

ELLE DECORATION

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IS BACK**

**CLOTHES
STORAGE
AND WHERE
TO BUY IT**

BRITISH ISSUE

FASHION SPECIAL



**DONNA
KARAN**

HER FAVOURITE
THINGS

PRIVATE WORLDS
OF **THE DESIGNER**

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

THE TAILOR

THE COUTURIER

hanging out
with supermodel

TATJANA

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fashion comes **home**



my little pony

Outdoor girl Tatjana Patitz lives cheek-to-cheek with nature in her Malibu home, with her three dogs, two cats and a horse



Tucked into a discreet fold of the Malibu hills is the exotic world of supermodel Tatjana Patitz, the face in Jil Sander, Ralph Lauren and Donna Karan campaigns. Enter by a push of an immense weather-beaten door, step over a mosaic tiger embedded in the cement threshold, and the modern world recedes and is instantly forgotten. Tatjana's first home is an eclectic distillation of all her favourite haunts in the warmer climes of the planet, combining Mediterranean, Indonesian, African and American influences into one seamless vision. Architect Jeffrey Cayle (who also designed Bruce Weber's house in Montana) wrought his magic in 11 short months on the gutted bones of a pre-existing house, piercing wall and ceiling, transforming every surface: 'Basically my idea was to have an inside/outside house with things looking like they had been there for a long time,' she says.

As Tatjana declares: 'Nature is perfect', and in this house she can pretend to live right in it. Thirty-foot ceilings and a wall of windows that look out onto tropical foliage give the illusion of minimal shelter with the feel of a jungle eyrie. Doors and windows are left wide open enlivening the house with the play of light and the flow of air. A sensual eclectic mix of antique rustic pieces add resonance. Tatjana's three big beloved canines range over polished concrete floors strewn with loose pebble designs by Xavier Llongeris. The materials used to achieve the timeless, organic patina are all recycled or gathered locally. The rocks of the fireplace are local stones, the slatted walls and kitchen cabinets are salvaged from orange crates and the banisters are charred ironwood from a recent Malibu conflagration. All of this reuse and adaptation suits Tatjana's temperament and deep commitment to global ecological concerns (she has recently embarked on a project to save the endangered tigers). Here in her environment, Tatjana finds welcome relief and spiritual renewal from the frenetic, jet-set life of high fashion. It comes as no surprise that her own home with its dogs and horses and birds remains her favourite day and night LA hang-out and the meeting place she prefers for entertaining friends.

'The hills are amazing and there are a lot of incredible hikes,' says Tatjana. 'There's a lot of water now within the creeks. The wild flowers have started coming out. I love Spring.' ▷



These pages: 'I call it my 'music room' because it's where I listen to and play music with my friends. (Tatjana is an accomplished flute player.) Sunlight floods in from skylights and a great bank of windows and doors which remain open during the day inviting the outdoor in to the living room, a feel enhanced by touches like the twisted ironwood balustrades. At night, no artificial light for Tatjana: it's strictly moonlight and candles. Her eclectic refinement mixes up pieces like a William Morris Theban stool with a 30s one-off moulded plywood armchair







This page: 'I wanted the feel of an outdoor bathroom with all the natural elements'. The treatment of Tatjana's bathroom assures that you shower in a bamboo grove. The deep cement tub moulded by hand, decorated with tiles and shells, and surrounded by foliage is a nature girl's dream. Opposite: On a small balcony just outside her greenhouse bath, Tatjana luxuriates on a bench covered in Mexican blankets



DIY

Architect:
Jeffrey Cayle,
in LA (001 212

633 1335). Concrete tile work done by **Xavier Longueras** (001 213 469 5266). Pillows, chairs, pottery and glass from **Odalisque** (00 1 213 933 9100). **Symonds Salvage** (01233 820724) stock barn fulls of oversized old doors like those Tatjana's architect imported. **African Escape** (0171 221 6650) carries the best African stools and chairs, including some truly special Ethiopian examples. For colonial Indian furniture, like Tatjana's bedroom chaise, try **Crucial Trading** (0171 234 0000). Outdoor style: **Sahco Hesslein** (0171 352 6168 for stockists) produces a really beautiful, fine, creamy gauze for draping over beds. **Tumi** (0171 485 4152) stocks vibrant, imported Mexican blankets which Tatjana scatters liberally over sofas and chairs. Flea markets: When in LA, try the **Rose Bowl** flea market in Pasadena, the first Sunday of each month. Arrive at 6am, bring a flashlight and plan to vie with the stars. Check the **Pennysaver**, a free flyer you can pick up in supermarkets, for a listing of garage sales. In London, **Portobello Market** is on Fridays until 1 pm and all day Saturday.





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