

# LUXURY

LUXURY MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2017



# MEXICO RISING

MODERN RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE IN MEXICO  
HARNESSES NATURAL MATERIALS AND INDIGENOUS  
CRAFTS IN THE SERVICE OF MODERN STYLE.

by Jorge S. Arango



Mexico, Oaxaca



David Joseph



## 8. SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE, GUANAJUATO

**Architecture & Interiors:** David Howell and Steffani Aarons, DHD Architecture & Design, *dhd.nyc* **Square feet:** 12,000 **Bedrooms:** 6 **Baths:** 6½ **Most Mexican Moves:** Native materials, vaulted brick boveda ceilings, colorful accent walls, rugs, and textiles.

Sometimes accused of being overrun by expats and tourists, the artist mecca of San Miguel is nevertheless a UNESCO World Heritage Site. And it's the town's authentic spirit that attracted furniture maker John Houshmand (*johnhoushmand.com*). So when he decided to build a home, says architect David Howell, "We wanted something appropriate that's rooted in the culture. It had to do with what's magic about the place while you're here." Though the resulting hacienda is fundamentally modern, it also showcases traditional work of local artisans: *boveda* ceilings, terra cotta tile floors, handmade metal lighting, and extensive stonework. Inside, says designer Steffani Aarons, "We didn't want it to be a showroom of John's furniture." So she mixed some of Houshmand's distinctive wood slab pieces—two sofas, a pair of dining tables—with Mexican treasures found while "roadside antique shopping." Aarons also worked with local artisans on textiles, rugs, and tile "that brought in the colors of the desert." >