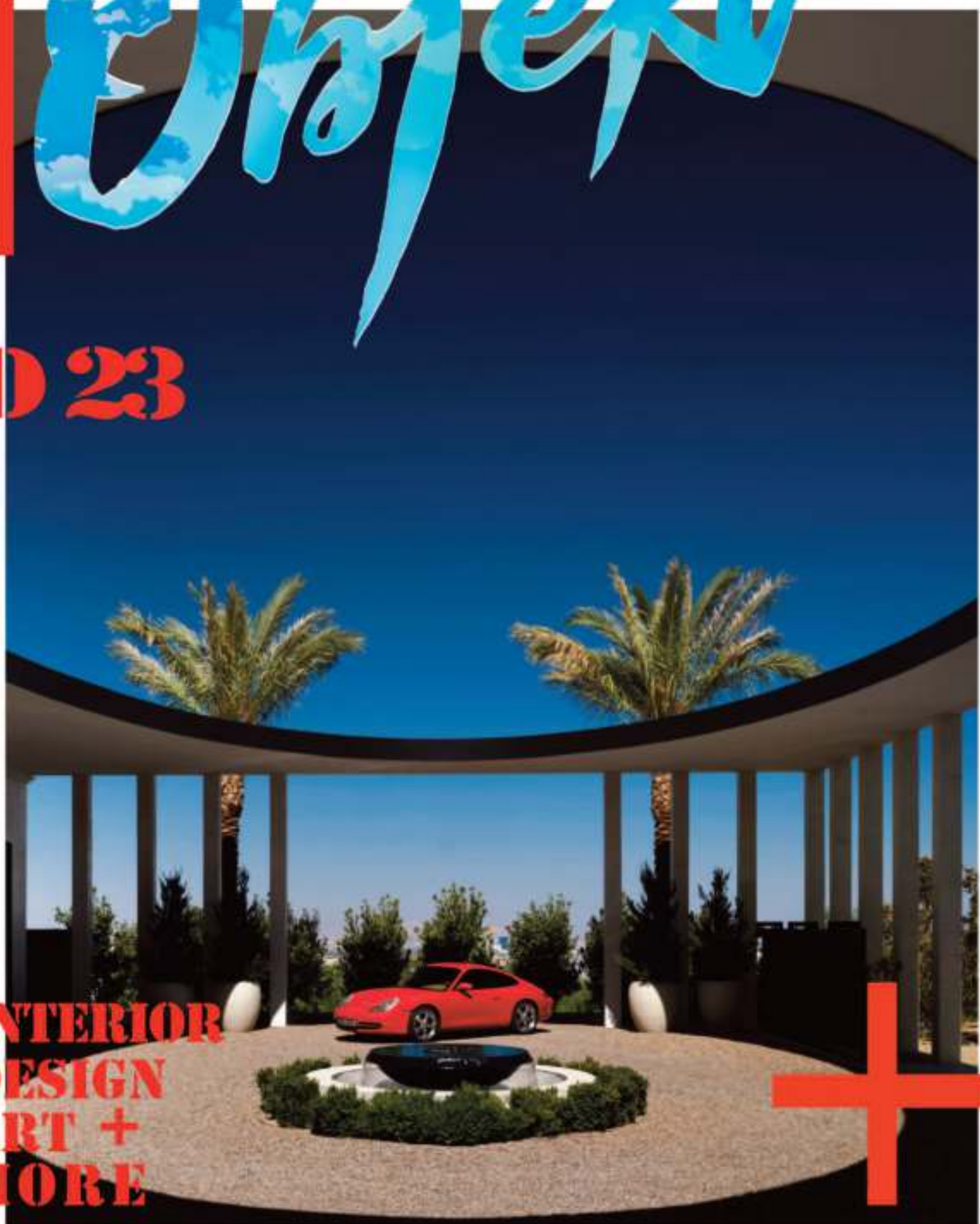


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Sculptural Symphony in Nevada Desert

STRAIGHT
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These pages: perched in the Nevada desert, Tombolo is a poetic interplay of land, light, and form. Architecture and interiors are by studio Daniel Joseph Chenin. Photos: Douglas Friedman.



Poised like a crown atop a natural rise in the Nevada desert, Tombolo transcends the notion of a private residence. It is a lyrical synthesis of land, light, and lived experience. Designed by the architecture and interiors firm of Daniel Joseph Chenin, the 12,400-square-foot estate draws its name and conceptual foundation from the geographic landform known as a tombolo—an evocative symbol of connection, transition, and unity.

“There is an emotional rhythm to this home,” notes Daniel Joseph Chenin. “That rhythm resonates throughout the structure, orchestrating a sensory narrative that unfolds from room to room—a dynamic interplay of tight and expansive, intimate and monumental.”

This metaphor of connection is not merely symbolic, but foundational to every design gesture. As one ascends the winding private drive, the home reveals itself gradually, emerging from the rugged terrain in a deliberate, cinematic sequence. The transition from asphalt to cobblestone marks the first sensory cue that the ordinary has been left behind. Upon arrival, a circular auto court centers around an architectural oculus—its tight geometry framing the boundless desert sky above.

The home's exterior is bold and sculptural, defined by vertical ribbing and a rhythmic colonnade—a structural poem composed in steel, stone, and light. The composition evokes the symmetry and discipline of Art Deco, softened by organic references to the desert landscape. The result is an ever-shifting form that responds to the environment with quiet dynamism.

Inside, the home transitions from architectural strength to intimate elegance. Rich wood tones, reflective metals, and bespoke finishes unfold in layers, each inviting closer engagement. Rather than a conventional open plan, the interior is a curated series of spatial vignettes—each distinct in character yet harmonized by aligned geometries and visual continuity. The office and study exude classical refinement, featuring stepped ceilings and bookcases lined with gold leaf.

“The interiors are where the story becomes tactile,” Chenin explains. “We believe in designing for movement—architecture should choreograph how one experiences space.”



Previous pages: the blush-hued kitchen with a 13-foot La Cornue range. Onyx-backed portals, custom brass hardware, and sculptural light fixtures elevate the culinary core into an artful atelier of everyday ritual.

These pages

Left: architect and interior designer Daniel Joseph Chenin. **Above:** the grand staircase, spiraling upward like a lyrical refrain. Wrapped in hand-painted silk wall coverings, mirrored reflections, and diffuse light, it has become a vertical axis of transformation.

Next pages: seating area in the white-washed living room. The design is a meditation on contrast and cohesion, where structure and softness, past and present, merge.



This philosophy is most vividly realized in the grand staircase—a sculptural spiral ascending like a lyrical refrain. Wrapped in hand-painted silk, mirrored surfaces, and diffused light, it acts as a vertical axis of transformation.

Across the main gallery, a sunlit living room flows into a blush-toned kitchen, centered around a commanding 13-foot La Cornue range. Onyx-clad portals, custom brass fixtures, and sculptural lighting transform the culinary core into a gallery of everyday rituals. Hallways are treated not as passive connectors, but as immersive, gallery-like spaces that celebrate light, material, and art.

The primary suite on the main level epitomizes sensorial luxury, with rose petal-carved wool carpets, silk wall treatments, and a cocoon-like bed enclosure creating an atmosphere of refuge. The en-suite bath is a study in material richness—burl wood, onyx, and polished brass—anchored by a freestanding tub framed in cascading metallic beads that shimmer like desert rain.

Upstairs, a six-bed bunk room, designed for the owners' grandchildren, is imbued with a spirit of nautical whimsy and craftsmanship. Adjacent, a lounge and bar featuring a Moët champagne dispenser adds a note of sophisticated playfulness. Expansive terraces with double-sided fireplaces and panoramic views extend the home's warmth into the open desert.

Sustainability is seamlessly integrated into the design. Deep-set colonnades, vertical fins, and strategic orientation maximize passive cooling, while a rooftop garden enhances insulation and softens the architectural profile. Materials—including regional stone, dark oak, and patinated metals—were sourced locally, rooting the home in its native landscape.

Ultimately, Tombolo is a meditation on contrast and cohesion—where structure meets softness, history meets modernity, and form becomes feeling. "This isn't simply a home," says Chenin. "It's a journey." In a land defined by extremes, Tombolo offers equilibrium. In a world that moves relentlessly forward, it invites stillness. Like the landform for which it is named, it is a bridge, between nature and emotion, architecture and art, shelter and sensation.



Above: the bedroom suites are a study in sensorial luxury with silk wall coverings, and a cocoon-like bed structures they create a space of retreat and repose. Right-hand page: the bedroom suites are a study in sensorial luxury with silk wall coverings, and a cocoon-like bed structures they create a space of retreat and repose. This page: the bathrooms are a masterclass in material richness, burl wood, onyx, polished brass, and a freestanding tub framed by shimmering metal beads that glint like desert rain.





Previous pages: the cool strength of the exterior of the house yields to warmth and sensuality, wood tones, reflective metals, and bespoke finishes unfold in layers, inviting discovery. These pages
Left the white washed living room with the grand piano. And below that an adjoining sitting room. Rather than a traditional open plan, the home is a series of curated vignettes, each space distinct in character, yet linked through visual cues and aligned geometries.
Right-hand page: throughout the home, Chenin treats corridors not as transitional voids, but as opportunities for storytelling. Furnished hallways become galleries, each segment an immersive moment composed of art, light, and materiality.

