

The jewellery designer Diane Kordas and her husband have built a family hideaway on Mykonos that blends sea, sun and old-school Hollywood glamour. **Alice Edwards** gets the tour

Photographs Dylan Thomas



**Left** Diane Kordas in the main living space. The Sputnik-inspired lamp, found in Athens, was the first item they bought for the house. The aqualung in the background belonged to Jacques Cousteau. **Above** The outside space was designed by her husband, Steve, to maximise the sea view

# OUR GREEK ISLAND STORY



**Top** A view of the house across the swimming pool. **Above** One of six bedrooms that are often used by guests, particularly friends of the Kordas's daughters, who regularly fill the house in summer. **Left** The outdoor dining area has views of the pool and the sea. The family spend more time outside than they do in the house, says Diane

**B**orn in New York, the jeweller Diane Kordas has called London her home since 1995. Yet for the past 15 years, her heart has belonged in Mykonos, where she has built a relaxed home with her husband, Steve, who was born in Greece, and their two grown-up daughters. Diane first visited the island aged 18 with Steve. "Every summer, we travelled to Greece together, and on one of those trips, he took me to Mykonos. I loved the fact that it was so barren and then there was the big blue. It was so different from where I grew up in New Jersey."

Two daughters and many family holidays on the island later, she received a call from a friend. "He said there was this great piece of land for sale with incredible views, but we'd have to jump on it. The girls were nine and five, and we wanted somewhere the family could spend time together. Steve got on a plane and signed the deal before I'd even seen it."

The couple set to work, with their friend and interior designer Hubert Zandberg, to create a light, elegant yet functional space that's filled with personality. (Diane describes Steve as a frustrated architect — in fact he studied engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and now works in finance.) Inspired by the era when Jackie Onassis, Liz Taylor and Sophia Loren holidayed in Greece, the couple wanted to blend the house's location with their own style. "Yes, it had to be a family home, but we also wanted it to reflect our taste," she says. "I loved the period in the 1960s and 1970s when Hollywood stars came here."

What they built was exactly as she intended. "We wanted a place where the girls would come to be with us, long after they were grown-up. With busy lives, our holidays with them are so precious. It's the one place where nobody is working, so it's all about 'Where are we having dinner?', 'When should we go swimming?', 'Shall we go to the beach?'" ■

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**Above** This area of the main living space, which has plenty of deep, comfortable seating, is where post-nightclub debriefs frequently happen. **Right** The antique zebra chair (one of a pair) is a find from Paris. The side table, made from petrified local wood, was a gift from the interior designer Julie Hillman. The rug was hand-woven on the island

