

cinematic VISION

Architect Joanna Maury has designed a James Bond-inspired villa that is rooted in nature yet is magnificently modern

PHOTOGRAPHY Krista Keltanen/Living Inside
STYLING Jonna Kivilahti
WORDS Juliet Benning



LIVING AREA
Hardy rugs and seating are suitable for year-round use in this partially glazed outdoor room.

Source a similar indoor/outdoor rug from Benuta. The Bertoia Diamond armchair is available at Heal's. Outdoor sofa, Fatboy

home profile

THE ARCHITECT

Joanna Maury founded her practice Joarc Architects in 2006 and now acts as the CEO and creative director. The Helsinki-based firm specialises in highly designed private houses, focusing on balancing architecture with surrounding nature.

THE PROPERTY

A contemporary home of glass and stone in the countryside outside Helsinki. On the first floor is an entrance hall, open-plan kitchen, dining and living room, library, two bedrooms, walk-in wardrobe, two cloakrooms, two bathrooms, laundry room and an outdoor kitchen with outdoor terrace. On the lower ground floor is a guest bedroom, TV room, sauna, shower area, cloakroom, storage room and lower stone terrace.

EXTERIOR

Joanna used wood and stone to reflect the building's natural setting and help it blend into its surroundings.

“I wanted the building to feel monumental with a real sense of permanence to it”



DINING AREA

The family brought the table from their previous home, its old-fashioned style providing a measured point of contrast.

Find an antique **table** at 1stDibs. Series 7 **chairs** by Fritz Hansen, available at Heal's

W

hen the owners of this breathtaking villa asked the architect Joanna Maury to bring a touch of James Bond flair to their new-build home, perhaps it was *You Only Live Twice* with its big Japanese mid-century set pieces that first came to her mind. The film's seductive narrative seeps into so many elements of the design, making the villa – which is only a 25-minute drive from Helsinki – appear in a secluded world of its own, evoking a sense of glamorous escapism.

The couple, she a lawyer and he an entrepreneur, live with their teenage daughter and first stumbled across Joanna's architecture firm in 2012 through a magazine article. 'The owners are huge design enthusiasts. They had bought a wooden house on the same plot where the villa stands. 'It was built in the 1950s and had been renovated twice since – in 1979 and later by the family themselves who extended it,' says Joanna. 'They wanted more space but didn't know how to add on to what had already been done. I told them the only way I could achieve their vision was to take everything down and start again.' Left to digest this sobering news, the couple asked Joanna for a few weeks to consider her proposal.

Once committed to the project, the ideas between the three began to flow and the design process took two years to complete. 'One of the great joys was the collaboration between us,' says Joanna. 'The owners were heavily involved, asking for a home that would be both cosy and comforting, but also with a touch of this James Bond-esque character.'

Resounding with the driving values of Joanna's firm, Joarc Architects, it was important that the building be rooted in its surroundings. 'The materials I used were both inspired by natural forms and chosen for their longevity,'

says Joanna. 'The dark wood on the exterior fits in with the Finnish trees, while the grey handmade tiles of the cladding and roughness of granite matches the rocks below.'

Presented with the steep plot overlooking the bay, Joanna envisaged a structure that would 'melt' into the landscape. 'The aspect seems closed from the entrance, but as soon as you enter you experience its wide, sea-facing attitude,' says Joanna. 'The view becomes its own character in the narrative.'

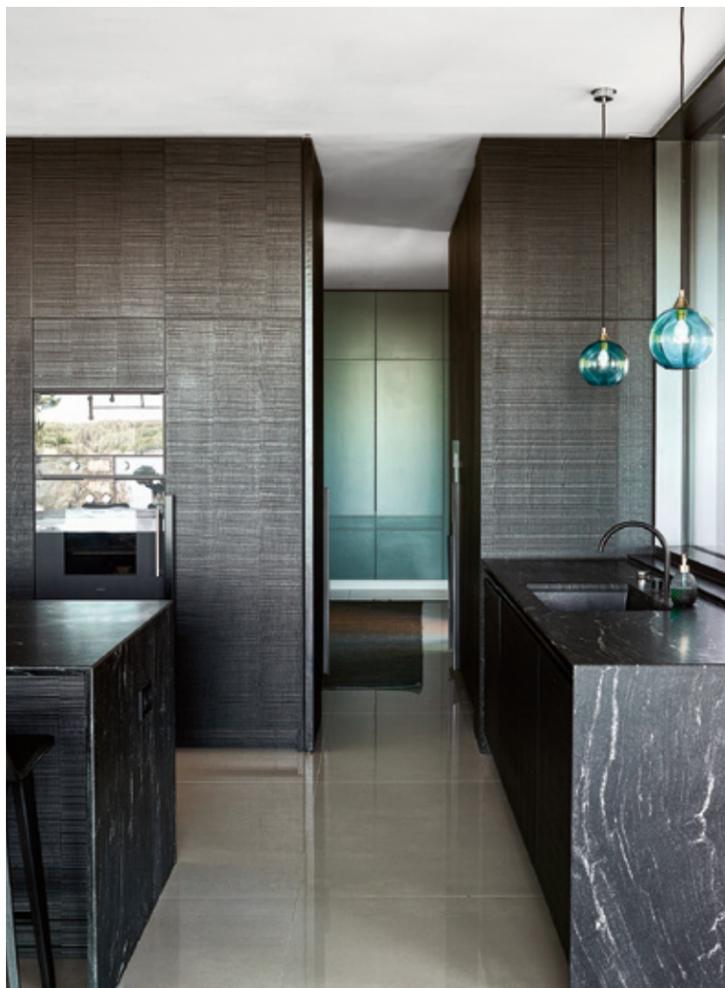
One of Joanna's greatest achievements is the nuance and balance she has struck within the interior. Dividing up the space into functional zones delineated by rugs and lighting, sliding steel-framed doors and the blackened wood of the kitchen evoke Japanese interiors. While the ground floor is open and bright, Joanna has created a cossetting and seductive mood on the lower floor – perhaps the best place to host 007. 'The large slate tiles and oak-clad walls and ceiling encourage relaxation,' says Joanna. 'It was here, in the bar area, that we found a place to display the owner's collection of small cars.'

Charged with designing the lighting in the villa, Joanna has created glowing seams at the edge of ceilings, given shelves an alluring back light and even managed to filter illumination through stone in the ground-floor bathroom. The scheme conjures a house that is as inviting in the darkest days of winter as it is when the evenings get lighter in spring.

'The villa was finished in 2016 and what's been wonderful for me is how I have become good friends with the owners since then,' says Joanna. 'They love throwing parties and hosting, so now I get to return to it and enjoy our creation, too.'

joarc.fi

the blueprint



KITCHEN

Blackened wood cabinetry evokes a modern Japanese character. Behind the main units is a cleverly concealed service area.

Source similar glass pendant light fittings at Holloways of Ludlow



LIBRARY

Joanna wanted to keep the minimalist vibe while giving this a strong identity, so she added oak stained shelves packed with colourful books.

Shelves by Joarc Architects. Vitra Eames chair and ottoman available at Heal's

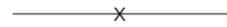


DOWNSTAIRS LIVING ROOM

The house is all about the view so low-profile furniture, like this sofa, was chosen to enhance it.

Tufted-Time sofa by Patricia Urquiola for B&B Italia. Long pile rug, SG Northern Soul by Kymo

“The open water of the archipelago beckons, evoking a sense of freedom”



MASTER BEDROOM

The picture window frames the view beautifully.

Source herringbone flooring at The Natural Wood Floor Co. Secret Linen Store has similar bedding



MASTER BEDROOM

A steel-framed internal window with a view to the bathroom allows both rooms to communicate, bringing a sense of openness and space.

Find a waffle bedspread like this at Soak&Sleep



home truths

BEST SPRINGTIME ESCAPE IN FINLAND?

Visiting Lapland to go cross-country skiing and experience the beautiful snowy landscape and amazing sunlight.

WHO WOULD YOU PLAY IN A MOVIE?

Mary Poppins.

WHO IS YOUR DESIGN HERO?

Frank Lloyd Wright.

FAVOURITE BUILDING?

Louisiana Museum of Modern Art.

FIRST ACT AS WORLD LEADER?

Give women and men equal rights.

NAME THREE FANTASY DINNER PARTY GUESTS (DEAD OR ALIVE)...

Zaha Hadid, Picasso and Leonard Cohen.

MASTER BATHROOM

The grey of the granite double basin chimes with the darker veins of the Statuario marble.

Basin by Joarc Architects. Taps, Hansgrohe. Lights, RH Modern. Source marble from Marble City