



ARCHITECTURE

KOSMOS transforms maltese townhouse by giving old materials new roles

set on the steep slopes of banyalbufar, the family home turns the practical difficulties of building in a remote village into part of its architecture.

Thomas Temple September 1, 2020 0 9 min

KOSMOS ARCHITECTS TURN A MALTESE RESIDENCE INTO A REUSE STUDY

On the steep incline of Banyalbufar, overlooking the Mediterranean in Malta's Għajnsielem, **KOSMOS ARCHITECTS** and **Re-use** have transformed a traditional Maltese townhouse through reuse, adaptation and innovation. The project was a challenge for the architects, who had to work with the building's existing structure and materials, as well as address the constraints of a remote location. The result is a modern residence that respects the building's history while embracing the future.



view from the hillside

WORKING WITH WHAT IS ALREADY THERE

Banyalbufar is a village of steeply sloping terraces. Houses are built into the hillside between the mountains and the sea, creating a unique and dramatic landscape. The project was a challenge for the architects, who had to work with the building's existing structure and materials, as well as address the constraints of a remote location. The result is a modern residence that respects the building's history while embracing the future.

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In the kitchen, traditional Maltese wooden chairs and tables are used to create a dining area. The architects have used local materials and traditional craftsmanship to create a modern residence that respects the building's history while embracing the future.



The restored townhouse sits within the stone houses and terraces of Banyalbufar

APPLYING WHAT IS ALREADY THERE

One of the first new additions to the house was the kitchen. It was essential to move construction materials and supplies up the steep slope, so the kitchen was designed to be as simple as possible. The architects have used local materials and traditional craftsmanship to create a modern residence that respects the building's history while embracing the future.

Much of the renovation followed the same approach. The architects kept the existing windows and doors, and used local materials and traditional craftsmanship to create a modern residence that respects the building's history while embracing the future.

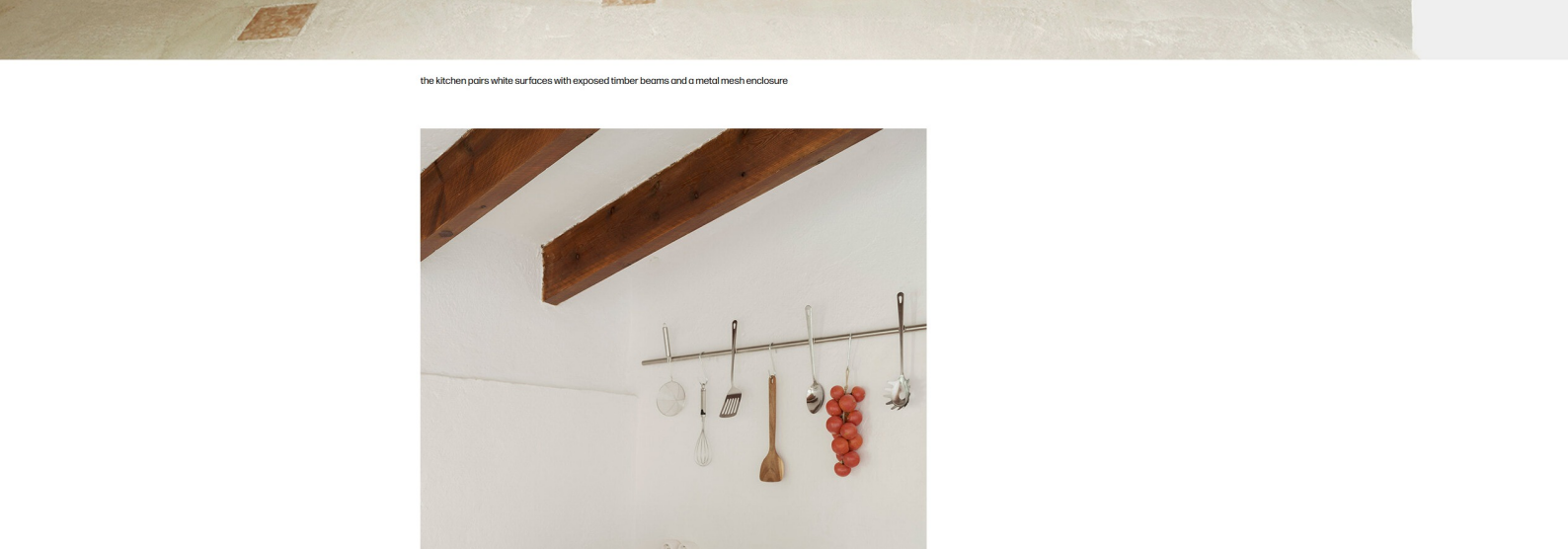
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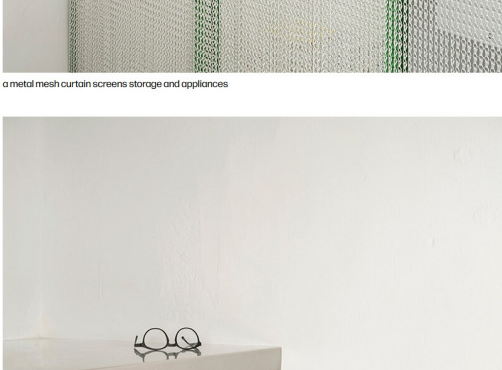
The kitchen contains vintage Maltese chairs, wooden tables, and glass shelves



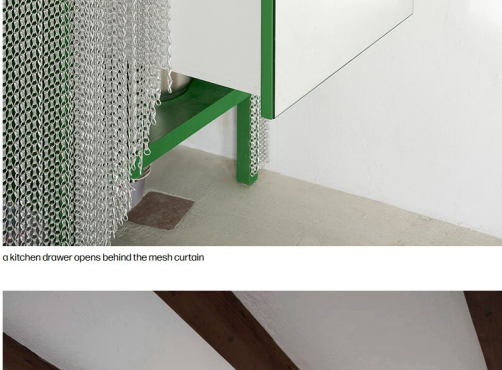
coloured glass terrazzo floor, blue, white, and red elements



The kitchen is a simple white surface with exposed wooden beams and a small wooden table



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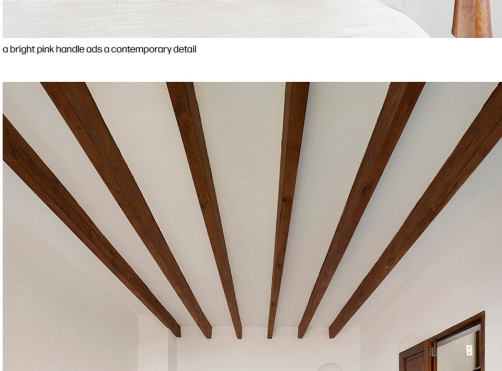
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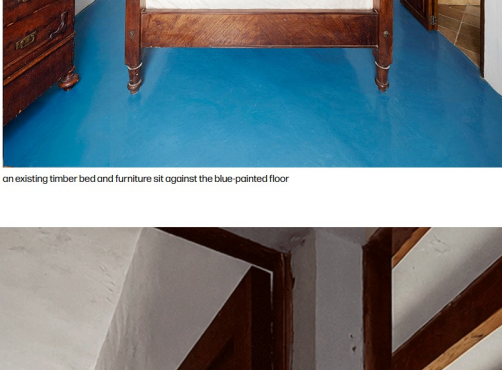
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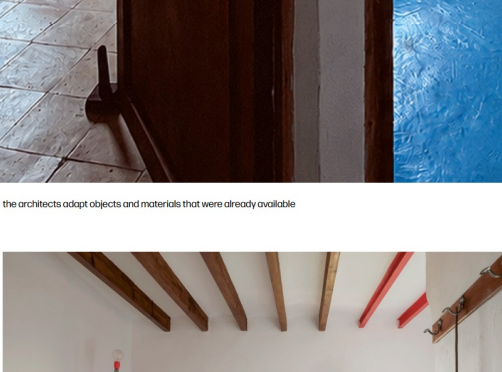
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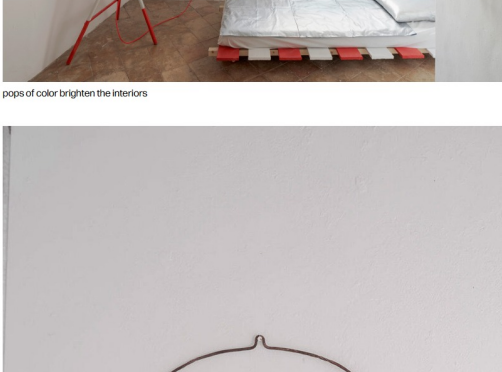
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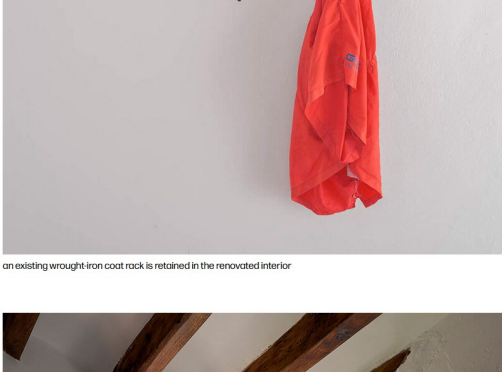
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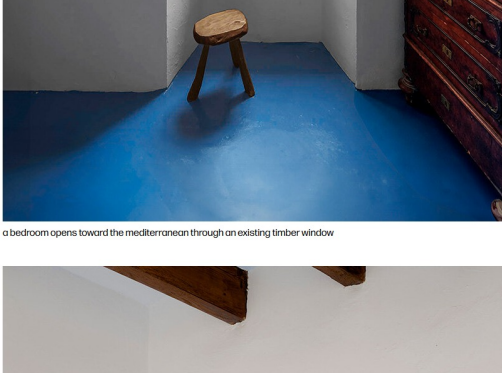
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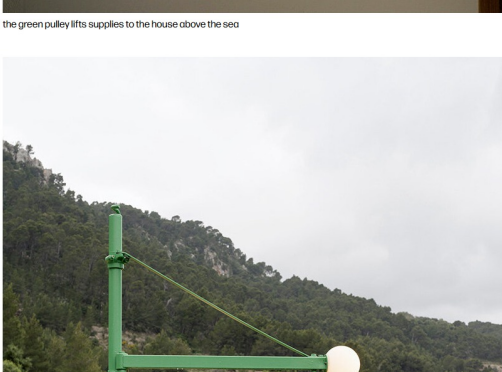
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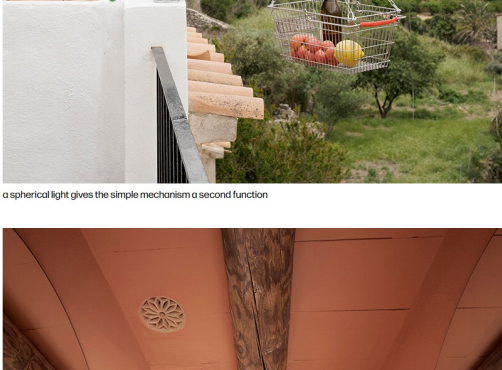
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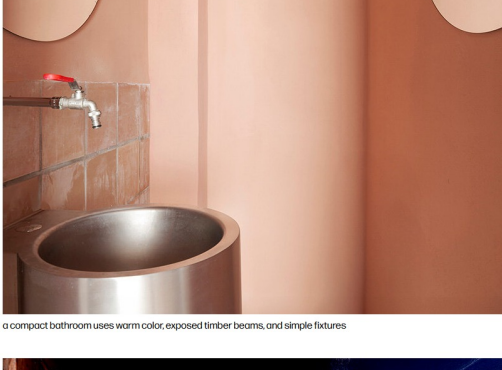
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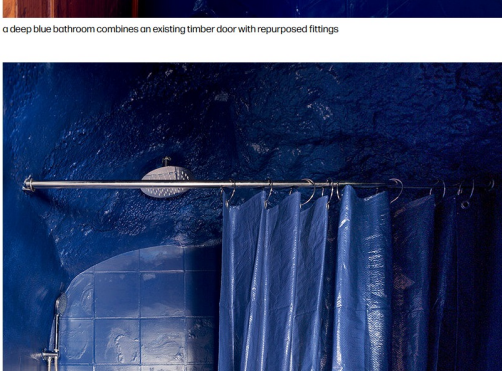
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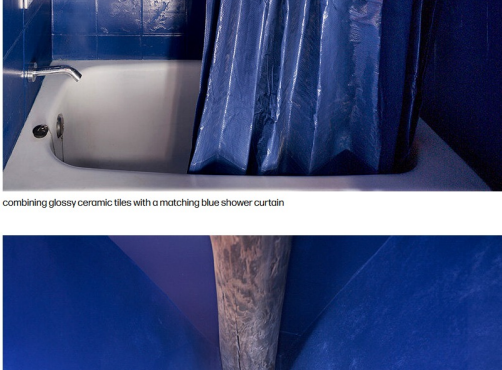
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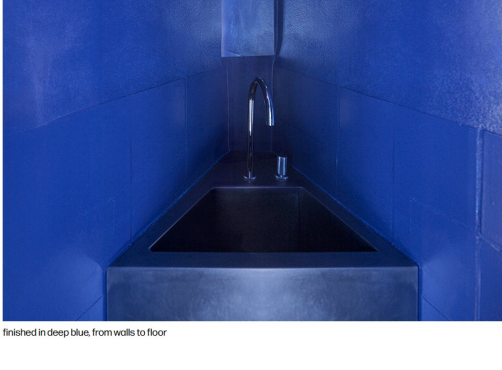
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projected by: **KOSMOS ARCHITECTS** and **Re-use**
architects: **KOSMOS ARCHITECTS** and **Re-use**
location: **Banyalbufar, Malta**
photography: **Luca D'Amico**