



Left: the staircase in Italian marble linking the two storeys of the house belonging to interior designer Gloria Cortina. The vintage chest of drawers is by Knoll and the wall art is by Xawery Wolski: "Love Letter". The wall sconce was designed by Gloria for her own lighting collection.

The house was originally built during the Mexican Modernist movement in the 1930s and designed by the famous Mexican interior designer and architect Arturo Pani. With her refurbishment, Cortina has paid maximum respect to the Modernist's original design, adding her own ideas and items of furniture.

Right: Gloria Cortina, an American by birth, has her eponymous design studio in Mexico City. Cortina gained experience working under the tutelage of acclaimed architects David Ling and Ricardo Legorreta.

Overleaf

Details of Gloria's house in Mexico where the fabrics create a warm atmosphere.

One of her focal points with her renovation was to open up the indoor spaces to the garden.

Right-hand page: the large kitchen also designed by Gloria Cortina herself.

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This one-family residence of 760 square metres is built on three levels on a steep plot in the upscale neighbourhood of Lomas de Chapultepec (Las Lomas) in the West Zone of Mexico DF, Mexico.

It was originally built as part of the Mexican Modernist movement in the 1930s and designed by the famous Mexican interior designer and architect Arturo Pani. Interior designer Gloria Cortina recently refurbished the house, respecting and celebrating its heritage and character while defining its design in her own style.







Gloria Cortina's Mexican house is built on two floors and also incorporates a basement.

On the ground floor are the hall, living room, dining room, library, kitchen, pantry, terrace, guest bathroom and garage.

The first floor houses the master bedroom, kids' bedroom, gym and media room. The basement is used as a service area.

These and following pages: details providing a personal touch to the house.

A striking aspect is the way she has used varied fabrics in both the sun room and the living area.

She has combined period furniture with a variety of interior objects.

In de living room (next pages) are two original sofas by Arturo Pani, restored by Gloria. The blue sofas are by Cecotti. The two consoles are by the designer herself and the carpet is by The Rug Company. The pair of big black canvases are by Slater Bradley.

The red-base floor lamp is by Leslie Anton and the desk lamp with black shade is from Porta Romana by John Brooks.

Brass coffee table is from the Gloria Cortina Collection.

"An interior designer's own home represents his or her personal style, but is also a representation of their skill set as a designer." Designer Gloria Cortina is known for her elegant style and emphasis on craftsmanship. Her clients appreciate an exciting journey into total luxury. With clients normally at the centre of her design ethos, the greatest challenge came when she designed her own personal space and discovered that she was indeed her most critical client to date.

Cortina's home is a reflection of her maturity as a decorator, designer and art collector. She playfully mixes antique and modern furniture in an eclectic universe that is consistent, elegant and uniquely Mexican, all at the same time. Carpatos Residence is located in the exclusive neighbourhood of Lomas de Chapultepec, in Mexico DF. It was originally built as part of the Mexican Modernist movement in the 1930s and designed by the famous Mexican interior designer and architect Arturo Pani. Cortina's priority with the refurbishment of this house was to respect and celebrate its heritage and character while defining its design - in her own style. She renovated the detached house with due regard for the modernist architectural features and returned the mansion to its original splendour. From the start of the project her team worked with the architect on the renovation of the building's structure and external façade.

They retained most of its original features, while keeping a functional purpose and incorporating the latest technology.

The internal intervention focused on solving the lack of flexibility of the original design and creating open and multi-functional spaces. The most challenging alteration as regards the exterior was the replacement of the old roof: an angular, modern adaptation was added that complemented the property's historical character. She incorporated bespoke, over-sized pocket doors leading out to the once-neglected garden and opening up the newly landscaped vista. Cortina has transformed the garden, filling it with native vegetation and creating communal areas where the family gather.

Inside the house, the design optimizes the elasticity of the space by way of clean and classic lines. Cortina creates a sense of subtle opulence within the open space by eliminating unnecessary ornamentation and balancing existing spaces. A myriad of small and crowded rooms were redesigned by removing unnecessary walls and making the remaining rooms more spacious. This has generated

brightness, views, harmony and liveability. The main entrance part of the second floor was removed in order to obtain an impressive double-height hall. The chief feature of this space is the massive Ziricote wood panelling with sliding doors. It speaks the visual language of centuries-old Mexican traditional panelling, yet makes a bold contemporary statement and creates a striking juxtaposition with the cool grey natural-stone floor. For historical significance, Cortina incorporated much of the original furniture and objects by Arturo Pani which she mixed with contemporary pieces from her private art and photography collection. In this way she has managed to instil her visual language, mixing tradition and modern with a hint of Mexican Aztec glamour. In its 760 square metres

She skilfully mixes Mexican furniture from the 30s to the 70s with pieces of international avant-garde artists such as Lindsey Adelman, as well as with art, paintings, sculpture, and also with furniture designed by herself. Cortina's own pieces of furniture and lighting are handcrafted in Mexico by the most prestigious artisans using materials such as bronze, copper, marble and silver. On the walls, the designer played with a palette of greys and blues, which give the house a quiet atmosphere and a certain opulent sobriety inspired by Diego Ribera's Cubist stage, one of the most recurrent influences in her design style.

To create a warm environment, materials such as the tropical wood Ziricote, natural stone like Portoro marble, and sophisticated handcrafted Mexican textiles (linen, wool, leather and silk) were incorporated. The lighting is also a signature feature of the interiors. Each room has a different treatment - wall lamps designed by Gloria sit in harmony with prestigious pieces and carefully curated vintage objects.

"My projects are characterized by a certain innate order and symmetry, which I use as a starting point to create an aesthetic rhythm. I like warm and liveable spaces but they also need to have some theatrical drama. My house is dramatic but very cosy, in my opinion it is very Mexican. My vision was to achieve a delicate and precise modern restoration of a heritage object", according to the designer.

Gloria Cortina is an interior designer based in Mexico City, Mexico, where she is the principal of her eponymous design studio. Cortina was born in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, and holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy and aesthetics from the Ibero-American University,





Mexico City, as well as a master's degree in interior design from Parsons The New School for Design, New York City. Following her education, Cortina gained experience working under the tutelage of acclaimed architects David Ling and Ricardo Legorreta before going on to form the Mexico City-based design firm A5 Arquitectura with a group

of peers. Today, with her independent practice as Gloria Cortina Estudio, she provides interior design services for luxury properties, often crafting her own bespoke furniture and lighting in collaboration with local artisans and workshops to uphold the utmost standards of quality and design.





