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KALIC  
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# VISI

## SUMMER

**BE SWEEP AWAY** TO SEVEN HOLIDAY HAVENS

**REVEL IN ROMANCE** WITH STUART TAYLOR, DAVID KRAMER AND MORE

**FEAST YOUR EYES** ON THE ÜBER-COOL NEW VIRGIN HEALTH CLUB

**4 REASONS TO LOVE DECOR + DESIGN + ARCHITECTURE**



01 Accessible only via a narrow stone  
bridge that was built in 1945, the  
beachside of Aiea is situated just  
off the coast of Māhala, a historic  
village.

# P R I V A T E

Just off the east coast of Mauritius, Tatiana Schaub has resuscitated her childhood holiday house with practical luxury. On a utopian private island, it offers the perfect foil to her busy life in Paris.

# PARADISE

PHOTOS RUSSELL SMITH/FRANK FEATURES  
PRODUCTION LUANNE TOMS WORDS KERRYN FISCHER



# HOW

Tatiana Schaub never manages to leave her magnificent Mauritian style. Elton and return to her life in Paris is beyond us. First there's the remarkable island, with sole access via a narrow bridge that affords absolute privacy and a feeling of being apart at sea. Then there's the house, a wood-and-stone beachfront-luxe affair that hunkers down on a bed of volcanic rock surrounded by natural rock pools and a hedge of palm and pine trees. And last, but by no means least, a seductive sequence of Indian Ocean views that vie for your attention through every window and door.

Down-to-earth luxury sums up the place. Tatiana has ensured that every comfort and convenience necessary for utter relaxation is on hand, without sacrificing that most essential of holiday ingredients: an altered reality. Here, daily routines involve ground regular dips in the sea, reading, lunch on the

veranda and obligatory afternoon croissants. "I can be here for an entire week without crossing the bridge once," says Tatiana. "All the fishermen bring lobster and fresh fish daily, and Tessen, who sells the most delicious ribs, is a regular visitor on his bike. My housekeeper brings whatever else I may need, like fresh bread and vegetables."

Elton has been in Tatiana's family for more than 30 years. It belonged to her uncle, who had a brood of eight children, with whom Tatiana spent many a school holiday. "I have wonderful memories of annually Christmas lunches at long tables under the trees where the uncle performed various operatic songs while we kids caught crabs and jerkies on the rocks to make fish soup," she recalls.

Born in Mauritius, Tatiana was schooled in Paris and built up her career in real-estate investments there. Her dream of commuting between the two became a reality seven years ago when the opportunity arose to buy the house from her cousin.

"When I was a child, I loved the serenity of Océan when it came to renovating. I wasn't after a sophisticated look as much, as a mix of good-quality natural and tough materials that would age well in a subtropical climate prone to cyclones."

Tatiana, local architect Edouard Foenig and Paris-based architect Gabriel Guémou, tackled the project head on. "We raised the foundations of the house by bringing in 30 tons of sand, to a high-tide level that surpassed previous cyclones. Yes, we're probably tempting fate," laughs Tatiana. "But it was really more of a precautionary measure — the only real risk is the bridge, as it has been washed away countless times."

All that remains of the old house now is a solid four-wall base, which houses the living room. "We demolished everything else but decided to keep this, as it was the heart of the original home," explains Tatiana. "And because the 65-year-old walls made of thick rock were still in good condition."

When it came to the finishes, flow and requirements of the new space, Tatiana's love was challenging and her decisions often contrary to the advice of her architects. "I love natural materials and the way they change over time, so instead of plastic or aluminium, I insisted on natural wood for the door and window frames."

Another requirement was that all trees remain untouched in the construction period. "There are very few plants that can grow here and so their survival in such an aggressive environment — they heavily grew on a bed of rock — made them precious to me."

The decoration of the house, merging local craftsmanship with imported designs, is just as considered. Tatiana worked with local interior decorator Adrien Montocchio, who designed all the fixed pieces of furniture. The understated simplicity blends childhood memories (old family photographs) and Tatiana's love of the natural world (stones, wood and shells picked up on her travels) with a sharp style (Philippe Starck chairs and David Light that complements rather than detracts from the beauty lying beyond Elton's doorway).

"Whenever I walk in here I feel the magic of my childhood, together with a deep sense of contentment that comes from living in harmony with the elements," she says. **V**

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"A DEEP SENSE OF  
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01 The front terrace is "the heart and soul of the house," says Tamara. "It's great for parties. We've had birthdays, engagements and even a wedding here!"

02 Beyond the sand and the rock pool is the veranda, equipped with blinds that can be let down to keep the sun's glare at bay.

