

Style isle

Sustainability, community spirit and starchitects are brought together at Ibiza's new private villa complex, Sabina.

By Lucia Ferigutti

A few years ago, real-estate entrepreneurs and long-time business partners Anton Bilton and Glyn Hirsch discussed the joy and pain of owning holiday homes. "My great love is a farmhouse in Normandy that I bought 30-odd years ago," says Hirsch, "but the work, the effort, the bills and hassle are off the charts. For years, I had to go there on my own a week before the family arrived just to fix all the problems and work out where the new leaks are coming from."

Bilton (who is behind the Lakes by YOO estate, a collection of luxury, design-led lakeside villas in the Cotswolds, UK), had similar experiences. Having moved to Ibiza a few years prior, he noticed that many of his friends struggled to find suitable properties on the island. "I came [here] six years ago as a private buyer," Hirsch confirms, "and visited lots of beautiful villas – but you won't realise that many of them are not connected to the main services and part of their structure is often illegal." They saw an opportunity to change that and to create exceptional houses that would minimise the hassle of owning a second home.

They approached developer Agustín del Pino, who had already worked on Ibiza's 33 Calacanta real estate project, and together they set out to look for the perfect location. It came in the form of a 17-hectare plot on the western side of the



Left and above: the distinctive geometric shapes of villa Can Romero, designed by Manuel Aires Mateus

Jordi Carreño and Jaime Romano. Portuguese architect Manuel Aires Mateus joined the line-up for the second set of 11 villas. For phases three and four, even bigger names will come into play: Sir David Chipperfield, John Pawson CBE and Rick Joy, to name but a few of the international architects who envisioned the remaining sets of five-to-eight-bedroom villas.

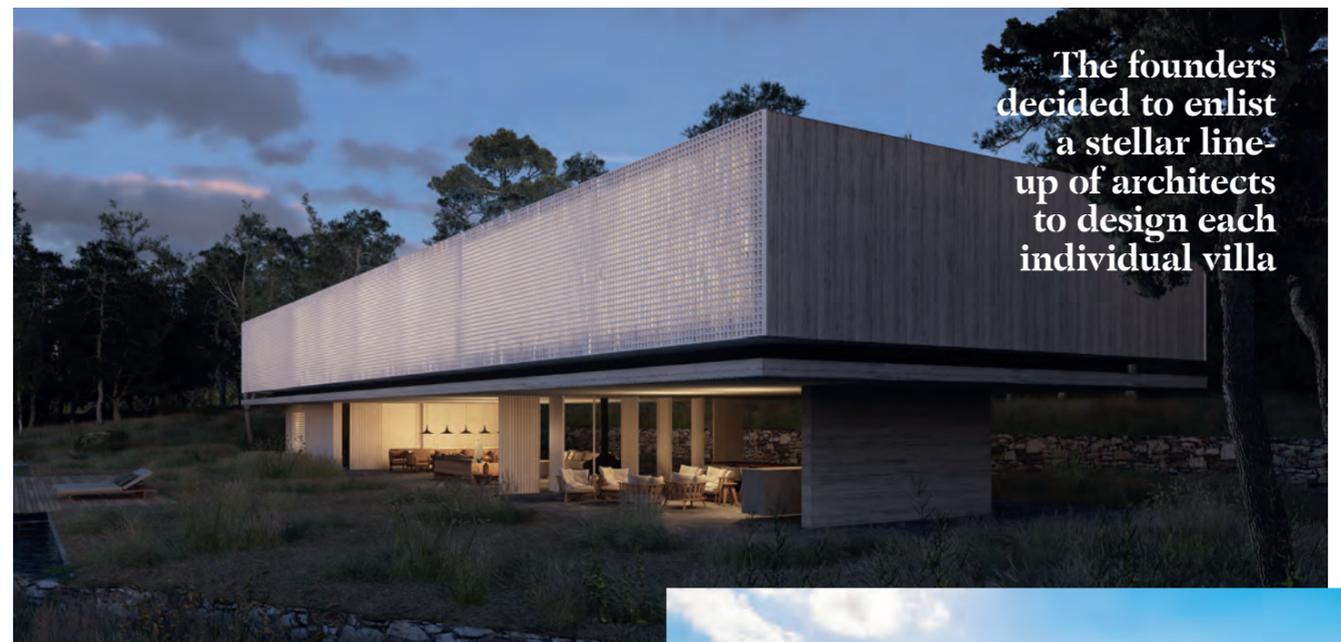
British designer Tara Bernerd – who is behind the new The Hari hotel in Hong Kong, the Equinox Hotel in LA, 47-metre yacht *Orient Star* and a soon-to-launch 56-metre *Perini Navi* – has already completed the interiors of one of the villas, the Jordi Carreño-designed *Can Cocotero*. Using a light palette throughout, she took

hand it down to your family's next generation".

To that end, the founders decided to enlist a stellar line-up of architects to design each individual villa. The first 13, which range from between 500 and 2,000 square metres, were dreamt up by leading architects Rolf Blakstad,

island, with unobstructed sea and sunset views, a five-minute drive to the beach. And so it was that Sabina Estates was born, back in 2015 – taking its name from the indigenous juniper tree. Their ambition? To create properties that "will only be available once, because you'll want to

Right: six-bedroom villa Can Mist, designed by Marcio Kogan and Suzana Glogowski



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inspiration from the landscape of Ibiza and mixed linens in pale tones with striped fabrics in richer tones of navy blue and khaki green.

The rest of the interiors were overseen by Sabina's in-house head of design Begoña Sebastian, whose CV includes Foster + Partners in London and Neri & Hu in Shanghai.

Central to the development is the Clubhouse, which is a meeting point for owners to mingle. It's designed by Soho House Barcelona's designer Lázaro Rosa-Violán. "We wanted the Clubhouse to have everything you would expect from a luxury boutique hotel but for owners, instead of guests." And it doesn't disappoint: the food menu was designed by La Paloma's Amit Segev, while the cellar is curated by Bilton himself.

To match the architecture, curator Elizabeth Smith was enlisted to select the art – so look up

Above: the five-bedroom Can Abloom villa designed by Marcio Kogan and Suzana Glogowski. Right: the Sir David Chipperfield-designed Can Alzina villa



and you'll see an Antony Gormley sculpture perched on a roof, or walk down the stairs to the spa to admire a Marc Quinn piece, alongside a rotation of works by local artists.

Sustainability is at Sabina's very core – it has been awarded a BREEAM certificate of Excellence, one of the most thorough assessment

methods, which looks at water preservation, energy efficiency and the use of local materials. A rainwater collection system will be used for the irrigation of the gardens, which were designed by Andrea Sánchez using indigenous plants, while the air conditioning and heating are controlled by advanced geothermal technology.

The Clubhouse is the hub of the development, offering five-star community facilities such as a restaurant, nightclub, spa, swimming pool, tennis courts and a temple



The Clubhouse has a non-denominational temple and meditation room, with crystal quartz laid in its foundations to infuse it with positive energy

This being Ibiza, a connection to the spiritual side of things is essential. The Clubhouse includes a non-denominational temple and meditation room, with more than 15 kilograms of crystal quartz laid in its foundations to infuse the building with positive energy. The spa's treatment menu includes aura reading, bioenergetic and chakra alignment and even a shamanic cleansing ritual.

Interested in one of the properties? To the founders, having owners with "a similar philosophy and spirit" is essential, says Hirsch. "We decided to meet every [prospective owner]. We now have a great mix of nationalities and occupations." The formula seems to be working: at lunch, a few families had joined tables and were reminiscing about an owner's birthday bash in the Clubhouse the previous night. New Year's Eve plans are already underway. We suggest you enquire quickly if you don't want to miss the party. sabinaibiza.com ■

