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**ARAB
WORLD**

ELLE DECORATION

**SEASONAL
TRENDS
INTERIOR
INSPIRATION
GALORE**

**LUXURY
HOTELS
WORLDWIDE
DESIGN
GETAWAYS**

**AUTUMN
DELIGHTS**

**BEAUTIFUL HOUSES
WHERE ARCHITECTURE
MEETS INTERIOR DESIGN**



U.A.E. 25 DHs / Lebanon 500 000 L.L.



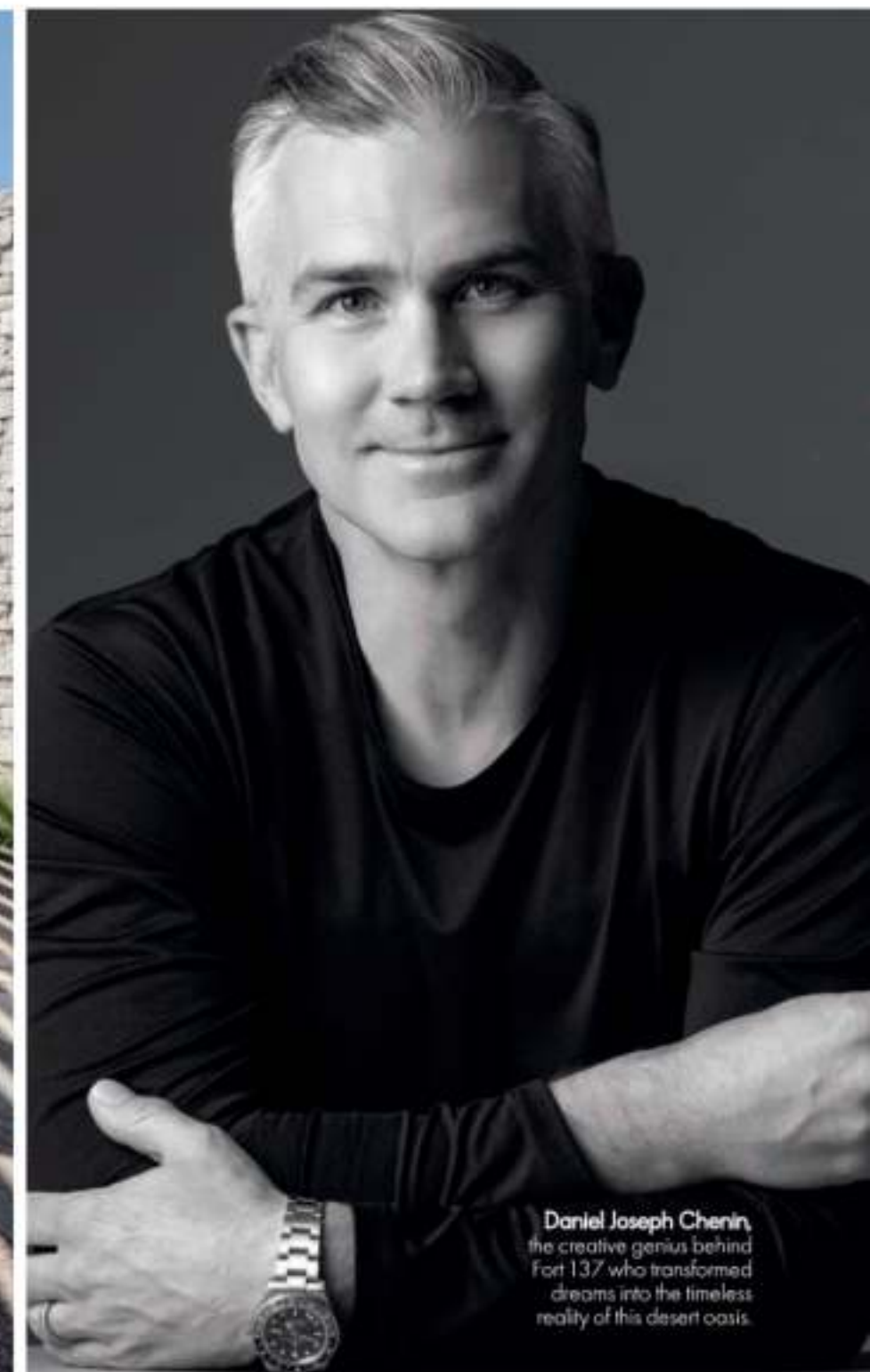
In the heart of the arid desert landscape of Las Vegas, an architectural masterpiece has emerged, seamlessly blending modern design with the rugged charm of the region's history. Fort 137, the brainchild of a family of nature enthusiasts hailing from Northern California's Bay Area, stands as a testament to sustainable, thoughtful architecture that pays homage to the past while embracing the future.

TEXT BY MARIA AZIZ NAHAS. PHOTOS BY STETSON YBARRA, STEPHEN MORGAN & DANIEL JOSEPH CHENIN.





Harmony
Fort 137 stands as a symphony of architecture and design, a manifestation of the family's longing for immersion within the landscape.



Daniel Joseph Chenin, the creative genius behind Fort 137 who transformed dreams into the timeless reality of this desert oasis.

The owners of Fort 137 are no ordinary family – they are fervent admirers of nature's wonders, drawn from the lush greenery of the Bay Area to the arid expanses of the Las Vegas desert. This family unit, comprising a husband and wife, along with three adult children who frequently grace the residence with their presence, exudes a shared reverence for the environment. Their collective affinity for the great outdoors has been intricately woven into the very fabric of Fort 137's design. Nestled on the farthest western edge of the Las Vegas Valley, the house commands a panoramic vista that showcases the untouched grandeur

of the Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area. It perches atop a rocky promontory, paying homage to the fort structures that emerged during the 1850s, safeguarding early settlers against the region's adversities. This unique perch, combined with a design inspired by these historical strongholds, forms a harmonious marriage between the past and the present.

The architectural vision behind Fort 137 is nothing short of remarkable. Drawing inspiration from the fortresses of yore, the design encapsulates proven, sustainable

techniques tailored to withstand the desert's harsh elements. Thick stone walls, hewn from regional stone, create a thermal shield against the relentless desert sun. Deep-set fenestration, trellis shade structures, and a courtyard configuration pay homage to Las Vegas' early settlements, breathing life into the vernacular architecture of yesteryears. The exterior materials, carefully selected to resonate with the desert's rugged beauty, seamlessly merge the structure with the landscape, creating an illusion that the house emerges organically from the rocky terrain. This intentional integration serves as a testament to the family's commitment

to minimizing their ecological footprint while crafting a dwelling that is one with its surroundings.

The design brief, a roadmap that led the design team to create a harmonious haven that speaks to the family's values. A central core, characterized by communal spaces and areas of togetherness, is enveloped by private domains and essential infrastructure. This intelligent spatial separation provides an ideal blend of togetherness and solitude, serving as a foundation for family connections and individual retreats. The family's appreciation for design radiates from

Photo by Stephen Morgan



Elegance

The living room of Fort 137 is a space of ever-evolving elegance and natural splendour. Area rug, Daniel Joseph Chenin custom design. Sofa, Restoration Hardware. Lounge chair, Minotti. Wood lounge chair, Troscan. White side table, Design Within Reach. Brown side table, Kravet. Buffet table, Troscan. Table lamp and dining table, Gregorius Pineo. Dining chairs, Giorgetti.



Photos by Daniel Joseph Christie



Photo by Daniel Joseph Christie



Photo by Sertan Yilmaz





Oasis
Dive into refreshing tranquility: the Pool offers a cool respite amidst the desert's warm embrace.



Photo by Stephen Morgan



Architecture and Interior Design
by Daniel Joseph Chenin.

Photo by Sebouh Yocum

every corner of the house. Their mutual vision was translated into the design of the entry rotunda, a circular departure from the linear elements that dominate the architectural composition. The rotunda not only recalls the ancient kivas of indigenous peoples but also acts as a prelude to the dwelling's narrative. Within its confines, a tranquil pool of water beckons, ushering occupants into a realm where the boundaries between the exterior and interior dissolve. The living room, a masterpiece of architectural ingenuity and interior design finesse, holds a special place in the hearts of those involved in Fort 137's creation. Its design

facilitates a seamless interplay of light and shadow, orchestrating a symphony of ever-changing atmospheres throughout the day. The placement of windows frames uninterrupted views of the mesmerizing desert landscape, establishing a continuous dialogue between interior and exterior.

The journey of Fort 137 from conception to realization was not without its challenges. A 14-month construction period, coinciding with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, tested the project's resilience. Nevertheless,

meticulous planning and foresight, coupled with a keen attention to detail, ensured that the project remained steadfastly on course. The dedication of the design team and construction crew culminated in the timely and precise execution of the project, a true testament to their unwavering commitment. The interior design is a study in tactile sophistication, where contemporary refinement interweaves seamlessly with the raw, untamed essence of the desert. The carefully curated materials – from travertine flooring to onyx accents – mirror the stratified sediment of the neighbouring Red Rock Canyon. The furnishings, a delicate

balance between bespoke creations and serendipitous finds, coalesce to create an environment that exudes timeless elegance and embraces the natural world beyond its walls. The homeowners, upon witnessing the culmination of their dreams in the form of Fort 137, experienced a sense of awe and transformation. Each visit to their desert abode brings fresh discoveries, as the play of light and shadow upon the landscape continues to evolve. The house has become a living entity, harmonizing with the ever-changing environment and allowing its occupants to revel in the beauty of their surroundings.