place like home, when it's a mansion.





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莊園生活

沿愛琴海岸一間新精品酒店，流露小亞細亞建築風格，以現代方式重新活化古老建築形態，加上各式土耳其藝術裝潢，新鮮、奇特而趣味十足

撰文：JO BAKER · 攝影：COURTESY OF CASA DELL'ARTE

如果一間酒店的面積有幾千呎，形容為「一般舒適」或許已經低估了它。相信很少人會將精品酒店當做自己的家。不過，對於習慣隨處住的旅人來說，愛琴海的藝術精品酒店Casa Dell'Arte可能真的會帶來一個家的感覺。

這個位於Bodrum市黃金地段的沿海酒店物業，屬於當地德高望重的Buyukusoglus家族。酒店設計成一個家的模樣，幾可稱為土耳其版的San Tropez。酒店佔四千五百平方米，設計靈感源自Buyukusoglus之前一間家族渡假屋。渡假屋地方大，有點殘舊，不過居住起來感覺卻不錯。

酒店的女主人Fatos Buyukusoglus說：「我們希望酒店像每個人自己的家，環境要親切融洽。」她目前住在酒店一間小屋內，一手帶領建築師團隊完成整個酒店設計工作。「我們在酒店內興建很多庭院及公用場地，讓住客可以有更多交流的機會，徜徉在開放式飯桌、客廳及泳池。」她補充。

酒店主要用石頭興建，風格時尚，帶點中亞細亞建築色彩，這種希臘夾雜亞美尼亞文化的設計，在土耳其共和國成立之前已很流行。Buyukusoglus家族的發源地位於小亞細亞，幾年前他們回到家鄉，發現很多舊開塞利式房屋一被拆卸，深感惋惜。她決定給舊建築重展新生，復興舊建築形式的歷史情意結，終於造就了這間酒店的誕生，百年歷史建築救亡行動隨即展開：這裡加一塊板、那裡保留怪獸像滴水嘴，舊建築結合現代尖角形結構，令酒店構築起來質感更豐富，呈現濃厚的文化氣息。

酒店範圍由沿岸一直延伸，任何位置也可看到海景。住客一入酒店，就是一道有近二百年歷史的大門（來自土耳其西北城市阿德里安堡，土耳其民族昔日首都）。登記時，除有海景相伴，更可以率先欣賞傳統庭園泳池，一列開放式房間、一個大廳，往下走便有一片青青坪。

物業的空間儘管偌大，主人卻滿足於十二間套房。酒店顧名思義以藝術做重心，Buyukusoglus家族更從三百件私人藝術收藏中抽出部份珍藏，公諸同好，在每間套房內放置四至五張大油畫作裝飾。這些油畫都出自土耳其名家手筆，包括Devrim Erbil及Anan

Coker。油畫裝飾令原本一片清脆的奶油白背景增添不少色彩。略帶有復古味道的傢具，令房間感覺更別緻，罕有動物皮毯更展現華麗氣派。房間以十二星座命名，表現形式卻很隱晦，最含蓄的一個要數屋頂設置的閃爍藍光織板，只是朦朧地呈現星座的形象。

酒店有不少公用地方，獨個兒四處活動也十分清靜，例如一個優美的露天游泳池，泳池兩旁分別設有一間有蓋畫廊，一列前房內有漂亮座椅、雕塑及書架的三個相連空間，從那裡可以俯瞰草地。房間內有雙層高樓底飯廳以及兩間公共娛樂室，所有裝潢都根據Fatos Buyukusoglus對家的定義而設計，將悠久的歷史與嶄新現代氣息相結合。「我是一個戀舊的人。」女主人Fatos續道：「不過舊東西，要結合現代設計，感覺才像樣。所以，我挑選的現代傢具都按照人體工學而設計，再配合一些古董做裝飾。」舉例說，一張時尚米黃色長椅、附杯碟設備的茶几，可以配一個法國十八世紀陳列櫃。烏亮的黑木餐桌襯托古典燭台；已修復的壁爐上掛一幅珍貴的俄國的宗教壁畫。「在土耳其，混合配搭很普遍。」她繼續：「很多人都喜愛把祖上傳承的寶物，放在舒適的現代室內設計中。」

外面草坪上放有多款白色傢具，獨個兒或成雙擺放，位置分散，仿如雕塑展覽，附近更設有大露臺，是欣賞海邊日落美景的好地方。這個範圍既可以起居，又可享受酒店設備，也像一間小博物館，最適合住客流連、聊天。酒店戶外設計像有萬般引力，住客都不想逗留房間，不斷走到酒店不同角落遊歷一番。事實上，放下行李之後，要你悶坐酒店房內，倒不如動身四處走走。

酒店開幕以來一直深受歡迎，但Buyukusoglus不想擴充它，反而決定在隔壁開另一間酒店，名曰The Casa Dell'Arte Village藝術酒店文化村。新酒店將於今年夏天開張，三十八間客房，藝術裝飾琳瑯滿目，更有寫意的海景泳池。文化村會不時舉辦免費的藝術工作坊，並由駐場藝術家親自指導。酒店的設計兼容並蓄，可是跟第一間酒店相比，肯定顯得有點失色。如果這間酒店真是你的家，單是如此想想也算是一件樂事。E