



VILLA AMANECER WORLDLY BEARING

STONE CONTRACTORS
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CONSTRUCTION

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ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

As if it didn't actually exist, as if we were just seeing the architectural drawings, blueprints and elevations for a home set above the sea, Villa Amanecer shows itself to us in perfect detail. But no, the good news is that it is indeed real, built here at Punta de Mita, Nayarit, not far from Puerto Vallarta. With its own private beach, the blue ocean captured in its view is truly accessible. And while you might imagine yourself in any part of the world – given the definite worldly air that belies the natural origin of its materials – it is located here on the shores of Mexico, where it can share in the splendor of exotic sunsets, and of spectacular dawns.

Once the design was set, architect Rubén Fuentes and engineer Juan Pablo Stone worked closely together to define it, creating a light-hearted arrangement that played for the rooms while uniting them around a central vestibule. A reflecting pool's geometric contours synthesize an obsession with fine stonework: in its center stands a timeless, ageless sculpture of quarry stone, known in Mexico as *cantera*.

Villa Amanecer has a distinct language for guiding us toward our encounter with the sea. Although the beach is its main reason for being, it

could almost do without it, could be transported to another physical site, geographical setting, to the middle of a big city. And yet, no. It's not content merely to be lovely, refined, elegant, stately, open, but also proud, showing off all its best qualities in order to provide a gracious frame for its guardian, the ocean.

Balancing act

A sense of unity distinguishes Villa Amanecer's entire aesthetic, to such an extent that one must pause a few minutes to truly assimilate it, to unlock its code. And then we can see that, like the craftsman who searched beaches and riverbeds for pebbles of the right sizes, colors and shapes to craft his permanent carpets and walkways here, the builders looked high and low for all the other materials that give the house harmony.

The idea, we continue imagining, could be to follow the inspiration of beach colors: which of the tones that we find there, like gifts of light, should be used? Just the pale sand colors? No, for if we emulate the artisan in his hunt for small stones and trace all the colors of the shore, we come upon reddish rocks, sun-blackened algae and sea urchins, brown driftwood, and





a whole range of tans and beiges depending on whether the sand is wet or dry.

So, as if the beach has become part of the house, a fascinating range of natural tones appear – in furniture, flooring, walls, everywhere. The quality and rigorous artisanship of the finishes add both sense and intensity to this juxtaposition of nature and nurture. For example, we might point out the dining room chairs, the kitchen island, the flooring of all the interior spaces; despite being of different materials, all boast the same color spectrum. And now we don't have to imagine at all: just as God created the variety of ineffable elements on the beach, His work has been replicated in a house reflecting every aspect of human divinity.

Transition

Villa Amanecer has quite clearly defined the points where angles come to an end and curves begin, marking the transition between bedrooms and recreational areas. Between the two are the communal spaces of kitchen and living-dining room, joined depending on residents' needs, on whether they choose to isolate the kitchen behind wooden doors or do away with the wall and create a large open space.

Once we've crossed the threshold of this space, we can no longer doubt that this is a quintessential house on the coast. A panorama of sea and beach leaps into view: it is later affirmed in the endless curving pool and then by such elegant details as a small palapa that echoes the rooflines of the two upper bedrooms. To this alloy of images is added the pergola, its surprisingly delicate concrete columns carved to replicate natural tree trunks. And now the sea is 'in your face': the only thing left to do is find a chaise and settle down to contemplate its immensity.

With greenery and natural spaces, a more rational setting has evolved: the lawn is a soft tactile delight, and walking barefoot here becomes a priceless kind of relaxation therapy. Palm trees display a precise, convivial order. The rest of the regional vegetation adds color to the landscape, wild specimens not also conveying the pleasures of sun and fresh breezes, but relating intriguingly to the well-behaved houseplants.





Between public and private

With the contemporary spirit of their furnishings and art, the bedrooms evoke both privacy and comfort. Without fail, each has its own visual contact with the sea, although they keep their distance from one another – especially the twin guestrooms, and the upper level’s master bedrooms, which are placed at even greater proximity to the ocean. If these last have the advantage of being closer to the view, the former receive the gift of playful shade from their own pergola. They are prepared for whatever adversity the weather might bring, as the house was impeccably designed to bring the outdoors in: so that if you must stay inside because of rain, you can enjoy the space just as thoroughly.

The halls, passageways and balconies, with their combination of white walls with banisters and railings in simply-treated woods, safeguard the silence necessary to keep distractions at bay; allowing the energy of their natural materials to flow freely as they accompany residents in their calm comings and goings through the residence.

The private zones are completely private, and the public spaces are happily shared. Thus the dining room is more than ample, able to hold many guests, and if there are even more than it can accommodate, they can spill over into the kitchen bar, the outdoor dining room, or the palapa. The idea is that any get-together can spread out, and everyone will find a place to rejoice in the warmth of the landscape. Because that’s how they were all envisioned from the very beginning, in the architectural drawings.

