

**HOUSE OF THE MONTH**

# FREE SPIRIT

*One of the original supermodels, Tatjana Patitz has swapped jet-set style for a hip home full of salvaged finds and treasures from around the globe*

Jewel-bright ochre and blue-glass vases bring play to the kitchen windowsill. Atelier Altagard Abecassis' earthen sculptural and embossed ramekins and quarry pieces. Fired in lantern-like this at Pauline. (Ballard) vintage-style ceramic lamps.

The property

**TYPE** Spanish-style, split-level ranch.  
**SPACE** Four bedrooms, open-plan, double-height living areas, dining room, galley-kitchen, library-den, office space, two bathrooms and sunroom; with a tree-lined garden, horse paddock and stables, spread over ten acres.  
**LOCATION** Malibu, California.

EDITION: Malibu, California



**H**er first house was a simple, two-story bungalow in a quiet neighborhood in New Jersey. "It was the perfect place for us," says Tajana, "but it was too far from the city." So when she and her husband, Michael, moved to Manhattan in 1995, they sold their home and bought a studio apartment in the West Village. "It was a great place to live, but we wanted to have a garden, so we started looking for a house in the country," she says. "Michael had been to the Catskills a few times, and he thought it would be a perfect place for us to go. We found one in the Catskills, and we fell in love with it."

After moving to the Catskills, Tajana began to research the area's history. "I found out that the town of Olivebridge had been founded by a man named John D. Catlin, who was a Quaker," she says. "He was a very kind man, and he built a schoolhouse for the children in the town. He also built a church, and he was a very important figure in the community. I was really impressed by his work, and I decided to name my new home after him."

Tajana's new home is a two-story bungalow with a wrap-around porch. She has added a sunroom to the back of the house, which now contains a large dining room and a kitchen. The house is surrounded by trees and shrubs, and there is a small garden in front. Tajana loves to spend time in her garden, growing vegetables and flowers. She also enjoys reading books and listening to music. She has a dog, a white boxer named Max, who is a constant companion. Tajana is a member of the local Quaker community and attends services at the Friends Meeting House in Olivebridge. She is also involved in the local arts scene, and she often volunteers at local events.

#### VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

For lots more pictures of Tajana's home, as well as other inspirational spaces, visit [tinyurl.com/tajana](http://tinyurl.com/tajana).

The writer  
Peggy McNamee  
photographs: Michael



ABOVE LEFT Tajana, with four-year-old James, will star in a documentary about her work for animal charities.

ABOVE RIGHT The informal eating area, off the gallery kitchen, is simple, with a long, oak table and mismatched chairs, from a local antique sale. Find a table like this in Lombardy. The iron chandelier came from a flea market in Paris; find similar at Rummage.

LEFT Tajana has brought old-fashioned charm into her kitchen with a Shaker-style unit and rough-hewn table, both from a shop near Capri, and shelves made from salvaged wood. Visit salvecasa.it to find your nearest salvage yard. Check out Mandarino Store for a stone sink.



Unspanned walls line the exterior bathroom, and units of European made-in-the-garden tiles lead to the outdoor shower. The Pottery Tile Company can create unique mosaic flooring for the bathroom, deck, and the sitting room chair, says the building's designer.



#### *From Tugima did...*

- Removed the living room ceiling.
- Replaced the ceiling with a solid one from salvaged wood.
- Created a porch in scrap yards.
- Installed a wrought-iron bed.
- Stripped the walls and left them as unprinted plaster.
- Added an en-suite bathroom with an outside shower, and a rustic stone tub.
- Created the Rustic-themed section of wood-coopered shelves and stone sink.
- Selected vintage finds for everything... from old Portuguese lanterns from the Algarve, to lighting fixtures.



The house is now complete, but there's still some construction. Tugima fitted a skylight so that I can wake up to the sun and get in touch with the stars. For a similar bedroom, try Ophira. The White Company has bedding and BE soft lighting.



**LEFT** French doors open onto a plant-filled terrace with a cushioned sun lounger and views over the garden to the ocean beyond.

**BELLOW LEFT** Neutral walls and soft textures create a restful space in Tatjana's bedroom. The shapes carved into the headboard reflect her dedication to keeping nature close by.

**BELLOW RIGHT** An audience member's photograph and關係圖 of Tatjana's bedroom and bathroom. The photograph shows a boy standing on a wooden staircase. The text describes the room's rustic, reclaimed wood and bamboo elements.



This hall has huge perforated doors and is strewn with textiles and items from markets and bazaars in Africa and Asia. The staircase was made from reclaimed wood. Try Zara Home for cushioned bedsheets, and Marques' for fabrics.

### Home truths

**What's your philosophy?**  
Live in the moment.

**How has style shaped your life?**  
I'm not a follower of fashion. I prefer simplicity – a crisp white shirt and a pair of well-fitted jeans.

**Do you mix the glamour of fashion?**  
I have formal occasions, but I don't mix it. I love mixing the organic and natural with lots of patchwork – different patches.

**What has life taught you?** That you can get by on very little. I try to live lightly – growing my own vegetables, herbs and flowers; collecting turquoise. **Musical influences?** People who live by their hearts, follow their heart and respect creatures and nature – the things that are often considered insignificant.

For stockist details, see page 142

