

DESIGN INNOVATIONS FOR PROFESSIONALS

MONITOR

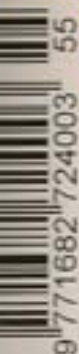
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**Ali RAHIM &
Hina JAMELLE**

+ light special

plus guedes.decampos watanabe slade rojkind/big macullo psa tajchman arboit distler callebaut dotdotdot



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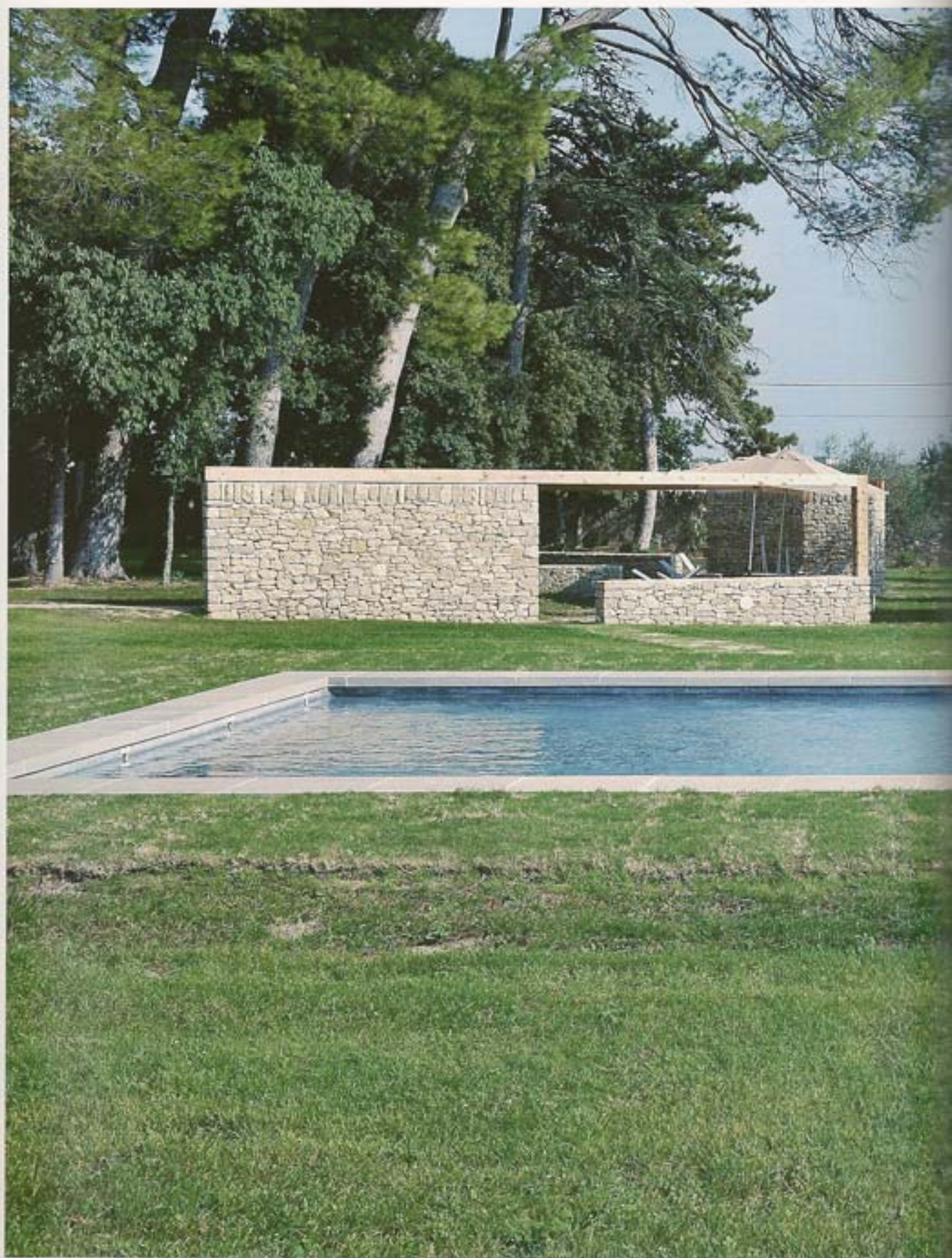






pool house // uzes à france

DESIGN: DAVIDE MACULLO ARCHITECT WITH MARCO STROZZI
PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ARCHITECT





Having started from the owner's request to conceal the mechanical room for his pool, this project has evolved into a challenge of dealing with an extraordinary historic property in one of France's most fascinating landscapes. The design intervention took place in a region traditionally chosen by artists for its quality of light and colours. Architect Davide Macullo aimed to preserve the original atmosphere of the site while changing the place substantially. Besides, Macullo was impressed by the client's intentions: this enchanting property has been acquired in order to become a meeting point for a large family of 25.

The property distinguishes a number of clearly defined zones: the main building, the *vallée*, the atelier, the ancient well, the animal house, the park, the olive trees plantation, the garden and the boundary walls. It became instantly clear that the intervention would involve the creation of a new architectural presence within the property. The project takes advantage of the less defined borderline between two areas: a spontaneous grouping of taller trees towards the main house — and an olive plantation. Unlike other areas that are clearly divided and structured, these two are set at the edges of the historical tissue due to the weird position of the pool (probably built in accordance with the symmetrical scheme of the Italian garden). The aim of the new design is to recognize the individual character of this part of the property and use the new structure for highlighting the beauty and identity of the adjacent areas. The project shifts the barycentre of the entire property and, in a way, reclaims the territory southwards, adding one more usable place. Macullo has arranged a series of walls between the olives, the grove of tall trees, the boundary wall, and the pool; the walls connect these landscape elements and engage them in an unexpected relationship. They define new fragments of space, each with its own distinctive characteristic and atmosphere, even though together these fragments form one entity. Just like the antique walls, the new ones are built out of the local stone: this uniform appearance makes it possible to integrate the new structure in its historic surroundings while enlarging the overall scale of the place. The architect describes his project as «a fluent sequence of perceptions, reaching its climax in the centre that becomes a kind of refuge for the senses».