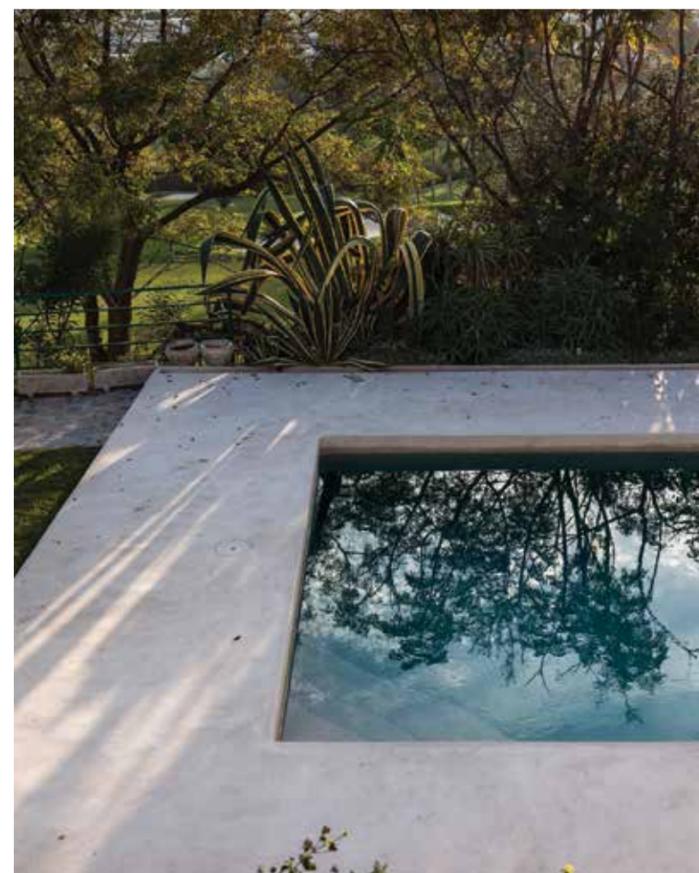


WALL to WALL Poetry



Such is the quality of this project that the Spanish edition of Architectural Digest featured the Marbella villa on its cover with the headline, "Japan? No, it's Marbella." As the journal pointed out, Marbella has managed to retain its aura of glamour that brought it to international attention in the 1960s and 70s and that part of this is due to the quality of the architecture in the area, particularly the villas and mansions that owe more to the influence of the Andalusian pueblos blancos than the massive apartment blocks. It is evident that Alejandro Giménez has drawn on the way that the Spanish traditions are sympathetic to the natural surroundings when working on this project that is surrounded by pine forests and only 100 metres from the beach.





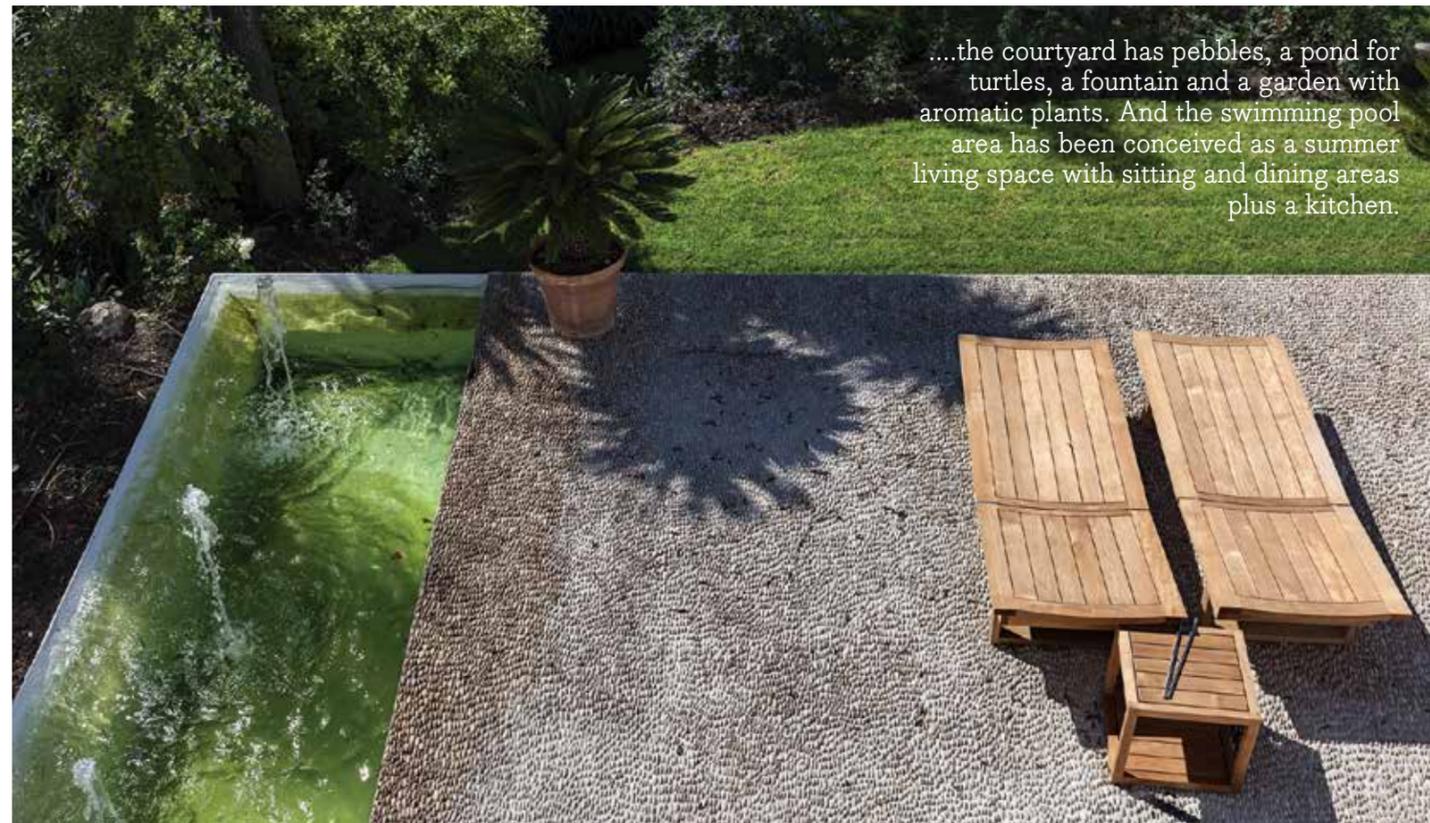
Alejandro Giménez is an architect who follows his own path and enjoys discovering his own form of expression. In his recent design for a villa in the prestigious Nueva Andalucía area, he has drawn on the poetry of Lorca, the legacy of Arab Andalucía and flamenco as well as his love of Mexican and Japanese concepts to create a residence of exceptional beauty. He is praised in the press and the Spanish edition of Architectural Digest featured another of his designs, a villa in Las Chapas on its cover with the headline, "Japan? No, it's Marbella."

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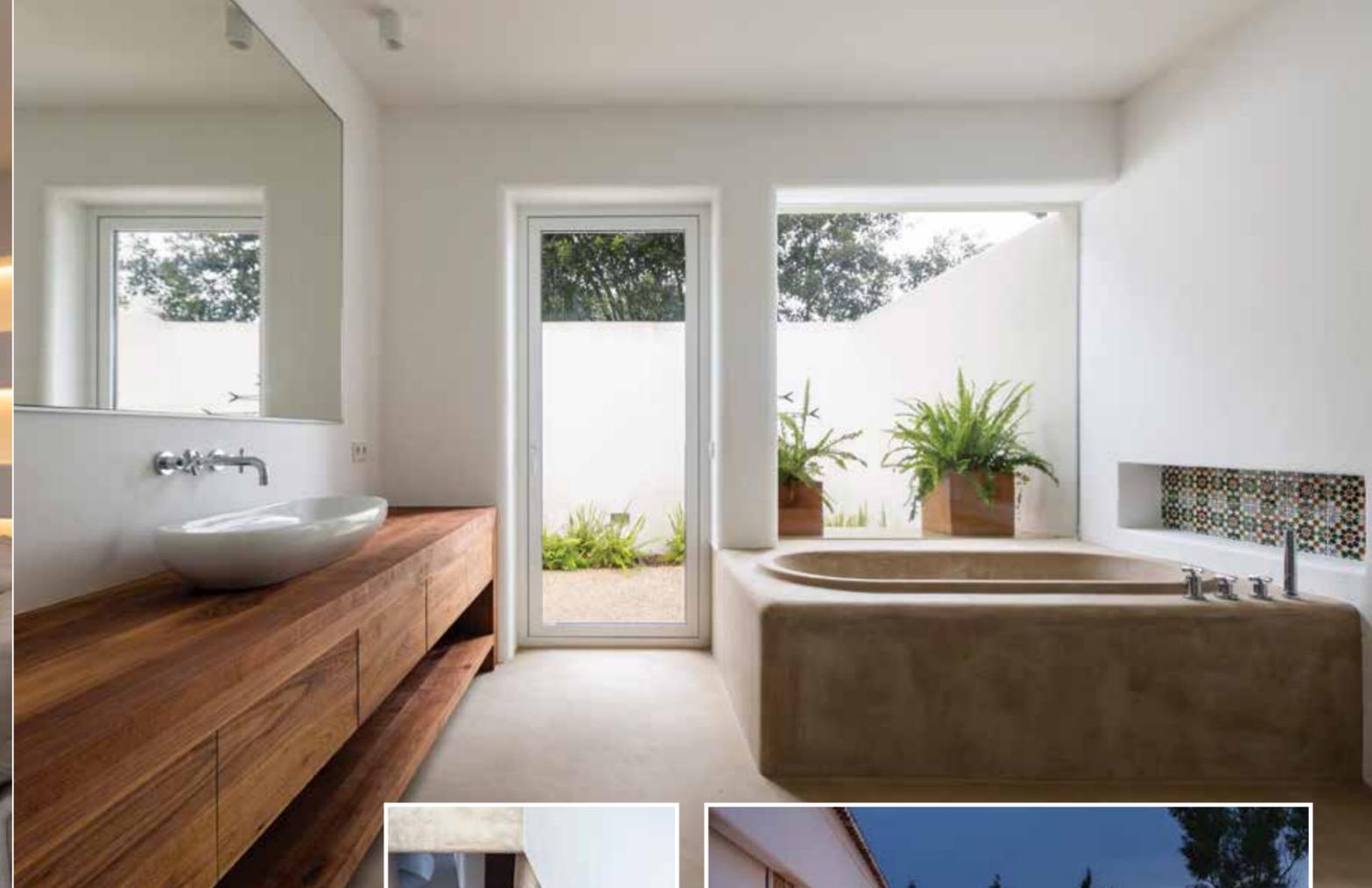


The architect's vision

As you can see from the photos, Alejandro has created a series of interconnecting spaces that gives the house a sense of mystery, which is one of the trademarks of his style; you really have to walk all over this house to know it in its entirety and it still feels as if there might be a hidden corner you haven't yet discovered. The exterior is white in the Andalucian style, but the fine details are distinctly influenced by Japanese architecture, a culture that Giménez much admires. For example, the courtyard has pebbles, a pond for turtles, a fountain and a



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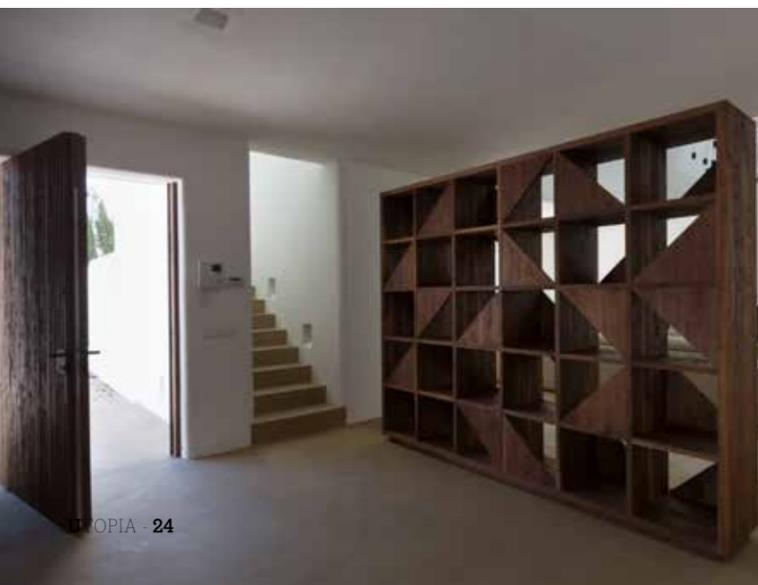
garden with aromatic plants. And the swimming pool area has been conceived as a summer living space with sitting and dining areas plus a kitchen. In addition, he used Mortex on the floors and to line the swimming pool, providing a sense of seamless continuity between indoors and the water.

Bonding the relation between the interior and exterior is very important to Giménez: from the kitchen to the terrace, to the pool. The white of the exterior walls continues inside and even the marble floors are white. Light is filtered through cane blinds that create a very special atmosphere.

The living room opens on to the outdoor terrace via large, glass sliding doors. In another part of the living area there are fireplaces for winter comfort. His use of



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natural materials, such as walnut, cane, Mortex and whitewashed walls all create a vision of contrasts that reconcile the vernacular and the modern. The furniture is made to measure and reflects Giménez's commitment to craftsmanship and the work of the artisan.

Lighting and ventilation are also very important features of this project. You can't see any direct lighting in the rooms; it is concealed in the walls and ceilings in such a way that it creates a wraparound environment. And, to avoid the use of air conditioning, the architect has used cross-ventilation and thick walls so that the interior temperature in summer is maintained at a pleasant level.

It is a home that admirers of contemporary architecture and interior design will fall in love with and it showcases the considerable talent of Alejandro Giménez. If you'd like a house like this, here are his contact details! ■

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