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ARAB
WORLD

DREAM
ESCAPES
DESIGN
HOTELS
WORTH
THE TRIP

ELLE DECORATION



TRENDS
TO TRY
FRESH
PALETTES
AND SOFT
TEXTURES

SUMMER HOMES

LIGHT, OPEN,
& BEAUTIFULLY
LIVED-IN!



U.A.E. 37 DHs / Lebanon 10 USD.



DESERT LEGACY



In the vast and sunlit landscape of Southern Nevada, a remarkable home stands as a monument to memory, family, and thoughtful design. Known as Tombolo, the residence was created by designer Daniel Joseph Chenin.

TEXT MARIA AZIZ NAHAS. PHOTOS DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN.
ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN: DANIEL JOSEPH CHENIN.
CONTRACTING FORTÉ SPECIALTY CONTRACTORS.



Hervision was grounded in legacy. She sought a space that would bring together generations, offering comfort, elegance, and warmth for her adult children and grandchildren. Tombolo was meant to be a refuge and a destination, a house built not only for living but for gathering and celebrating. The two and a quarter acre property offers panoramic views of the Las Vegas Valley while remaining discreetly tucked away from the street. That careful balance between openness and privacy became a guiding principle in the design. Every decision was made to preserve the natural setting while allowing architecture to express its presence with quiet confidence. The home's connection to its desert environment is physical, visual, and conceptual, grounded in place yet elevated through craft.

Inspired by the tombolo landform, a natural bridge between mainland and island, the residence explores connection at every level. It links architectural history with contemporary function, solitude with togetherness, and geometry with emotion. The structure blends Art Deco references with classical detailing, creating moments of ornamentation without excess. The design prioritizes both spatial drama and intimate retreat, using scale and proportion to shape rhythm and flow. Environmental challenges were present from the beginning. Desert heat, sunlight, and wind required specific strategies to mitigate impact without compromising aesthetics. Passive cooling techniques, thoughtful orientation, and natural materials created a home that responds to climate while embracing its surroundings. The result is both beautiful and practical, a home made to endure and to inspire.





Arrival is carefully choreographed. Guests enter through a circular motor court where an oculus opens directly to the sky. This architectural gesture creates a powerful sense of scale and sets the tone for the experience that follows. Inside, a long gallery corridor acts as more than a passageway. It becomes a sculptural promenade, lined with suspended artwork, custom furniture, and layers of rich texture. Stone wainscoting, stainless steel beads, and oak framing create a narrative of craftsmanship and care. The kitchen, bathed in soft blush tones, is anchored by a thirteen foot La Cornue range. Framed by onyx backed storage niches, the appliance becomes a functional centerpiece as well as a visual anchor. Every inch of the space balances warmth with structure. Adjacent to the kitchen, a vertical sculptural staircase wraps upward with a mirrored backdrop and hand painted wall coverings, offering a visual and spatial ascent that feels ceremonial. Throughout the home, luxurious materials are used with restraint and clarity. Polished brass, gold leaf, cerused oak, carved onyx, and dark wood portals define spaces without overwhelming them. In the primary bathroom, twin vanities carved from onyx slabs are paired with subtle lighting and reflective surfaces, creating a private retreat defined by softness

and serenity. The bunk room designed for the grandchildren is one of the home's most personal spaces. Modeled after a ship cabin, the room includes six sleeping areas, generous storage, and expansive views of the lake below. Its shared bathroom, designed with white and black marble, burled wood, and mahogany accents, captures the same balance of playfulness and sophistication that runs throughout the home. Every detail invites connection and comfort. The home's social spaces are equally compelling. A bar and lounge provide a dedicated zone for entertaining, complete with a champagne dispenser from Moët. Beyond the lounge, a generous outdoor terrace features two fireplaces, an elongated dining table, and relaxed seating. A colonnade of vertical elements offers shelter and rhythm, referencing early twentieth century design in a contemporary expression. Tombola is a house shaped by intention. It avoids the expected and embraces subtle complexity. Each room builds on the last, creating an experience that is immersive, elegant, and entirely cohesive. It is not only a physical space, but an emotional one, designed to bring people together and to honor the past while welcoming the future.