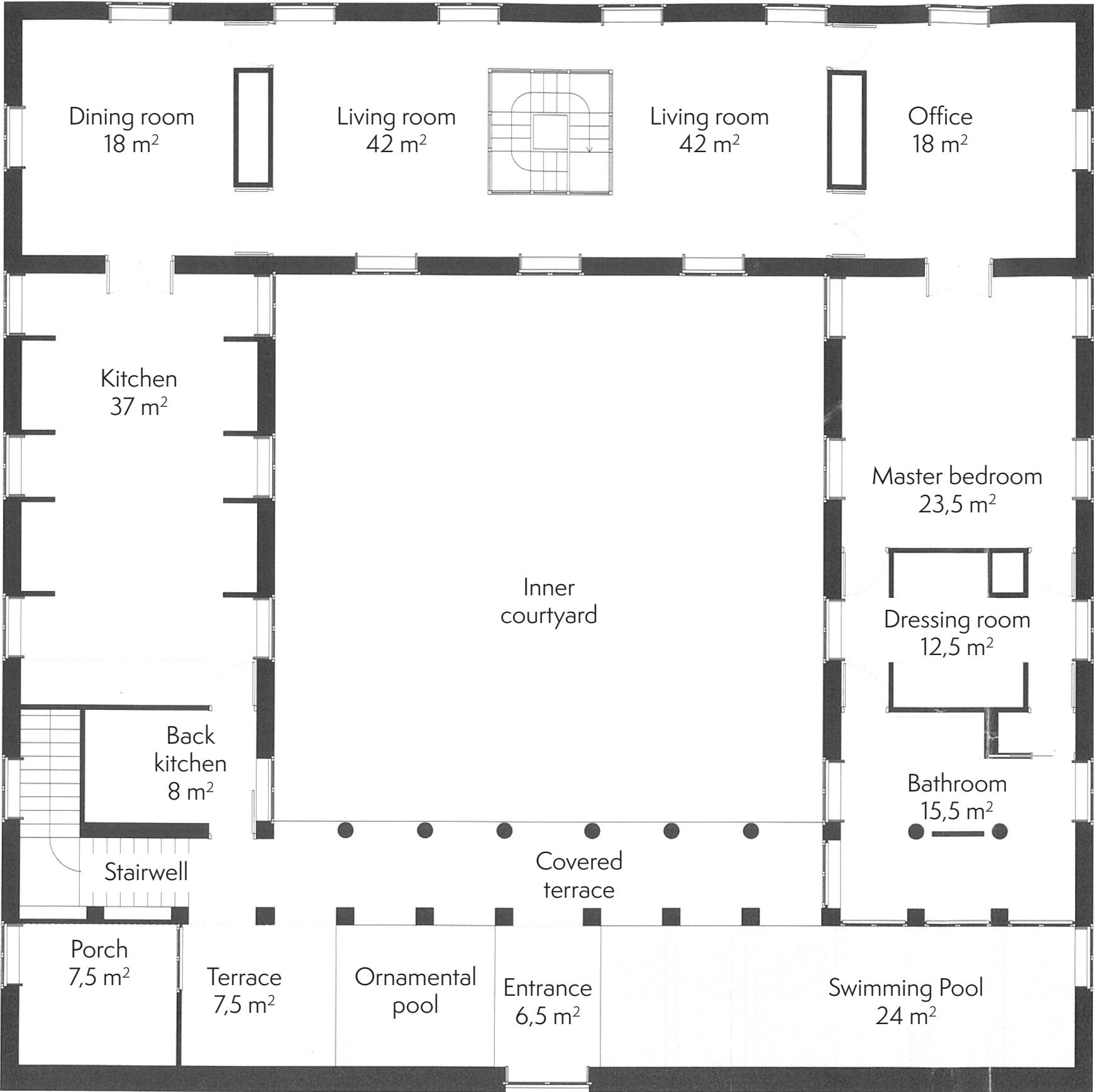


VILLA
VASCO DE GAMA

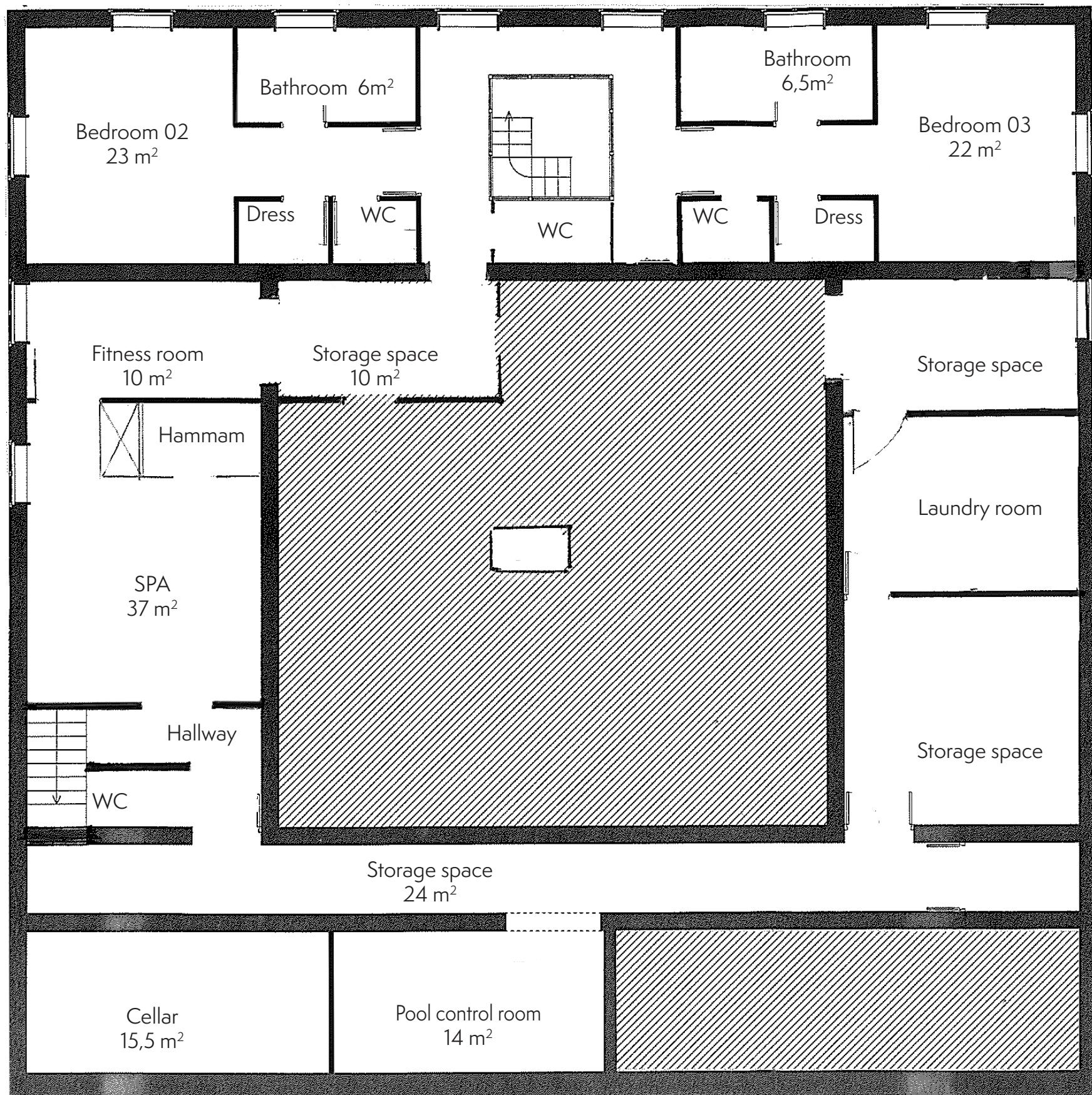


SARLAT - DORDOGNE - FRANCE

GROUND FLOOR



GARDEN LEVEL



The essence of the villa are the profound concepts and vision that have impregnated every aspect of the construction of «Villa Vasco de Gama».

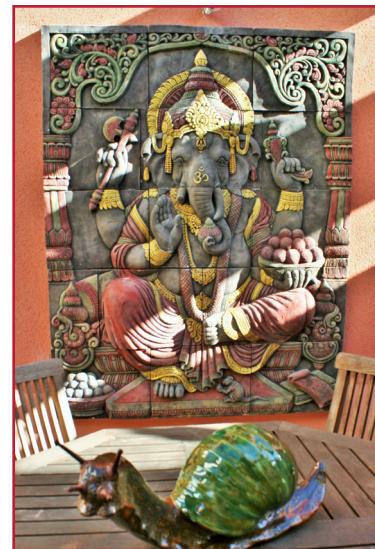
Extreme rigour of the exterior was implemented by the young and dynamic architects F.M.A.U., based in La Rochelle, inspired by the pure lines of the creative palette of the architect O.M. UNGERS.



Opposite : Ungers House III, Cologne-DE Köln, built between 03/1994 and 10/1995 ©Stéfan Müller



Before even having entered, the dry stones of the wall on the southern façade resolutely determine that it is built in the Perigord (Occitan name of the Dordogne) region. The walls offer the pleasant light of the honey coloured stone of the Dordogne. Once past the front door, the ambiance changes, and a symbolic passage leads to a warm domestic ambiance. Light is omnipresent and the elevated position offers beautiful views of the setting sun.



La villa « Vasco de Gama » is no ordinary home, it is an internal meeting point that opens up an aestheticism and a big game of discovery. It's a place that provokes inquisitive looks of desire, like a child in a sweet shop. Because Vasco de Gama was a discoverer of exoticism, the Villa and the road leading to it carry his name.

The Villa « Vasco de Gama » is inspired by different places, like India and Goa ; Indonesia and Bali and Normandy. It takes the different ingredients, mixes them, kneads them and then cooks them to make a thick golden crust that crunches at the whim of dreams and desires.

- A number of the antique objects originate from India, such as the four remarkable windows on each corner of the square inner courtyard. The antique pillars in granite echo and add depth to those in concrete, to structure the space in to a covered gallery with a contrast of time and space.

- The square courtyard and its annexes are constituted from wide thick planks of merbau, originating from Bali, that bring the pure lines and the comfort of the warmth of wood.

- The references to Normandy, the region of origin of the owner, are numerous, mainly being the ceramics from a village near Cabourg, but also in having chosen to be inspired by the drawings of the Norman artist Raoul dufy.



Villa « Vasco de Gama » is inspired by artists such as Salvador Dali and Raoul Dufy. It displays a palette of simple colours.

- The gate is directly inspired by the work of Salvador Dali : 'The Butterfly Book' ». The butterfly is a major symbol of the surrealists. The gate replicates the exact proportions of the work, and was made to measure by the ironwork studio C.A.T. in Prats-de-Carlux (near Sarlat). The metal strips of the wings filter the morning light and cuts it in fine slices, like a breakfast of light. When the panels of the gate are closed, the butterfly is reformed, offering multiple symbols. The butterfly evokes eternity and rebirth. It is also a symbol of a rich and multiple life : the phases of life of the butterfly are like the multiple phases of the maturation of our various projects.



- Like Salvador Dali, Raoul Dufy was a multi-faceted artist, interested in many techniques and remains one of the greatest designers of the last century. His work « Composition of Stylised Foliage » created around 1923, inspired the pattern on the double-sided sculpted doors of the villa hand made in Bali. (reference : Raoul Dufy – Passion for Fabric page 123 – Key edition)



- Villa « Vasco de Gama » offers an exterior palette of cold colours with the blue of the lavenders and plum-bago, the grey of the Dordogne river pebbles set in the natural slope of the land that reflect the erosion of passing time. A reference to Queen Christina of Sweden « Life passes like a torrent, incessantly flowing in streams, then one day stops ». The warm colours of the interior lend its tones to the « Marrakech red ». The ceramic friezes from the Mesnil de Bavent pottery (Normandy) provide colour above the French doors, as well as the decorative heads in the walls of the courtyard.

In the Belle Epoque the opulent-looking villas in Trouville-sur-Mer and Cabourg embellished their houses with decorative ceramic roof ornaments made in this multi century pottery.



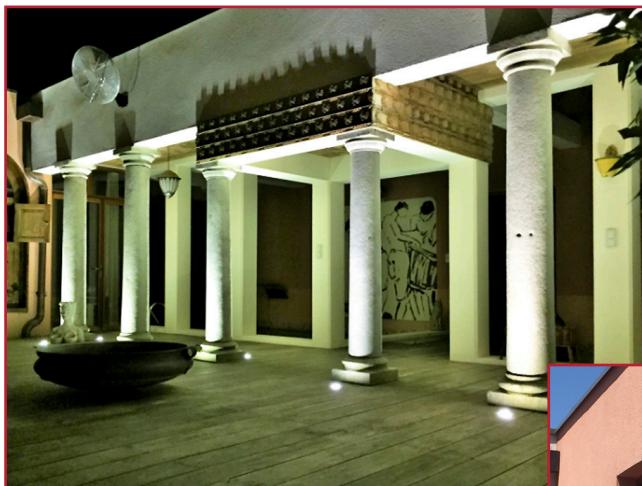
INSPIRATIONS...

Villa « Vasco de Gama » is a place of poetry that cultivated its connections to Baudelaire and the primary colours representing different cultures. The most important journey is internal....

*Like the long echoes that from afar blend together
In a deep and mysterious unity,
Vast like the night and clarity,
The perfumes, colours and sounds respond*

It is also a place of optimistic and curious poetry like the butterfly of Lamartine

*It resembles desire, that never settles down,
And without satisfying itself, brushes over all things
Finally returning to heaven to find exquisite pleasure !*



When the night arrives the moucharabiehs light up and create an ambiance, reflections and shapes. Like this the transparencies appear, whilst in the square courtyard the pillars define the space.

The show takes place under the hypertheoretical eye of the soldiers : the wall lamps designed and created in the ironwork market in Marrakech that outline the contours of the sentry's helmets that guard the passing night.



In the doorway, like in a tabernacle, a central flower is found, surrounded on the outside by a band of teak wood on which rows of sculpted bees turn clockwise, condemned to turn incessantly without ever touching the flower !



Set in a haven of greenery, the Villa « Vasco de Gama » offers a rare level of comfort as much in the space as the services provided :

- The first level of comfort of the Villa is the spaces, outside and inside. Outside there are over 300m² of terrasse and passages in granite or merbau. Inside the Villa offers an optimum comfort for 6 people : it offers 3 suites, of which the master suite on the ground floor has a living space of 70m² ;
- The relaxation room has asiatic tones and proposes a spa for 2/3 persons, and a Hammam for 3/4 persons with massage, lighting and aromatherapy ;
- A salt swimming pool g-heated with an electric heat pump ;
- an aesthetic square courtyard with a terrasse of 100m² equipped with an elegant lighting system
- an electric gate , integrated sound system, domotic electric installation, distribution cabinet (...)



The Villa « Vasco de Gama » has applied a very forward thinking ecological approach. The design of the construction of the house makes it a particularly ecological home.

- The villa is energy efficient . It is remarkably positioned with a high Grade B energy rating. With a grade of 65, it fulfils the level of a low consumption house (B.B.C.) : 65,58kWhEP/m² per year for the villa)
- The villa is also economical in terms of its greenhouse gas emissions and is in the second zone (B/G) with a grade of 9 (Estimated emissions : 9,07 kg éqCO₂/m²/year)
- The villa recuperates the rainwater and recycles it for all non alimentary or corporal use.
- The villa being situated on the hills manages to limit its impacts on the water flows due to its flat vegetal roof that delays the process of runoff and therefore soil erosion.