

AD

Hollywood  
power couple  
**VIOLA DAVIS &  
JULIUS TENNON**  
at home in LA



# CHANGING THE GAME

visionary design from Mallorca  
to the Rocky Mountains

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**L**yson Strang and Tatiana Baibabaeva never imagined that they would relocate from New York City to Mallorca full-time, let alone that the move would spark an interior-design career. But the Balearic fates had surprises in store for this creative couple, founders of the hit ceramics studio Terra Coll Clayworks. After a 2015 home exchange introduced them to the agrarian heart of the island, the duo dreamed of a local summer escape, eventually buying a finca to make their own. What was meant to be a short-term trip in autumn 2020 then became an

open-ended stay, and their renovation a catalyst for jobs across the island. "The whole thing has been very one step at a time," notes Strang, likening the process to "discovering new trees as we went deeper into the forest."

Curiosity has always served them well. Back in New York, the two first picked up ceramics as a hobby, heading to the studio on nights and weekends to experiment with glazes and silhouettes. (At the time, she worked in fashion; he was an assistant principal at a public school.) When ABC Carpet & Home hosted an open call for new makers, they each signed up. But on the day of the event, they spontaneously joined forces, mixing their respective wares into one display and ultimately wowing buyers with their elemental finishes and





THE POTTERY SHED IS LINED IN A STONE MOSAIC. OPPOSITE THE KITCHEN OPENS ONTO THE LIVING AREA; SOFA BY GERVASONI.

intuitive approach to form. Terra Coll vessels soon lined the shelves of top galleries and boutiques across the country.

Today the two share an art practice, a growing family, an email address, and an ethos—textured, warm, a little wild—that they’ve explored at a large scale while transforming their finca. “Our first job was to strip everything that wasn’t old and beautiful in our eyes,” recalls Strang of the farmhouse, which dates back an estimated 300 years but had undergone some insensitive changes in recent decades. “We kept anything timeworn.”

With the original stonework revealed, the duo began their own interventions, learning new techniques as they tackled surfaces by hand. Walls were slathered in natural tadelakt, a waterproof Moroccan plaster. “It’s soft to the touch, beautiful,

quite minimalist,” notes Baibabaeva, comparing the labor-intensive process to ceramics on account of its drying and smoothing steps. Jokes Strang, “We just figured it out for ourselves, YouTube video in one hand, polishing stone in the other.” The arrival of their son, Ferran, now three, required some midnight shifts and clever childcare solutions, such as a ceiling-suspended baby jumper where he could bounce while Mom and Dad toiled away. (Their second child is due any day.)

Floors inside and out are covered in their take on traditional pebble mosaics, with radiating patterns that call to mind the swirling lines of Zen rock gardens or the geometries of mandalas. Their bespoke mortar—a mix of cement and local sand—achieves just the right hue, balancing the palette while