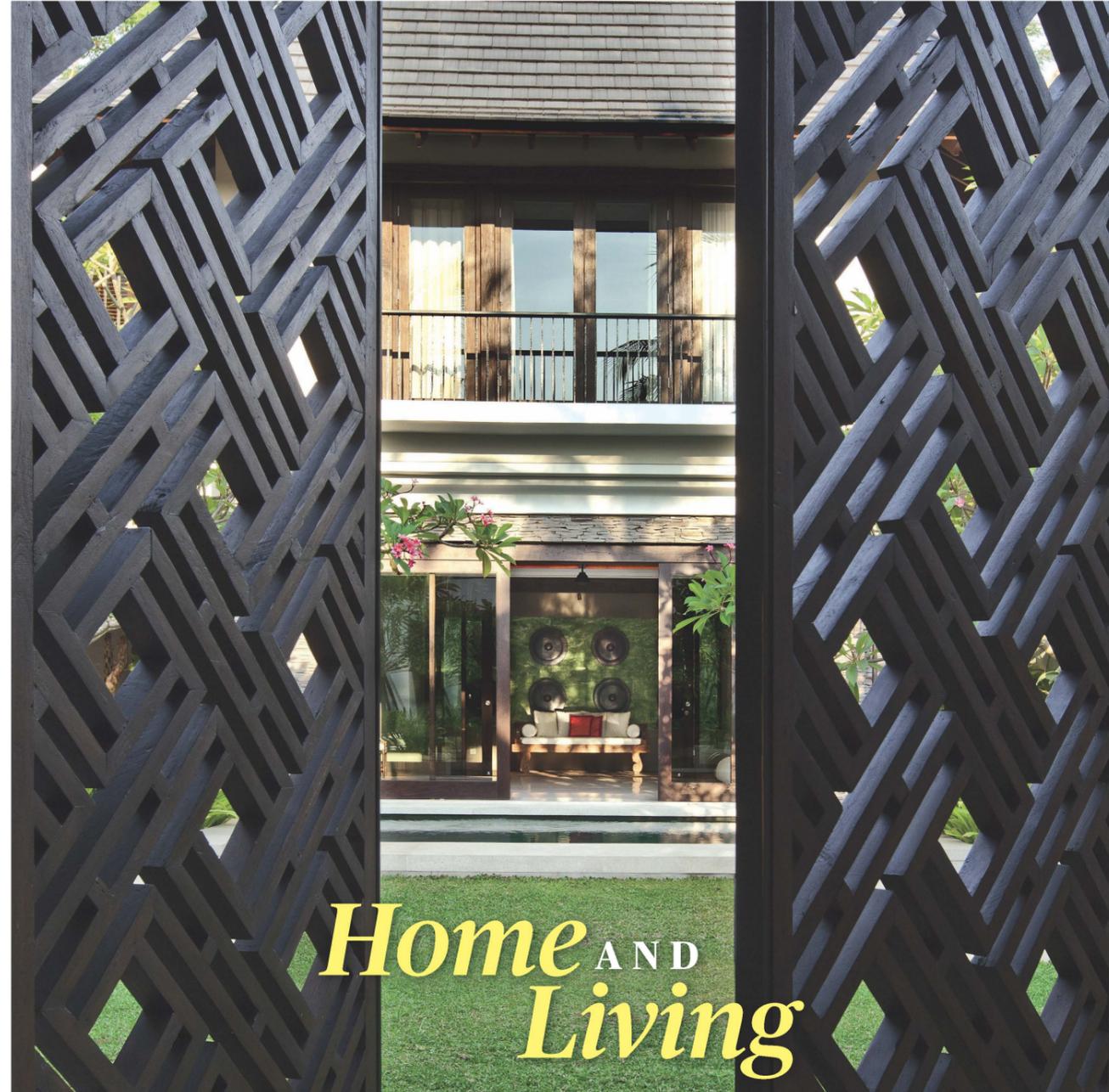


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Home AND
Living



A Gem by the Sea

Spending the night by the sea means falling asleep to the gentle sound of rolling waves, waking up looking at the clear blue sky and a glistening stretch of sand. It sounds like a perfect resort getaway or a decadent weekend at a private beach house. Blankpage Architects gets to design one of these desirable seaside properties in Amchit, Lebanon. The residence protrudes into the Mediterranean Sea, offering a stunning oceanic view outside and an attractive minimalistic design within. Step into this gem by the sea that is the Amchit Residence.

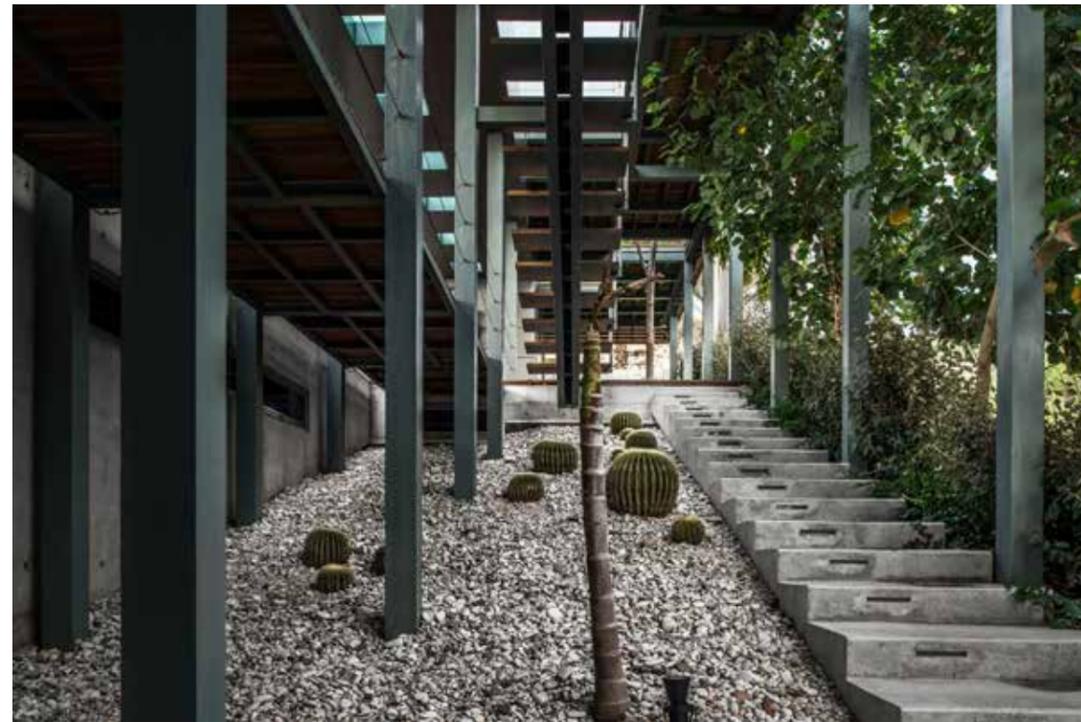
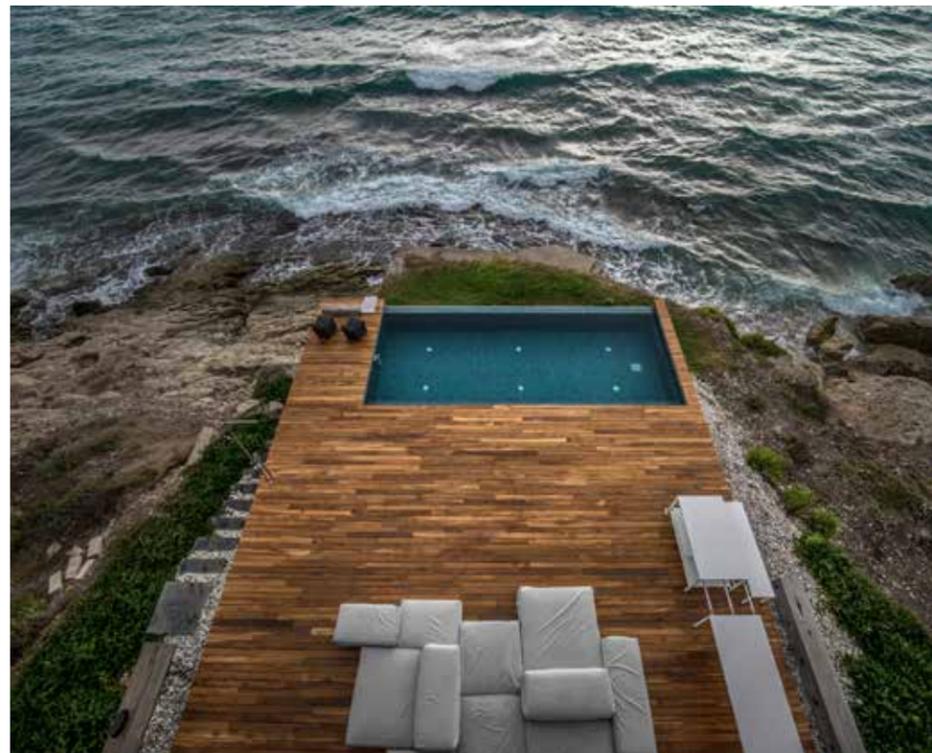
STORY BY Natasha Gan
PHOTO BY Ieva Saudargaite



The Amchit Residence is a short drive away from the city of Byblos, the oldest continuously inhabited port in the world. It takes a foothold on a rocky terrain and continues to jut out into the Mediterranean like a pier. Its entrance, lined with looming palm trees and surrounded by coastal shrubs, is unassuming, yet it's a gateway to a project of excellent architecture.

The street-level entrance is the second of three levels that make up the relatively compact house (10 by 44 metres, roughly 450 sqm in total). This floor has two bedrooms and a stylish living room. Unlike its dramatic location, the Amchit Residence's design is uncluttered, simple but with a naval feel. It's coloured almost entirely in the same neutral shades as its concrete and ceramic floors and wood-paneled ceilings, accented by the greeneries intertwining the property.

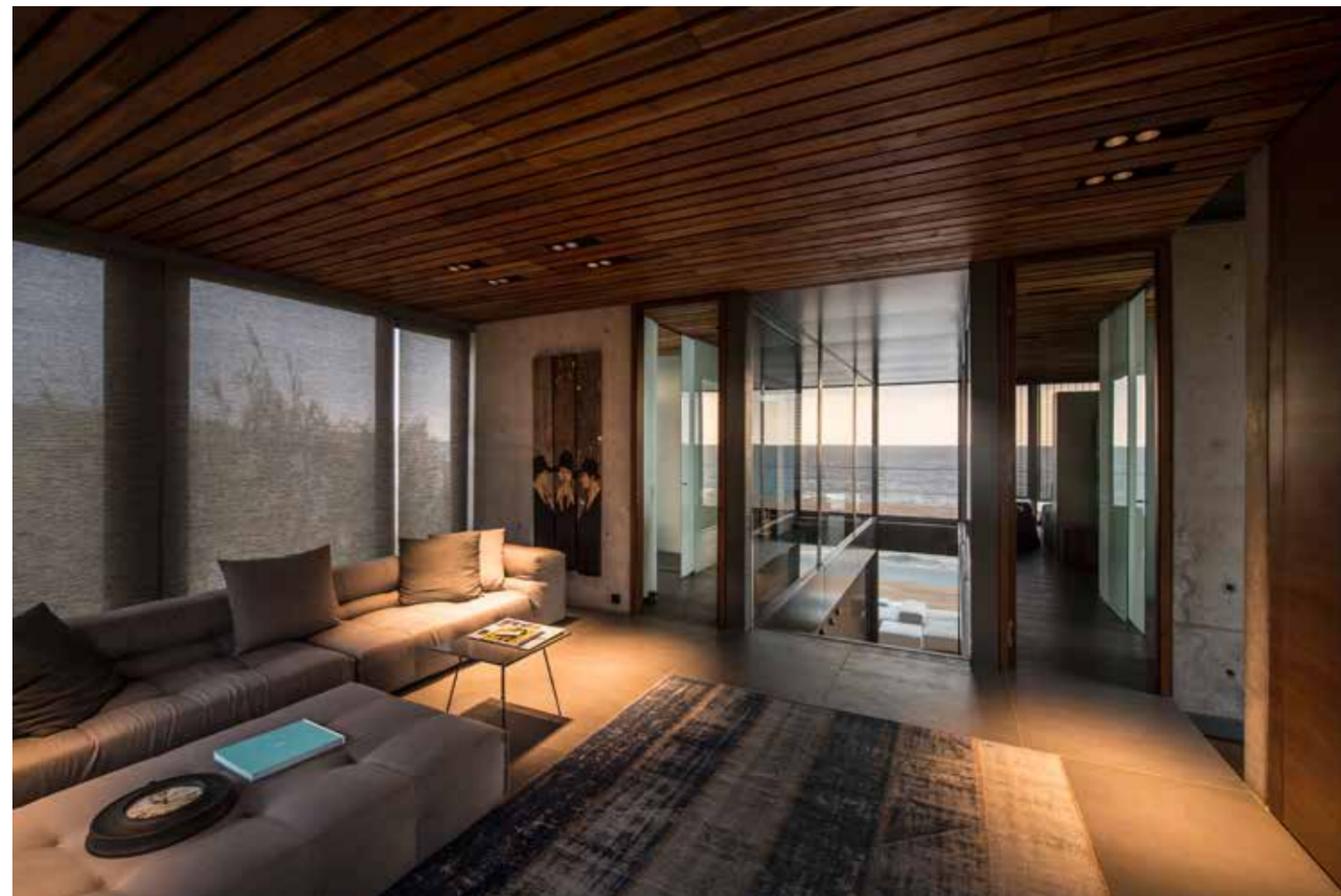
A staircase descends into the basement level that has the common areas, which includes an open kitchen merged into a



dining area and an adjoining living room. Stand in between these two areas and look up to find a void in the ceiling, revealing a sliver of the sky. On the same level also reside a gym, an expansive deck to sunbathe or stargaze and an infinity swimming pool with access to the shore.

Two levels above this neat plunge pool, on the highest elongated platform of the house, is a fetching 25-metre lap pool. Though pretty, the pool – its construction in particular – was one of the hurdles during the construction. The original plans to suspend it above ground level, on ultra-thin metallic structure were either too costly or detrimental to the aesthetics, prompting Lebanon-based Blankpage to collaborate with a fibre-glass boat manufacturer to add this tactile feature to the compound.

Now it lines the entrance to one of the best spots in the house and the culmination of the property's transcendental openness: the master bedroom. Clad in floor-to-ceiling glass



Project Data

Project Name
Amchit Residence
Location
Amchit, Lebanon
Gross Floor Area
430 sqm
Architecture Consultant
Blankpage Architects
(Karim Nader, Patrick Mezher, Walid Ghantous)
Architect in Charge
Jemma Chidiac
Mechanical Engineering
Bachir Saade
Electrical Engineering
Roger Noujeim
Structural Engineering
Antoine Bou Chedid
Design Process
May 2009 - May 2010
Groundbreaking
January 2011
Construction Completed
August 2014



windows, the room has an unobstructed view of the Mediterranean Sea. The bed is conveniently placed to face the view and a balcony outside. From the sheets to the upholstery, the room is dressed in oceanic tones to match the breathtaking view, harmonized with warm brown colours from the Burma teak flooring.

Blankpage, led by trio Karim Nader, Patrick Mezher and Walid Ghantous, started drafting designs of the residence back in May 2009 for an urban-dweller who longed for a chill place to escape the hustle and bustle of the city. The client finally had his dream home-away-from-home when the Amchit Residence was completed in August 2014.

“Personally we consider the project a big success in the sense that it is one of those rare instances whereby architecture not only aesthetically and precisely responds to the client’s needs but also in its turn instills within the occupant new habits and rituals,” states Blankpage. The Amchit Residence is more than just a weekend getaway, as originally planned. The owner, compelled by the elegance of his seaside gem, admittedly turned it into a regular retreat. **ID**

