



ANTIQUÉ CHARM AND MODERN LUXURIES

CATALAN FARMHOUSE
ANA ENGELHORN INTERIOR DESIGN









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This 430 m² Farmhouse located in Palamos consists of two 16th century watchtowers and a 17th century building which was fully restored to its former glory. The towers were used as warning towers for the Castle of Calonge in case pirates were spotted coming from the sea. The Farmhouse is therefore a national treasure and building work was only allowed in the main building without touching the two towers.

The 17th century Catalan Farmhouse had gone through various restorations since its existence and the brief given to Ana Engelhorn Interior Design was to bring it back to its origins.

Ana Engelhorn is a residential London-based interior designer whose ‘rough luxury’ approach emphasises natural elements and rich textural sensations with a modern twist. Born in Switzerland, with Spanish and German roots, Ana incorporates her interests in international travel and art into her work. She loves sharing her energy and ideas on how to live better with the old, the renewed and the new to create fresh, timeless interiors her clients feel at home in.

Ana Engelhorn’s goal was to restore the building to its former glory by giving it back its original materials, its high ceiling and large airy rooms that would bring the sweeping Spanish countryside views indoors. Though the house is very big, a preference was given to big rooms rather than a lot of rooms. The result was an elegant but homely three-bedroom house with a study, living room, kitchen/dining room and three bathrooms (including two ensuite).

The building was taken back to its bare bones and fully restored, the flooring, ceiling and plastering were removed from the walls to reveal its natural state. 18th Century flooring was imported from the UK for suitability. Stone floors downstairs and antique oak floors upstairs. Both floors have floor heating, so no radiators are visible. The ceiling is wooden beams with re-used ceramic tiles, just as it would have been in the 17th Century.

The entrance area leads to a large open kitchen with a central island. Ana Engelhorn’s aim was to make it the focal room of the house and for it to serve as a meeting point where the whole family could congregate, cook and socialise together. The dining area is small but cosy, right in-front of a huge fireplace and with a beautiful view to the Garden.

Right next to the kitchen-dining area is the living room, probably the largest room in the house and situated next to the guest bathroom. The latter features a roll top bath, based on a classic 18th-century design known popularly as a bateau bath. Retaining its elegance across the centuries, it is a shape that fits perfectly into traditional or contemporary bathroom schemes.

The family living in the property only required 3 bedrooms which meant that the upstairs was for the parents only, providing the opportunity to make an open plan bathroom with a lot of space. A ball & claw feet bath is situated in front of a large window, in the middle of the changing area, next to an antique sofa. Completed by a classic bath and shower mixer bringing together elegance and functionality. Its chrome finish, which

adds bold contemporary touches and creates an elegant marriage between antique charm and modern luxuries, nods to the double vanity basin suite and a floor-mounted heated towel rail.

For the decor, antique furniture was sourced from the UK and Spain that befit a historic European farmhouse. Bold, contemporary touches, such as chrome bathroom fittings and modern artwork, bring the look into the 21st century, creating an elegant marriage between antique charm and modern luxuries.

Any design that goes back to its roots should work well and here it really did. By opening up the rooms and taking away the fake ceilings, an air of calm and serenity has been brought back to the house. There were many artisan skills required for this project who specialised in these types of buildings. Ana Engelhorn told design et al “This project will always take a special place in my heart as it was lengthy and hard work, but the outcome was even better for it”.

Ana Engelhorn Interior Design have created a three-bedroom house full of original materials and historic features, emphasising the property’s high ceilings to create large, airy rooms that bring the sweeping Spanish countryside indoors.

The Catalan countryside and the Costa Brava coastline itself are dramatic, wild and beautiful. The farmhouse benefits from a view to the sea and is surrounded by trees. With its natural stone walls and its restoration back to its former glory, it blends in effortlessly.



Ana Engelhorn

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