

This extraordinary cavelike apartment is in the ancient port city of Jaffa (also known as Yafo), less than 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) south of Tel Aviv. Part of a network of centuries-old stone dwellings clinging to a hill, the sea-facing residence had grown organically over the years. It was originally made up of a series of individual rooms, each on its own floor, which were connected by steps and closed off by doors, resulting in a dark, labyrinthine space. Local practice Pitsou Kedem Architects transformed the apartment, bringing all the rooms onto the same level to create a sense of flow between them, and removing most internal doors, increasing light and opening up sea views. Balancing an aesthetic that is at once modern and traditional, the firm covered the original ceiling decoration

with white stucco, but removed the plaster covering the inside of the impressive domed roof above the kitchen in layers to expose the beautiful stone underneath. Elsewhere, arched walls and ceilings were painted white to illuminate the space as much as possible. Contrasting black tin detailing emphasizes doorways, window frames, furniture, and shelving. Now surprisingly open and spacious, the home includes a main bedroom, kitchen, dining room, living room, and outdoor terrace. It feels sleek, minimalist, and almost Art Deco in its aesthetic. Pops of bright color enliven the monochrome palette, and the eye is continuously drawn to the sea, its blues always framed by the apartment's curving lines.



