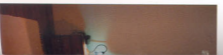


Perleas Mansion includes seven apartments that house around 14 guests. The building is constructed from the local red and green stone.
[Photo: Iliadros Iliadros]



4 The ornamental pool provides a natural means of keeping the resort's temperature down.

PERLEAS MANSION

CHIOS, GREECE

The Aegean island of Chios, with a population of just 50,000, is a beautiful place that time seems to have forgotten. The area of Kampos, once the thriving site of wealthy landowners' estates, has seen its former occupants abandon the region for the mainland, leaving the fertile lands unused. It was into this forlorn situation that the current owners, Vagelis and Claire Ayda, arrived when they bought Perleas Mansion in 1996. The area of Kampos has a vibrant tradition of building estates to a specific blueprint; this consists of the

1 The main house overlooks a central courtyard which, following the layout of traditional estates in this area, is covered by a pergola with a wooden banchet for draining drinking water, covered by a pergola. [Photo: Hideo's Loftos]

2 The pale color of the local stone used in the buildings gives the whole estate a light softness.

3 In rebuilding the mansion, the architect used many local materials and furnishings as possible.



main owners' house and a "superintendent's" house separated by a central yard, with subsidiary buildings for storage and animals set apart from these main houses. The central yard features a main well with a cistern and water reserve, always covered by a pergola.

Architect Maria Xyda was charged with the renovation of the neglected mansion. The original three-story main building, built around 1750, was reduced to a single-story wreck in 1881 by an earthquake that devastated much of the island.



Maria used as much as she could from the rubble of the house to rebuild the two new steps, and any missing elements were sourced locally.

The owners' decision to turn the renovated mansion into a hotel allows them to invest more time and money into reweaving the whole estate. They have planted many trees, including oranges, tangerine, and lemon, plus olive groves from which they produce oil. They have gained organic accreditation for all the produce they grow, and make seasonal fruit jams which are enjoyed by



4 Plan of Petros Mavrou's main house. Maria used as much as she could from the rubble of the original house to rebuild the two new stories, and any missing elements were sourced locally. [Plan: Maria Xyda]

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guests and sold at organic food shops on the island. The relaxed, back-to-basics lifestyle seems to have won many fans. Maria's business partner Demetri Kakouris comments, "The way of life is so attractive that many people who've stayed here even express the desire to buy a house like this in Kampos and repeat the same model!"