



## **EXPLORA JOURNEYS INTRODUCES A SECOND OWNER'S RESIDENCE, DESIGNED BY PATRICIA URQUIOLA, ON EXPLORA III AND IV**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 22 January 2026** – Explora Journeys, the luxury ocean travel brand of the MSC Group, today unveils a new interpretation of its Owner's Residence through an exclusive collaboration with Patricia Urquiola, one of the world's most celebrated architects and designers. Launching aboard EXPLORA III in summer 2026 and EXPLORA IV in 2027, this collaboration adds a second Owner's Residence to each of these ships while reflecting a shared vision of modern ocean living – an emotional and sensory journey through design, light and movement.

Known for her unmistakable vision, human-centred approach and mastery of materials, Patricia Urquiola brings her distinctive perspective first to EXPLORA III. Embarking on an exclusive Mediterranean Prelude Journey on 24<sup>th</sup> July, her Maiden Voyage from Barcelona to Lisbon on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and Journeys through new destinations in Northern Europe, Iceland and Greenland later in the year, EXPLORA III is the first Explora Journeys' ship to offer two Owner's Residences.

Positioned aft on Decks 7 and 8, the Owner's Residences are the largest and most exclusive homes available aboard EXPLORA III. Each offers 280 sqm of thoughtfully composed space – of which 125 sqm is devoted to a sweeping terrace covering the ship's full width. The Owner's Residence by Patricia Urquiola is positioned on Deck 7, opening to uninterrupted views across the stern of the ship to establish an ever-present connection with the ocean. With oversized windows framing the sea as living art, the 155 sqm interior encompasses an elegant living and dining area, complemented by a spacious ensuite bedroom.

*"Patricia's work reflects a sensibility naturally aligned with Explora Journeys," said Anna Nash, President of Explora Journeys. "She understands how considered design can evoke emotion and how the right balance of light, texture and form immediately imbues a sense of ease. This is central to our Ocean State of Mind, which invites guests to slow down and feel fully connected to their surroundings. In the Owner's Residence, Patricia has translated that philosophy into spaces that feel generous, grounded and deeply attuned to the sea."*

*"I imagined the Owner's Residence as a space to be inhabited with the body as much as with the eyes, where textures and materials create a sense of protection while remaining open to the movement of the sea. For me, it is about creating a sense of belonging on the water. The project grew through a long-standing relationship of trust and continuous dialogue with the Aponte family and this project reflects that"* said Patricia Urquiola.

Rooted in a Mediterranean sensibility – earthy tones, sun-warmed neutrals, natural textures – the Owner's Residence by Patricia Urquiola has been conceived as an intimate nest that moves with the rhythm of the sea. It is a space shaped by light, proportion and materiality to invite presence and ease, redefining what it means to feel at home at sea. Reflecting exceptional artisanal craftsmanship, a curated selection of iconic furniture by Cassina – many items designed by Urquiola herself – as well as Kettal and Moroso brings together Italian design heritage and contemporary style. Every element has been carefully considered to evoke a sense of calm, comfort and emotional connection.



Urquiola's palette celebrates bronze metals that catch shifting light, while Cipollino and Travertino marble lend mineral warmth. Ribbed woods introduce gentle waves of texture, complemented by oak parquet, terracotta modules and soft fabrics that together create a grounded, tactile harmony. Materials have been layered with care, each surface chosen for how it responds to light. Her fluid composition ensures each area transitions almost imperceptibly to the next, with an air of stillness and unhurried comfort woven throughout.

Complemented by an expansive dressing room, the bedroom features a bespoke king-sized bed layered in fine linens, the Liquefy low table by Urquiola for Glas Italia and a Ruff armchair by Moroso. The marble bathroom includes a double vanity, generous bathtub, separate rain shower and steam room.

In the living area, Patricia Urquiola's design is expressed through her Sengu table for eight, Dudet chairs as well as her Sengu sofa system. Andreu World's Oru stools provide seating at the bar counter. A guest powder room and private pantry are thoughtful features, and soft, diffused lighting – including the Nocta II lamp by Denis Castaing for Kolkhoze and the AMIN lamp by Franco Albini for Nemo Lighting – add depth and artistry throughout.

Inviting effortless movement from the interior to the terrace, the natural flow of the layout is enhanced by a continuous sculpted marble boiserie – a bespoke architectural wall treatment – extending nearly 90 uninterrupted linear metres (295 ft). On the terrace, guests can take in uninterrupted ocean views from the spacious whirlpool, gather around the alfresco dining table, or recline in beautifully appointed outdoor lounge chairs.

The residence accommodates up to four adults when connected with an Ocean Terrace Suite and offers the private butler services of a dedicated Residence Manager and team, who ensure every detail is effortlessly taken care of.

With this collaboration, Explora Journeys continues its commitment to partnering with visionary minds who redefine life at sea. The Owner's Residence by Patricia Urquiola stands as an emblem of that philosophy, offering a living space that elevates the experience of every new horizon.

**ENDS**

### **About Explora Journeys**

Explora Journeys is the privately owned luxury ocean travel brand of the MSC Group, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The brand stems from a long-held vision to redefine the ocean experience for a new generation of discerning luxury travellers, drawing on the Aponte family's 300 years of maritime heritage. Its aspiration is to create a unique 'Ocean State of Mind' by connecting guests with the sea, with themselves, and with like-minded others, while immersive itineraries blend iconic destinations with lesser-travelled ports for Journeys that inspire discovery.



Explora Journeys introduces a new style of transformative ocean travel, offering 461 oceanfront suites, penthouses, and residences (EXPLORA I & II) - each a 'Home at Sea' with floor-to-ceiling windows offering sweeping ocean views, private terrace, and elegant, spacious interiors.

Guests enjoy eleven distinct culinary experiences across six restaurants (EXPLORA I & II), in-suite dining, and Chef's Kitchen, along with twelve bars and lounges (EXPLORA I & II), five pools, extensive outdoor decks with 64 private cabanas, a holistic wellness programme, and refined entertainment. Inspired by the brand's European heritage, seated at the heart of elevated Swiss hospitality, Explora Journeys delivers intuitive service and a relaxed sense of luxury.

The first ship in the Explora Journeys fleet, EXPLORA I, was launched in July 2023, with EXPLORA II arriving in September 2024. EXPLORA III and EXPLORA IV, both LNG-powered, will follow in 2026 and 2027. EXPLORA V and EXPLORA VI are set to join the fleet in 2027 and 2028, incorporating advanced environmental technologies as part of the brand's commitment to sustainability.

To learn more about Explora Journeys, visit [explorajourneys.com](https://explorajourneys.com) or follow us on [Instagram](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and [TikTok](#).

## About Patricia Urquiola

### Architect, designer, Cassina Art Director

Patricia Urquiola studied architecture and design at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Technical University of Madrid) and completed her studies at the Politecnico di Milano (Technical University of Milan) where graduated under the mentorship of Achille Castiglioni. In Spain, she was awarded the Golden Medal for Merits in Art and received the Cross of the Order of Isabella the Catholic. In 2023, she has received her distinction as one of the new Honorary Ambassadors of Marca España. In 2024, she was appointed as a member of the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando. That same year, she was named Cavaliere della Repubblica by the President of the Italian Republic in recognition of her achievements. In 2025, Patricia Urquiola received the National Design Award for her career from the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities. She has been named Designer of the Year by Wallpaper, Dezeen, Frame, Elle Decor International, AD España and Architektur und Wohnen among other magazines.

In 2001, together with her partner Alberto Zontone, she founded her own studio where she specialised in industrial product design, architecture (hospitality, retail, residential, exhibitions and installations), art direction and strategy consulting. Patricia Urquiola has been the Art Director of Cassina since 2015 and works with important design companies, including Flos, Moroso, Driade, GAN, Andreu World, Glas Italia, cc-tapis, Kartel, Kettal, Kvadrat and international groups such as Haworth, BMW, Boeing, Louis Vuitton, Missoni, Mandarin Oriental Hotels, Four Seasons, Marriott Group, Starbucks, Ferrari and Swarovski. Patricia Urquiola is part of the advisory board of the Politecnico of Milan university, the Triennale Milano Museum and is Altagamma Honorary Member. She taught the master's degree in interior design at the Domus Academy in Milan (2013-2015) and has given lectures at Harvard University, Rhode Island School of Design, Michigan University, Shenkar School of Engineering and Design in Israel, at the Alvar Aalto Academy in Finland, at the State University and Bocconi University in Milan. She has also given talks at countless cultural events, such as Design Shanghai, Design Week in Istanbul, the Expressive Design



conference at the Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany, the Bloomberg Design Conference in San Francisco, Festarch Perugia, the Festival della Mente in Sarzana and the Mantova Literature Festival, among other events in Italy.

Patricia Urquiola's work is exhibited in many art and design museums across the world, including the MoMa in New York, the Decorative Arts Museum in Paris, the Triennale Museum in Milan, the Design Museum in Monaco, the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, the Vitra Design Museum in Basel, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, the Design Museum in Zurich, the Stedelijk Museum of modern and contemporary art in Amsterdam, the Design Museum of Barcelona and the Philadelphia Art Museum.