

AT HOME WITH...

Tatjana Patitz

One of the biggest supermodels of the Nineties, Tatjana Patitz has swapped the jet-set for the simple life in rural California

Even among the ranks of the supermodel elite, Tatjana Patitz is a class apart. Now 42, she looks virtually unchanged since photographer Peter Lindbergh shot her for the cover of British *Vogue* back in 1990, flanked by fellow supers Naomi Campbell, Christy Turlington and Cindy Crawford. Described by Peter as a 'well-read, well-travelled sophisticate who wrote poetry and worried about the perils of wildlife' even in her modelling days, Tatjana now leads an exquisitely sparse existence in her four-bedroom California ranch, which she shares with her four-year-old son Jonah and her collection of cats, dogs and horses. A spokesperson for several animal-rescue charities, she's swapped modelling for making documentaries and recently produced a film about America's vanishing mustangs.

Spread across two acres of prime Malibu real estate, her sun-filled home, which she bought 15 years ago and has renovated with recycled wood and salvaged materials, is decorated with antique furniture and stacks of books. Her love of nature pervades every surface, from the door handles made of twigs to windowsills studded with mother-of-pearl.

So, what attracted you to your home? I fell in love with the place because of its seclusion and wildness – it's the perfect place for my son and my animals.

What does your home mean to you? It's my refuge, a haven of peace and tranquillity.

How would you describe your style? It's eclectic and rustic. I like simplicity, sparseness and enduring elegance. But I'm not really precious about anything; some of the furniture is worn or scratched to the bone by my cats, and my garden is wild and uncultivated, the way it should be.

What colours and textures have you used and why?

I have no paint on the walls; it's pure plaster. I've always been drawn to natural colours – creams, beiges, browns and flashes of green; and earthy textured fabrics: soft organic cottons and jewelled throws.

What's your favourite way to relax at home? I enjoy sitting in the garden, meditating, reading and playing with my son and the dogs. I also like to entertain – cook simple suppers, watch old movies or go for moonlight walks.

In which part of your home are you at your most creative? Creativity is inside of you and goes wherever you are. But a peaceful, stimulating environment helps. Having harmony in my life is important and finding joy in what I do every day.



WORKS: BRITT COLLINS; INCLUDES: DAVID POOLE



From top Tatjana's light and sensuous Californian home is filled with vintage pieces from flea markets and bazaars; clay sculptures; old riding gear; mementoes from friends and treasures from her travels. 'I love the books in my house and my photographs, which are displayed everywhere,' she says **DECO**

I've collected things from all around the world, but I'm not particularly sentimental about objects'