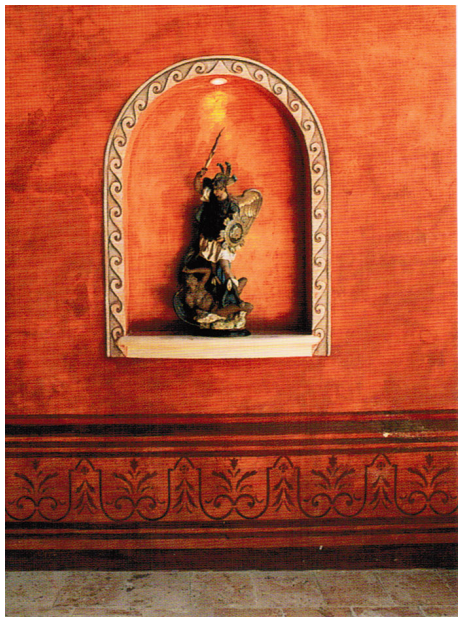


HACIENDA STYLE



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ABOVE: A *nicho* framed in carved stone features an artful sculpture, Casa Marisol, Mérida, Yucatán.

OPPOSITE: Original ornate stucco ornamentation decorates the elegant arches at Casa Marisol, Mérida, Yucatán.

Casa Marisol

At Casa Marisol, a restored colonial-style home in downtown Mérida, elegant arches and stone columns surround a palm-filled courtyard, cascading water fountain and inviting pool. Dating from 1888, the house is listed on Mexico's historical register and features 21-foot-high ceilings and unique architectural details. Over the years, the building housed local businesses and was partly unoccupied since 1960, when it last served as a residence.

For the home's extensive restoration, owners Ron and Sylvia Jackson collaborated with architect Alvaro Ponce and skilled local craftsmen to revitalize the home's original features which included old doors, colorful concrete floor tiles and ornate stucco ornamentation on the inner arches.

The height of the kitchen's sculptural stove hood was raised for increased function with the Talavera-tiled countertop. Today, the rich red of the hood and its dramatic height anchor the red-themed kitchen dressed in red, white, gold and blue tiles selected by Sylvia Jackson.

Known for residential designs that seamlessly integrate nature into living spaces, Ponce worked closely with the Jacksons to create a strong indoor-outdoor relationship throughout the house. The home's light-filled bathroom owes its brightness to floor-to-ceiling glass walls that allow one to inhabit the courtyard space from inside. In addition to opening onto the central courtyard's inviting waterfall and pool, the master bathroom suite opens to a lush private garden featuring trickling water fountains, an outdoor shower and a hammock-strung pergola. Surrounded by tropical gardens, the backyard *palapa*—replete with outdoor kitchen—is a favored entertaining area at Casa Marisol where the Jacksons enjoy spending time with family and friends.



RIGHT AND OPPOSITE:

At Casa Marisol, the master suite bathroom opens onto a private outdoor tropical haven featuring two wall fountains, a hammock-strung pergola and an outdoor shower. Designed by architect Alvaro Ponce, the tranquil space is enhanced by soothing color and unique chinked-stone wall textures.

BELOW: A fountainhead crafted from Conchuela stone exudes rich, fossilized textures.



Inside and out, Casa Marisol features natural textures of local stone. Ponce used the Yucatán tradition of *rajueleado* to add decorative interest to key wall surfaces. The technique utilizes small, hand-cut stones chinked from larger stones, creating a mesmerizing textural statement. A natural, orange-hued Ticul stone was used for the chinked walls, as well as for the courtyard's rough-cut, square stone tiles. The color of the warm orange walls was attained by Ponce's special recipe that mixes natural pigments with water, applied in multiple coats with a henequén brush.

Lending contrast to interior and courtyard walls, a cream-white stone called *Crema Maya* was used for door and *nicho* surrounds and flooring. *Conchuela*, or fossil stone, was employed for water fountain spouts. Ceiling beams of *pucte* (tropical hardwood) balance the stone textures beneath the portal and inside rooms.







Inside, arched nichos spotlight the Jacksons' extensive collection of art objects and Mexican Talavera pieces, hand-painted pots from Chiapas and fine Mayan reproductions of pre-Hispanic ceramics. Antiques and comfortable Mexican furniture blend well with Moroccan kilims and embroidered pillows from Chiapas.

The fulfilling collaboration between the Jacksons and Alvaro Ponce on Casa Marisol engendered a business partnership—*Yucatán Sol*—born of their mutual interest in utilizing the richness of local materials and artisans in the renovations of colonial homes. The company specializes in architectural elements and construction methods that have evolved from regional hacienda influences and age-old Mayan traditions.

OPPOSITE: A dramatic sculptural stove hood anchors the red-hued, Talavera-tiled kitchen at Casa Marisol in Mérida. A vaulted brick ceiling lends additional interest to the grand-scale colorful room.

ABOVE: A kitchen nicho is decorated in Talavera tile, Casa Marisol, Yucatán.