

stella

**GEORGIA O'KEEFFE
IN CLOSE-UP**

The real woman behind
the (very beautiful)
public face

**CANCER:
THE CARTOON**

One twentysomething's
heartwarminglly wry
take on its toll

**SUMMER
ON A PLATE**

Diana Henry's
sensational
salmon recipes

plus
THE DINKIEST
LITTLE BLACK DRESSES
OUT THERE

**DOLL OF THE VALLEYS
THE CUTE,
ASTUTE
CHARLOTTE CHURCH**



FADED

Step inside this serene and seemingly sun-bleached loft and you could be forgiven for thinking you were in the Mediterranean not a former warehouse down an inner-city alleyway. By **Muriel Zagha**

It's always utter chaos in my head,' the ebullient French interior designer Roxane Beïs declares with self-deprecation. 'So I must have peace and order in my living space.' And, indeed, her makeover of a thoroughly unprepossessing warehouse from graffitied, decaying squat to serene white loft is a masterly lesson in making order out of chaos.

Beïs, who had been looking for a large live-and-work space, bought the abandoned warehouse, set in an alleyway in the 20th arrondissement of Paris, at auction. 'It was the rotten lot that nobody wanted,' she remembers with a smile. 'It looked repulsive.' The main problem – besides an advanced state of dereliction – was the almost complete absence of light. 'It used to be a printworks and they worked in the dark,' Beïs explains. But the designer knew the space had potential and was determined to unlock it. It turned out to be a long-term project: it took nine years to complete.

It was the last phase that proved the most rewarding. Beïs had facing walls of the loft (overlooking the alleyway and the courtyard respectively) fitted with large industrial-style picture windows to let in the light, while



THE LIVING-ROOM, WITH ITS BLEACHED-OAK FLOOR AND THE HUGE WINDOWS INSTALLED BY BEÏS. THE COFFEE TABLE, A BEÏS DESIGN, IS MADE FROM RAILWAY SLEEPERS. SHE ALSO DESIGNED THE PAIR OF STOOLS