How original art, designs from India and waggy tails inspired this eclectic Mirador home

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**Small but mighty homes on the market**

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Welcome to the issue

It’s time to slow down the pace for Ramadan, and if you’re going to be hosting plenty of iftars and suhoors over the coming weeks, our top tips on creating a simple yet stylish table setting (p12) are sure to come in handy. Also inside this issue, we share 10 easy ways to add value to your property (p30). Whether you’re planning major renovations or are seeking some easy fixes, it serves as a welcome reminder of the upgrades that can make a big difference when it comes to selling or renting.

One home that would be a dream to live in, but unfortunately isn’t on the market, is the Mirador villa that has been thoughtfully beautified by pilot Kadambari Uppal and her husband Akshat Jain. Turn to page 36 to discover how she put her individual stamp on the place.

In addition, we take a look at a Jumeirah Islands staircase renovation that proves the sky’s the limit when it comes to design.

Ramadan Kareem.
The Better Living team. @bliving.me

The homewares featured on these pages are from the Silsal Majestic Collection, visit silsal.com
INSPIRE 25–55
Easy ways to introduce terrazzo into your home. 10 upgrades that’ll add value to your property, local homes and gardens to covet, and how to design a classic kitchen

SHOP 10–22
Our top picks on the shelves this month, the latest news and updates for your home, what’s in store at Tribe in Al Quoz, and how to pick the perfect electric kettle

MOVE 56–64
How to summerproof your abode, 6 small but mighty homes on the market, a guide to living in Dubai Marina
MOST CovETED

Top picks

Five finds on our radar...

1 Simple yet elegant, this beaded chandelier commands attention. La Bella Mama Pendant Chandelier, Dhs2,225, exclusive to Haute Bohème, hauteboheme.ae

2 Inspired by Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and the Mughal era, this beautiful teapot teams floral elements with 22 karat gold lining for a superior brew. Teapot, Dhs378, the Majestic Collection by Silsal, silsal.com

3 Embrace the sunshine by adding a pop of colour to your dining room table. Placemat, Dhs59, Zara Home

4 Transform your dining space with this showstopping table that combines fine stone and contoured wood. DT dining table, Dhs9,560, Al Huzaifa Furniture, alhuzaifafoodurniture.com

5 This vibrant home accent provides an easy way to freshen up your space in a flash. Resin flower décor, Dhs59, Pan Emirates
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This month’s Pinboard

Our round-up of the latest in homewares, news and interiors trends

BED MATES

Always wanting to switch up your home style? You’ll love this clever collaboration between Dubai-based interior designer Kathryn Hawkes, of House of Hawkes, and Helmii, who’ve designed and manufactured a stylish new bed with removable covers for the entire frame. A first for beds in the region, the collection offers an easy way to change the look of your bedroom in a flash, thanks to easy to remove, washable and dry-cleanable covers. Available in 10 colour options, simply choose a different hue and a few colour-schemed accessories, and you’ll have a new room in no time. The House of Hawkes slip cover bed costs from Dhs2,999 with additional slip covers available from Dhs999. The bed is ready to order now, complete with free delivery and assembly, from helmii.com

Changing the world, one tassle at a time

For beautiful home buys that give back, head to IKEA to check out the Tilltalande collection of precious, hand-crafted textiles made in collaboration with the Jordan River Foundation and female artisans (Jordanian locals alongside refugees). Each product is a gem that will look great in your home, whatever its style. Plus, you’ll be empowering women in the region and helping to integrate them into work and society. ikea.com/ae
DUBAI-BASED TEXTILE HOUSE KUSHAAN HAS LAUNCHED A NEW RANGE OF BOLD, BEAUTIFUL HAND-CRAFTED CUSHIONS, SUZANNIS AND IKAT WEAVES. POPPING WITH COLOUR AND CHARACTER, THE COLLECTION SHOWCASES FOUNDER KATE KEENAN’S CONTEMPORARY USE OF TRADITIONAL ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN FABRICS. THE IKATS ARE HANDWOVEN IN UZBEKISTAN USING ANCIENT TECHNIQUES, WHILE THE SUZANIS (LARGE FABRIC PANELS) ARE ALL HAND-DRAWN AND HAND-EMBROIDERED. THE FOREVER PIECES WILL ADD INSTANT SOUL TO ANY SCHEME. @KUSHAANTEXTILES
TABLE BLESSINGS

Home Centre’s head of visual merchandising, Magdalena Smolka, shows us how to set a simple yet stylish table to impress your loved ones during Ramadan...

1 Choose some luxe linens. A tablecloth in a solid colour, such as deep purple, emerald blue or ruby red will lay the groundwork for the theme. Contrasting placemats will really pop off the tablecloth and, for a sense of continuity, consider styles with delicate beadwork and metallic hues.

2 Build up the dinnerware. For iftars and suhoors that exude sophistication, an extra special dinner set is a must. Delicate floral embossed details and gold accents are sure-fire crowd pleasers. A fully-staged table adds a wow factor, so stack up your dinnerware for the full effect.

3 Add the accessories. Ditch your everyday cutlery in favour of something more sparkly, such as a stainless steel set with a gold outline. Finish the look with some embroidered napkins and delicately beaded napkin rings. Subtle lighting with candles or lanterns will create a lovely ambiance.

4 Pace the table. When it’s time to break the fast, remember to strategically place repeat dishes of food on the table so that everyone can reach them easily and that there’s plenty to go around. Ramadan Kareem!

To find out more, call 04 809 5000 or visit homecentre.com

RAISE YOUR STANDARDS

Ideal Standard has teamed up with design studio Palomba Serafini Associati to launch a range of ceramics and fittings, as well as furniture and a bath tub. We love the Conca series (pictured right), in which basins are complemented by two distinct series of faucets designed by Ludovica + Roberto Palomba: the cylindrical Joy and the exceptionally flat basin mixer Check.

idealstandardgulf.com

BE GUEST READY

GIVE YOUR ENTERTAINING SPACES A NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR THE HOLY MONTH. ARABESQUE ACCENTS WILL ADD A WELCOMING TOUCH TO YOUR HOME, SO YOU CAN HOST YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN STYLE.
PAINT ME HAPPY

If you’re looking for some bold design inspiration, Aleena Waqas’ (@Aleena_Waqas_Interiors) latest project, a staged home in JVC, is sure to inspire the mind. “When I start the design process, I usually pick one object that will inspire the entire direction. In this case, it was a blue and coral sofa cushion,” she says. “I advise picking one base colour, such as the earth grey used here, and teaming it with two accent colours, like the bold coral and stone blue I chose for this apartment. I’ve been gravitating towards paint in my projects, as opposed to wallpaper, as it allows you to be much more accurate with your colour palette. Plus, it’s affordable and there are some great effects around now. My top tip for experimenting with paint? Don’t be afraid to steer away from neutrals and be more creative by opting for something bolder and a bit more fun.” All paints used are from MAS Paints, mas-paints.com

Less than 1 in 5 UAE residents are aware of the health risks posed by indoor air pollution, says a Dyson survey with YouGov. Everything from dirty AC ducts to candles can be a source. Visit dyson.ae to find out more.

On our radar

Turn over a new leaf with these nature-inspired finds...

A GREAT RESTING PLACE FOR RINGS and other trinkets, this glazed ceramic dish is a beautiful ornament in its own right. Dhs69, H&M Home, ae.hm.com

ADD SOME WHIMSY TO YOUR BAKING with the Edie Small Floral Mixing Bowl, Dhs69 and coordinating Trivet, Dhs59, crateandbarrelme.com

DRY YOUR DISHES IN STYLE with this pretty tea towel featuring lush green vines. Edie Dish Towels, set of 2, Dhs79, crateandbarrelme.com
Ramadan is a time to slow down the pace and focus on the more meaningful moments in life. And if you’re hosting an iftar or suhoor at home, you’ll want a table setting and precious home accents that are as special as the guests on your guest list. The carefully curated Ramadan collection at Crate and Barrel is ideal for those who want to elevate their game. It has been compiled especially to suit local tastes, enlisting three regional designers to create a line of artisanal dinnerware and décor inspired by calligraphy art and oriental colours.

Each designer brings something different to the table. For decorative accents that speak to the heart, pick up some pieces by product design studio Kashida, which molds 3D calligraphy into functional pieces. With everything from an elegant cake stand and placemats to decorative candle...
“Crate and Barrel has enlisted the help of three regional designers to curate a line of artisanal dinnerware and décor inspired by calligraphy art and oriental colours”

holders and more to check out, the pieces have an enduring appeal, so you can pass them down through the generations.

For tableware that meets art, Silsal Design House is your go-to, with its eye-catching designs bringing the charm of a bygone era into the modern home. And while it may look too good to use – especially the delicate Arabic coffee set – we say seize the day and use the pieces now so you can enjoy them to the max.

Lastly, for home accents that blend classical with contemporary, the Amina Gallery designs will appeal to creative types, with its original motifs and iridescent mother of pearl detail. There are place trays, small side tables, cushions and more to browse.

You can shop the collection in store or online, and if you order before noon, you’re guaranteed same-day delivery – the perfect solution for impromptu gatherings.

Visit Crate and Barrel at Mall of the Emirates and City Center Mirdif. You can shop in-store and online at crateandbarrelme.com or call 800 22632 to find out more.
THE STORY SO FAR: Australian born Jo England creates sustainable, handmade items from her studio and sources them from 25 countries around the world, all of which is available to buy at her shop in Al Quoz. Born in 2015 from her passion for combining beautiful interiors and exteriors, Tribe was influenced by Jo’s time spent stripping back houses in Kuala Lumpur to reveal their more rustic, traditional side. With a strong value placed on social responsibility, all items are ethically sourced and adhere to fair trade standards.

THE LOOK: Sustainable chic is achieved with unique handcrafted pieces that echo a conscious lifestyle.

WHAT’S NEW? The PEG Collection is made entirely from reclaimed wood salvaged in the UAE. It’s comprised of 10 pieces of simple, clean-edged furniture, including a mirror, decorative ladder and desk (pictured right).

GOOD TO KNOW: From village to villa, every artisan involved in crafting the items is paid fairly, meaning each purchase helps to support the livelihood of its creator.

DELIVERY DETAILS: Free delivery within Dubai.

WHILE YOU’RE THERE: Book a 60-minute interior design consultation with Tribe’s in-house stylist. As well as making suggestions for the right pieces for your home, they’ll recommend complementary wallpaper, upholstery and window treatments to curate an environment that not only looks good, but is ethically sound too.

Find Tribe in the Courtyard, Al Quoz 3. Call 050 142 8248 or order online at tribedubai.com; @tribedubai

WHY WE RATE IT
Being environmentally conscious has never looked so good. These lifestyle inspired pieces bring the outside in by using all natural materials.

FAVOURITE FINDS

Jumbo white shell necklace, Dhs810 (comes with stand)

Paper bag in gold by Uashmama, Dhs140

Ahoy mini tiles, Dhs280 each
We unite for them

Join us in the effort to spread awareness for AUTISM
Create a fantasy bedroom for your child, with a bespoke design by 3MOMS at Bloomingdale’s Home

**DREAM BIG, LITTLE ONE**
Create a fantasy bedroom for your child, with a bespoke design by 3MOMS at Bloomingdale’s Home.

**DREAM BIG, LITTLE ONE**

A space to play, sleep and grow, your child’s bedroom speaks volumes about their personality, so when it comes to the design, you’ll want something as original as they are. The dreamy 3MOMS home furniture and accessories collection available at Bloomingdale’s Home - Dubai, allows you to do just that. It’s the brainchild of three mums from Istanbul, who wanted to offer parents the chance to create a fantasy land for their little ones, by turning magical ideas into reality.

Kick-start your inspirational journey at the store, where a variety of room set-ups have been created to offer just a few ideas on the theme or style you could plump for. Boys can let their imagination run wild with these playful pieces to mix and match. From animal-inspired designs to cool storage solutions for all his cars and Lego, and a study desk in the shape of a car, he’ll feel like the king of the castle. Plus, if you have a baby on the way, be sure to check out the gorgeous cribs and nursery accents that are ideal for boss babies.
The living room features wall art from Drawdeck, with peach cushions and a jute rug from The One pulling the look together. A calm space that also benefits from natural light, the area near the patio doors is currently Maha's temporary yoga studio; at least until she renovates the master terrace into a sun room.

Girls will fall head over heels for these pieces fit for a princess. Teaming soft pink with golden accents, and brimming with cupcake, star and diamond motifs, they're perfect for your little sweetheart. You can either choose to customise the existing collections, or you can work with a dedicated interior designer to create a look entirely from scratch. Whatever route you choose, you'll be sure to have a piece or set of furniture that will be appreciated and enjoyed for generations to come.

Bloomingdale's Home is located on the Lower Ground Floor of The Dubai Mall. Call 04 350 5333, or get social @bloomingdaleshome.

Art Director: Kerri Bennett
Photographer: Sabrina-Rynas, MMG Artist
Stylist: Chee, MMG Artist
Hair and make up: Katherine Brennan, MMG Artist
Models: Kiara and Faris, MMG Models
Clothes: Bloomingdale's Kids
Girls will fall head over heels for these pieces fit for a princess. Teaming soft pink with golden accents, and brimming with cupcake, star and diamond motifs, they’re perfect for your little sweetheart. You can either choose to customise the existing collections, or you can work with a dedicated interior designer to create a look entirely from scratch. Whatever route you choose, you’ll be sure to have a piece or set of furniture that will be appreciated and enjoyed for generations to come.

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Bloomingdale’s Kids
KETTLES

We’re boiling over with enthusiasm for these functional yet stylish electric kettles

THE KITCHEN STALWART
A dynamic fusion of sleek design and functionality, the 2000W De’Longhi Scultura KBZ 3001 has a decent 1.5 litre capacity and a stylish stainless steel body shrouded in a sculpted resin that will see you through thousands of brews. Dhs520, available from Jashanmal Home, jashanmalhome.com

THE SUPERMODEL
The Dolce&Gabbana and Smeg Sicily is my Love collection kettle is giving us hot flashes with its beautiful Sicilian cart motifs that’ll add glamour to any kitchen. Made in Italy, this 1.7 litre, 2400W wonder combines beauty and brains, shutting off at 100°C, as well as when water is not detected. Dhs2,469, available at Better Life, betterlifeuae.com

GREAT FOR FAMILIES
The cordless kettle is great for those who have safety top of mind, with its locking lid and automatic switch off function, which prompts it to power down once the water has boiled, or if the kettle is removed from its base. What’s more, the 1.7 litre, 2500-3100W Bosch ComfortLine Kettle is easy to clean thanks to its 90-degree opening, while the practical One-Cup feature saves time and reduces energy consumption. Dhs188, available from Bosch, bosch-home.com

BEST BUDGET BUY
A solid workhorse, the 1500W Crownline KT-179 has a 1.8 litre capacity and a steam sensor that triggers an automatic shut-off. Plus, it’s a steal at Dhs95. Available from Al-Futtaim ACE, aceuae.com

FOR DEDICATED TEA DRINKERS
For those with no time to waste, the rapid boil function of this Russell Hobbs Coniston Kettle means you can boil a cup of water in just 45 seconds. Combining polished stainless steel with black accents, this 1.7 litre, 3000W kettle will look the part in any kitchen. Plus, it’s great value. Dhs179, available from Jashanmal Home, jashanmalhome.com

BEFORE YOU BUY...
There’s much more to the humble kettle than you may think. From how quickly it boils, to how much noise it makes, and how many cuppas you can get out of a full tank – it’s easy to narrow down your options to find one that best suits your lifestyle. If you’re a serial tea drinker, you’ll want a fast boiler, such as the Russell Hobbs kettle featured here, which boils a cup of water in 45 seconds. Always check the noise rating too as, if you have a baby at home, an ultra-silent model is imperative for sneaking in those nap-time brews. If buying in store, pick the kettle up and practise pouring. It sounds a bit dramatic, but it should feel comfortable to hold and easy to grip. Why settle for anything less?
No one wants to spend unnecessary hours plugging away at household chores. And when it comes to keeping your home in tip-top shape, the drudgery of keeping floors clean often tops the list of least favourite jobs.

Whether you’re a perfectionist who likes to brush, vacuum, mop and repeat, or simply give your floors a quick once-over, anything that can help free up precious time and make the process easier is a sure-fire winner. The new Hard Floor Cleaner FC5 from Kärcher, a worldwide expert in cleaning technology, is doing just that with its one-step combined vacuum and mopping capabilities. The clever machine tackles dirt in all forms, from spilt coffee and dog hair to muddy footprints and sand.

Simple yet brilliant technology is behind the FC5, which features two fast-rotating microfibre rollers that are continuously moistened with a detergent solution to loosen and lift dirt. The resulting sucked up liquid is stored in a separate tank that is easily emptied post cleaning, and comes with a self-rinse function.

Plus, you’ll be happy to know that water savings are significant compared to a conventional mop and bucket, with a surface area of up to 60 square metres cleaned using 400 millilitres of water. There’s also the added bonus of not having to rinse and wring out the mop, so your floors will be dry again in less than two minutes.

To find out more about the Kärcher Hard Floor Cleaner FC5, visit karcher.ae
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Chip off the old block
Terrazzo is back on the radar, and it’s easier than you may think to introduce to your home

What was once a popular flooring in the 1970s has reinvented itself as a cool alternative to marble, granite, concrete and more. Indeed, terrazzo is riding a wave of popularity, with its multi-coloured, speckled design appealing to anyone who wants to build more colour into their home. What’s more, its modern-day incarnation has gone beyond the humble floor tile and made its way onto everything from soft furnishings to kitchen countertops and even wallpaper. Here are some easy ways to make it work for you...
“Simple white terrazzo will add sophisticated detail to a pared-back, neutral scheme. Brightly coloured terrazzo can be used to make a statement of its own, or as a unfitting element tying together a space featuring several colours,” says Ash.
FROM THE FLOOR UP “While terrazzo is traditionally used for flooring, you can definitely include a nod to the trend without ripping up your tiles,” enthuses interior stylist Ash Young (@adoredecordxb). “There’s a host of terrazzo inspired furnishings and accessories ranging from wallpaper and rugs to lamps and kitchenware, meaning that it can appear anywhere in your home.”

SHOP SMART The Bowery Company (thebowerycompany.com) has a great rose-hued wallpaper for Dhs330 (per roll), as well as small furniture, while Georges of Dubai (georgesofdubai.com) has a fab terrazzo hook for Dhs195. “Some versions of terrazzo are neutral in colour and subtle in design, while others are more vibrant, so it can work within a wide variety of decorative styles and colour stories,” says Ash.
A DESIGNER’S DREAM  “Terrazzo offers unlimited flexibility in terms of design,” says Karen Pissarra of Dubai-based interior design studio DESIGN K (designk.co, designk__). “The chips can be either small or large, thus creating different looks. Plus, it’s easy to maintain, durable and long lasting.

THINK BIG  “Terrazzo flooring is a awesome option for any bathroom. Make a statement or opt for small pattern design and subtle colours to ensure you don’t over do it,” says Karen. “A terrazzo staircase can make a beautiful statement. Choose a larger pattern design and more vibrant colours, which’ll be visually better in a smaller area. Lastly, a kitchen counter in a vibrant terrazzo pattern would make a great textural compliment to a minimalistic kitchen.”

“The perfect way to incorporate terrazzo into your home, without overdoing it, is by adding it as accents in various ways, using subtle colours,” says Karen.
WASH AND REVITALIZE YOUR FLOOR, THE EASY WAY!

THE NEW KARCHER FLOOR CLEANER FC5: A REVOLUTION IN CLEANING

The FC5 hard floor cleaner is the easy way to vacuum up light debris and wash your floors simultaneously & efficiently. Direct contact of the microfibre rolls spinning at optimum speed gives you results never seen before.
“Water features create a soothing ambience, making your property more desirable,” says Nisrine El Lababidi Moghraby, design director of Harf Noon Design Studio (harfnoondesignstudio.com). “Aim to install one beside the entrance and in the back garden, if possible.”
“WHEN RENOVATING, INVEST IN A POWERFUL, CENTRAL FEATURE THAT MAKES A BIG IMPACT, LIKE THE CONCRETE CUBE WE CREATED FOR THIS EMIRATES HILLS VILLA [PICTURED]. NEXT, YOU CAN RIPPLE OUT SUPPORTING FEATURES AT A LOWER COST,” SAYS SAMEER SIWANI, MD AND DESIGN PRINCIPAL, BE CONSULTANTS (BE-201.COM).

“GIVE YOUR HOME SOME CURB APPEAL BY FILLING IN ANY CRACKS TO THE EXTERIOR AND GIVING IT A FRESH LICK OF PAINT – IT’LL INSTANTLY MAKE THE HOUSE APPEAR WELL LOOKED AFTER AND, IF IT’S A TERRACED PROPERTY, MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR,” SAYS MARTIN HIBBIT, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ANOTHER LEVEL (055 340 0959, ANOTHERLEVEL.AE).
UPGRADED BATHROOMS ARE ALWAYS HIGH UP ON THE WISH LIST. LOOK FOR CLEVER WAYS TO MAKE THE SPACE MORE USEABLE. FOR SMALLER BATHROOMS, YOU COULD SWAP AN INWARDS-OPENING DOOR FOR SLIDING DOORS, FOR INSTANCE.

If your bathroom doesn’t need a full-on renovation, consider splashing out on some luxurious features, such as a large, deep basin sink and good quality tile that’ll give it an edge over the competition.

“AC UNITS WORKING OVERTIME, SANDSTORMS AND SUDDEN DOWNFALLS CAN TAKE A TOLL. STAY ON TOP OF UPKEEP BY SIGNING UP FOR AN ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT, TO MAKE SURE ANY UNEXPECTED MAINTENANCE ISSUES CAN BE DEALT WITH SWIFTLY,” SAYS LUKAS EIGENMANN, COO OF HITCHES & GLITCHES, HITCHESGLITCHES.COM

Artis washbasin in bicolour in Powder, around Dhs2,839 (€603 RRP excl. VAT), Villeroy & Boch

Subway Infinity Shower Tray, starting from around Dhs5,252 (€1,282 RRP excl. VAT), Villeroy & Boch
“Swap tiles for wood flooring for a touch of luxury,” says Nisrine. “There are options for all budgets to go over tiles, so there’s minimum disruption. You don’t need to apply it to the entire house. Simply upgrading the bedrooms is a mega bonus that’ll add lots of character.”

“IT’S WORTH UPGRADING YOUR THERMOSTATS,” SAYS MARTIN. “MOST RUN ALL THE TIME RATHER THAN SHUTTING DOWN, SO A NEWER VERSION WITH THIS FUNCTIONALITY WILL PASS ON SAVINGS TO YOUR DEWA BILL, WHICH IS AN ATTRACTIVE SELLING POINT FOR BUYERS AND RENTERS.”

Windows are another wise investment, both in terms of style and long-term savings on your energy bills,” says Sameer. “Opt for large format double glazed aluminum windows, which can be sourced locally. These are extremely economical, yet add huge value by creating large picture windows for clear vistas, on top of providing thermal comfort.”

A KITCHEN REMODEL CAN ADD REAL VALUE TO YOUR HOME. CONSIDER INVESTING IN BUILT-IN APPLIANCES FROM THE LIKES OF MIELE AND TEKA. IT NEVER FAILS TO IMPRESS.
For a home style that stands out, originality is key. In the UAE, it’s common to see the same kind of look in different people’s homes. And while it’s a dream to be able to walk into a store like Bloomingdale’s and buy everything new, if you’re not in a position to do so, or simply want to build it up over time, there are lots of ways to go about it.

**The first step is to earmark any existing pieces you simply cannot part with.** These may be items that have been passed down through the generations, or pieces you’ve bought on your travels that are close to your heart. Next, separate out those pieces that are great quality but would benefit from a revamp or upgrade. Solid wood pieces, for instance, are always good to keep hold of as they’ll go the distance.

**If you’re struggling for inspiration on how to upgrade a piece, think about contrasting opposites.** For example, I reupholstered a pair of classic wooden chairs with a bold black and white chevron fabric and sanded the stained wood [pictured] to give them a contemporary lease of life.

**Before getting rid of a piece you’ve fallen out of love with, think about shaking up the design.** What might you be able to remove or replace in order to turn it into a bespoke piece?

I’m a fan of the Baroque look, and have used gold and silver leaf, such as on the legs of a metal and glass coffee table in my living room, as a way to completely transform its look. Just bear in mind that if you are using expensive materials to upgrade, to make sure the work is carried out by an expert who knows what they are doing, so you don’t waste your money.

**I recommend Obegi Home and Kare for unique, nonconformist pieces.** The Odd Piece and ikon house at Alserkal Avenue in Al Quoz are treasure troves for items with a vintage or antique vibe. For budget fabric, Naif Souk [near Naif Police Station] is a great place to browse – be sure to barter for the best price.

**Adding some original art to your home will make a huge difference to the ambience.** If you want some bespoke art, I highly rate Mohammed Rasool (055 471 1445) who is an artist, designer and calligrapher in Dubai. He is the owner of Rasul’s Gallery and has produced a number of stunning, bespoke artworks for my home.

*Sopranda School of Art and Design, call 04 405 4103, WhatsApp 058 560 9309, @interior_designer_dubai*

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**TIP**

If you’re seeking pre-loved pieces to upcycle, check out Dubai Flea Market and Dubizzle. Think big: I turned a teak table top into a statement picture frame, which has become a talking point in my home.
If you're seeking pre-loved pieces to upcycle, check out Dubai Flea Market and Dubizzle. Think big: I turned a teak table top into a statement picture frame, which has become a talking point in my home.

TIP

Want a space that's brimming with original touches? Interior stylist Sopranda is your go-to DESIGNER.

For a home style that stands out, originality is key. In the UAE, it's common to see the same kind of look in different people's homes. And while it's a dream to be able to walk into a store like Bloomingdale's and buy everything new, if you're not in a position to do so, or simply want to build it up over time, there are lots of ways to go about it.

The first step is to earmark any existing pieces you simply cannot part with. These may be items that have been passed down through the generations, or pieces you've bought on your travels that are close to your heart. Next, separate out those pieces that are great quality but would benefit from a revamp or upgrade. Solid wood pieces, for instance, are always good to keep hold of as they'll go the distance. If you're struggling for inspiration on how to upgrade a piece, think about contrasting opposites. For example, I reupholstered a pair of classic wooden chairs with a bold black and white chevron fabric and sanded the stained wood to give them a contemporary lease of life.

Before getting rid of a piece you've fallen out of love with, think about shaking up the design. What might you be able to remove or replace in order to turn it into a bespoke piece? I'm a fan of the Baroque look, and have used gold and silver leaf, such as on the legs of a metal and glass coffee table in my living room, as a way to completely transform its look. Just bear in mind that if you are using expensive materials to upgrade, to make sure the work is carried out by an expert who knows what they are doing, so you don't waste your money.

I recommend Obegi Home and Kare for unique, nonconformist pieces. The Odd Piece and ikon house at Alserkal Avenue in Al Quoz are treasure troves for items with a vintage or antique vibe. For budget fabric, Naif Souk [near Naif Police Station] is a great place to browse – be sure to barter for the best price.

Adding some original art to your home will make a huge difference to the ambience. If you want some bespoke art, I highly rate Mohammed Rasool [055 471 1445] who is an artist, designer and calligrapher in Dubai. He is the owner of Rasul's Gallery and has produced a number of stunning, bespoke artworks for my home. Sopranda School of Art and Design, call 04 405 4103, WhatsApp 058 560 9309, @interior_designer_dubai
Pilot Kadambari Uppal has feathered her Mirador nest with striking furniture from India, curiosities collected while on her travels, and a flurry of beautiful bird art.
“Calm down, Max! Easy, Rex!” Kadambari instructs her lively American cocker spaniel and sausage dog, as they scamper over the checkered marble floor that graces the entry way to the Mirador villa she owns with her husband Akshat Jain. The couple, who are both pilots, bought in Arabian Ranches three years ago, gravitating towards the property’s peaceful location and perfect proportions.

“All the rooms are a decent size and we like the layout, so we haven’t needed to carry out any major renovation works, but we have revamped the style completely,” says Kadambari, who is a qualified interior designer and runs her own blog (@home_diva). “I have an eclectic style and my home has a lot of Indian and Moroccan influences. I pick up a lot of different things while flying around the world and, as I share the same clothes size as my mum, every time I visit her in Delhi I go with a completely empty suitcase so I can bring back as much possible.”

It was important for the entryway to be open and uncluttered. “There are a lot of animal influences in my home, including a picture of a rhino by the entrance, which is a symbol of power and wisdom. All the wall mouldings are bespoke. My aim was to polish the basics so the house would look beautiful even without furniture.”

**MATERIAL GIRL**
A wash of soothing blues and greys, the formal sitting room is where the couple can relax and recover from their hectic schedules. The curtains are particularly stunning, made in India and shipped to Dubai, like all the other drapes in the house. “The quality of the material is fantastic,” she says. The royal blue cabinet from Marina Home draws the eye in and silver accents create a cohesive look.
ECLECTIC FINDS

“I am slightly obsessed with bird artworks,” admits Kadambari. “I fell in love with a bird fabric from Lyon [pictured below], which was expensive but beautiful. I made it into a picture for the dining room and designed the rest of the room around it. I like playing with textures and layering them – it’s the best way to create interest.”
DRESSING THE MASTER

This four poster bed in the master suite was a steal from a Marina Home sale, as were the Pan Emirates side tables. “They’re actually little consoles,” reveals Kadambari. She keeps her large walk-in closet well organised, a job that’s made easier thanks to the separate wardrobe that was fitted to the opposite side of the master bedroom solely to house her husband’s attire. “I invested in good quality carpets from Istanbul for a cozy feel,” she says, “with lots of golden accents for a touch of luxury.”
A HAVEN FOR GUESTS
The guest bedrooms are dressed to impress. “Our parents often come to stay for extended periods, so we wanted to create comfortable and welcoming spaces,” she says. “Grey works with everything so that was my starting point.” In the room pictured directly below, the Ethan Allen bed and Zara Home mirror add elegance. There’s also an industrial styled movie den upstairs where the couple can watch their favourite Bollywood movies.

“IF YOU’RE DECORATING ON A BUDGET, IT BECOMES EVEN MORE HELPFUL TO WORK WITH AN INTERIOR DESIGNER, AS THEY WILL KNOW THE BEST PIECES TO PULL FROM THE AFFORDABLE STORES AND HOW TO MIX AND MATCH.”
A LUSH RETREAT
The art-filled study [above] is where Kadambari moodboards looks for her interior design clients. “I love portraits and I bought some fantastic pieces by Kim Mobey in Cape Town, who produces stunning portraits of indigenous people.” The portraits of her dogs were also created in South Africa. The antique looking rug is from Carpet Centre and yet more bird fabric has been used to upholster the chairs beside the console.

The back garden has been completely landscaped, with lots of crawling plants and bushes creating a secret garden feel. A large fountain provides the soothing sound of running water and masks any unwanted noise. There’s also a large organic garden where egg plant, rocket, basil, kale, rosemary and more thrives.

“Fresh flowers from Bliss and vibrant artworks create an inspiring ambiance”

“IN INDIAN CULTURE, IT’S TRADITIONAL FOR THE MUM TO GIVE A GIFT TO THE DAUGHTER WHEN SHE MOVES INTO HER FIRST FAMILY HOME. MY MUM GIFTED ME THIS BEAUTIFUL MARINA HOME TABLE.”
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GET THE LOOK

Lamp, Dhs710, John Lewis
Collectors House, available exclusively at Robinsons, robinsons.me

Peacock cushion, around Dhs192 (£39.99), Homesense, homesense.com

Devin side table, Dhs2,995, Al Huzafa, alhuzafa.com

Tropical birds wallpaper pattern, MINDTHEGAP, around Dhs623 (£150) for 3 rolls of 52x300cm, mindtheg.com

Rectangular mirrored nesting tables (set of 2), Dhs899, Zara Home, zarahome.com

White peonies arrangement, Dhs681, Indigo Living, indigo-living.com

Fresh flowers from Bliss and vibrant artworks create an inspiring ambiance
Back to black

This chic Victory Heights garden, with its bold, black-tiled swimming pool, has got everyone talking.

Photographs by: Hiral Kapadia Words by: Lucy Land
A palette predilection for black and white doesn’t necessarily shout relaxed garden vibes, but for Rhian Clarke, taking her edgy monochrome aesthetic from the inside to outdoors was a non-negotiable at this Victory Heights home.

As someone who likes to buck trends, the decision to go with a black tiled pool as the emblematic focal point was a brave decision. “There’s been a big trend towards white swimming pools, and I’d seen a shot on Pinterest of a black one, which was really dramatic,” she says.

Rhian initially held back on going overboard with the use of black, instead choosing to paint the surrounding walls grey, but later made the bold decision to match them with the pool tiles and introduce geometric tiling accents on the steps and outdoor bar to strengthen the overall visual impact. To add an additional wow factor and respect function, the infinity-edged pool was designed in an irregular shape, thus affording ample space to swim laps and chill at the swim-up bar.

Rather than a single note space, introducing distinctive zones was also key to creating a harmonised, complementary environment, with raised exposed sunbathing and dining spots and a sunken covered eating and lounging area with outdoor barbecue situated close to the kitchen. Rhian elaborates: “I wanted to create an outside room and approach the space as I would indoors, using rugs, cushions and blankets as well as lamps and other traditionally interior accessories.”

An explosion of floral colour was also a no-go with Rhian opting for all-green landscaping, as she explains: “I wanted clean green and all the plants have been carefully grouped together or in rows as I like things to be neat. I also looked for monochrome or geometric pots.”

@rhianclarkehome

“The lines created by the gazebo area and garden furnishings add to the overall structured yet warm aesthetic”
WANT AN OUTDOOR SPACE THAT STOPS PEOPLE IN THEIR TRACKS? FOLLOW RHIAN CLARKE’S ADVICE...

Firstly, consider how you want to use the space. Think practically as well as aesthetically. If you’re creating an outdoor barbecue area, site it so you minimise the time spent walking to the kitchen carrying food and utensils.

Consider what you want to look at. Most infinity edged pools flow away towards the back of the garden, but if you want to enjoy the look and sound of the water from your sofa, have it built to flow towards the house.

Don’t be afraid to do things differently. Consider how you can create points of interest through colour choices, pool shape or by introducing different levels for different purposes. Lastly, don’t be dictated by trends.
ALWAYS IN STYLE

Cooking up a kitchen renovation? Spend your money wisely thanks to our expert tips on choosing a design with enduring appeal.
Neutral with bite

Whatever your home style, a sophisticated, neutral kitchen will go the distance. It’ll also mean that if you decide to move on, and either rent or sell, your property may be more likely to appeal to a broader range of people. “A sophisticated kitchen with a cosmopolitan feel will never go out of style,” says Danilo Rossi, Export Director of Scavolini (scavolini.com). Plus, choosing a ‘safe’ option is far from boring. “Aim for a mixture of sleek silhouettes, trendy materials and a contemporary touches. The brass colour of the handle profiles of this DeLinea model designed by Vuess [pictured left and right] is a great example of a kitchen that is classically cool.”

A HANDLE-FREE DESIGN CAN HELP KEEP YOUR KITCHEN FROM LOOKING DATED

FINISHING TOUCHES

From top: 1 Waterbury five-piece porcelain serving set with lazy susan, Dhs149, Home Centre, homecentre.com 2 Coffee jar, John Lewis, available at Robinsons, robinsons.me 3 Hard Graphite L-Spout Spray, GROHE Essence Kitchen Colours range, grohe.com

While it may be tempting to opt for a flash of colour – and by all means do so if you wish – keeping it neutral has a broad appeal. A handle-free design can help keep your kitchen from looking dated.
“Not all trends stand the test of time. Be selective and bear in mind that what looks great now may not in 10 years,” says David McCreath, Senior Designer at Hacker Kitchens. “White is always the most popular colour – you will never see a brand discontinue their white colours – and neutral tones are always in vogue.”

“Any items that are fitted, and therefore long-term, must be unobtrusive.” he adds. “This is especially important here in the UAE, as it’s a transient community and you’ll want your luxury kitchen to appeal to the widest audience possible if you decide to rent or sell.”
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**GOLDEN RULES**

*Do make it practical.* “Your kitchen is for cooking, after all,” says David. “Focus on the practicality, maximise drawers, add clever pullout mechanisms and think carefully about hob, oven, fridge and sink locations.”

*Make it work for you.* “Consider how you cook, what kind of cooking you do, and who is in the kitchen at the same time as you,” he says. “Plus, look carefully at what you store. Big pots and pans? You’ll need big deep drawers. Lots of dry food? Pullout pantry systems will be needed.”

*Don’t sweat the details.* In the early design stages, don’t worry too much about colours and finishes, as that’ll depend on your final design,” says David. “If you end up choosing lots of tall units, for instance, it’ll naturally call for a lighter colour.”

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**Tip**

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Walk this way

Discover how a dated staircase in this Jumeirah Islands villa was transformed into a modern wonder

A dramatic departure from the staircases we’re used to seeing in villas in the UAE, this contemporary modern design feat has had a marked impact on the look and feel of this stylish yet practical family home in Jumeirah Islands. Indeed, it is a talking point of the bright and spacious open plan living space, which was renovated from top to bottom by Claudia Baliyan, design director of Creating...
Before Homes Interiors (creatinghomes.net, @creatinghomes). The staircase itself took around 30 days to upgrade.

“The original staircase was brown marble, with black iron railings,” she says. “To revamp it, we first sourced a marble slab that was similar to the porcelain floor tile we were using on the ground floor of the property. For a fresh and modern look, we decided upon a glass screen, and chose to integrate it into the concrete for a sturdy yet seamless effect. This was topped with a wooden rail.”

While it sounds like a smooth operation, there were various challenges to navigate along the way. As Claudia describes: “There were lots of awkward angles to contend with, including an angled entry point to the original staircase, and more...
on the ascent, which we needed to remove and square off,” says Claudia. “When it came to the glass, we needed something that would be extremely strong, yet also great to look at. We chose a double laminated 12mm thick tempered glass – shatterproof, of course. Installing it in the concrete added a bit of extra time to the schedule, but we felt it was essential, both for optimum safety and to achieve the desired design effect.”

At the top of the stairs, the bespoke, full glass screen with wooden strips placed in a lattice pattern is a stylish way to childproof.

“Next, we squared off the area underneath the stairwell to become an enclosed storage room – something that’s extremely useful for the young family who live in this villa. We added French panelling to the outside for a touch of West Palm Beach style,” adds Claudia, who is originally from Florida.

All but two panels are fixed with the largest being the secret door to the storage area.

The contemporary artworks on the wall facing the dining area bring the space together.

“It helps that the client has really good taste,” says Claudia.

Expertly planned lighting gives the space a different allure in the evenings.

“We integrated delicate lights along the stairwell so that you don’t have to have the entire area fully illuminated by night,” says Claudia. “It’s lends a softer ambiance.”

“How to do it

Keen to renovate your staircase? Claudia Baliyan shares her top tips for stepping up your game

1 Consider which material you want to use: marble or wood. Marble is generally going to be more expensive. Also, if budget is an issue, ask your contractor about less expensive ways to create a similar effect to what you’re looking for. For instance, if you don’t have the extra budget to dig into the concrete, a glass panel can be attached to the outside of the wall, which will still give you that seamless look.

2 Glass is always going to look super modern, but there are some really beautiful cast iron railings you can find that have a modern theme. If you do go for glass, be sure it doesn’t have any deflection – it needs to be strong and sound.

3 It’s easy to think that a floating staircase would be the best way to create a light and modern effect, but if you’d really benefit from the extra storage space, there are lots of way to achieve this stylishly.
Summerproof your home

The super hot weather has arrived! We called upon the experts for some practical advice on keeping your home in tip-top condition over the summer.

1 GIVE YOUR AC AN MOT. Your air conditioning is probably going at full blast and no one wants a horror show AC breakdown scenario when it’s 45°C outside. Stay a step ahead by invested in a full service at the start of the summer with a follow-up check within three months to ensure optimum efficiency. A well-serviced AC will be more efficient, deliver improved air quality and be utility bill friendly.

2 TAKE CARE OF YOUR TANK. We’re so used to consuming bottled water that we may not give as much thought as we should to what comes out of our taps. During the summer, the combination of high temperatures and standing water can create a fertile environment for all manner of bacteria and micro-organisms. If you live in a villa, protect your water source by having your water tank cleaned. Hi-tech solutions, including the use of UV technology, offer long-term protection. Plus, it’s chemical free.

3 DO YOUR CHECKS. Make sure your home is in full working order before you disappear on holiday. Have the electrics checked and don’t ignore anything minor that may indicate a potentially major problem, such as random buzzing noises or heat-scorched plugs.

Advice from Mr Odd Job, mroddjob.ae
HOME MAINTENANCE

UNPLUG BEFORE YOU GO GO.
It may sound simple, but you can save electricity by unplugging unnecessary electrical equipment (except the fridge, of course) and by making sure sockets are switched off. Don’t forget devices on a timer – you don’t want to annoy the neighbours by forgetting to switch off your 6am alarm.

AC ON OR OFF?
There are no hard and fast rules. If on a timer, we recommend setting it to come on for a couple of hours a day just to cool down the home, or leave it set at around 27 degrees, so it only kicks in when necessary. Leave all doors open to promote airflow.

IF YOU PLAN TO LEAVE ONLY ONE AC UNIT OPERATING, choose an upstairs one, as cooler air naturally falls. Ask a friend to pop in at least once a week in case of any unexpected issues.

LEAVE CURTAINS AND BLINDS DRAWN in rooms that receive direct sunlight to help keep the temperature down.

FLOODING IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON PROBLEMS that people return to when leaving their homes empty for a long period of time. If you don’t have a garden or other dependent services, turn off your main water supply while you’re away.

Tips from We Will Fix It, wewillfixit.com

HOW GREEN IS YOUR GARDEN?
● During the summer, make sure you water early morning or early evening; not during the midday temperature highs. This gives plants time to hydrate properly.
● Add low-cost mulch and/or bark chippings to your borders to help retain moisture, and cool soil and roots.
● Install some garden shading to help protect your plants during the 11am to 5pm sunlight peak.

GET VACATION READY

BEDBUGS
You’ll probably itch just reading this, but always check yourself and your belongings after travelling. Not just confined to hotel beds, bedbugs also love soft furnishings, and they especially love to travel with (on) you. Look for small black dots on mattress edges or headboards and get the professionals in to eradicate them – this isn’t a DIY job.

COCKROACHES
It’s obvious, but a dirty house is a five-star cockroach pad. Pay extra attention to your kitchen and garbage disposal areas and don’t leave leftover food lying around. Roach gel is the hardcore option and a do-it-yourself solution, but call in the experts if you are overrun.

FLIES
House, drain, fruit and blowflies are a common problem and usually attracted to dirt, moist dark places and rotting food. Hygiene is paramount, but natural deterrents, such as using lavender or eucalyptus oil, may help. Remember, they are disease carriers – treat an invasion seriously and call in the pros, if necessary.

RATS
A problem in some villa communities. Again, it’s all down to keeping your home and garden clean and tidy (they love a messy home). A problem best addressed by professionals, with poison and traps. Be sure to keep animals and children safe until the problem is resolved.

TERMITES
Teeny tiny termites are the Arnold Schwarzenegger of the insect world and can completely destroy prized pieces of wooden furniture before moving on to their next meal. They love damp areas, so keep an eye out for possible problems and control humidity where possible. Heavy duty pesticide treatments carried out by the professionals is required.

KEEP CREEPY CRAWLIES IN CHECK
Insects and potential infestations are a fact of life in this climate and while you may see fewer house flies buzzing around, the bad news is that subterranean termites thrive in warmer temperatures.

Words: Claire Malcolm

bhomes.com | 57
Six of the best

Short on space but huge on charm, these compact yet cosy pads prove that bigger isn’t always better

FOR SALE
AED875,000
LIBERTY HOUSE, DIFC
In the heart of all the action in Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), large windows breathe life into what could have been a crowded space. Natural light flowing in the room immediately creates a sense of spaciousness by bringing the outside in. Add to that double mirrors and you’ve got the perfect illusion of space. With high-end fittings, upgraded kitchen tops, and a comfortable living area, this private oasis proves that you can still have it all, in a small space.
For further details, call 04 409 0998 and quote REF: AP355441, RERA Permit No. 0686525186. Nearby school and nursery: Hummingbird Early Learning Centre/Pre-School; Canadian University of Dubai.

FOR SALE
AED1.2 million
THE ADDRESS DUBAI MALL, DOWNTOWN DUBAI
The smart serviced apartment, located at the heart of all the action, is a great investment, currently netting 93k in rent per year. The building is conveniently connected to The Dubai Mall, and has everything a busy young executive could dream of, including restaurants, a business centre, a fully-equipped gym with spa and an outdoor swimming pool with landscaped pool deck. Plus, there’s underground parking, and 24-hour security for peace of mind.
For further details, call 04 409 0998 and quote REF: AP354325, RERA Permit No. 0136169041.

Nearby school and nursery: Blossom Downtown Nursery Dubai.
FOR RENT
From AED55,000 per year

AL SUFOUH SUITES, SUFOUH

This stylish setting teams a classic cream base with bursts of bold colour and personality for an interior design lover’s take on clever spacing. It’s beautifully finished, with intricate details and clever use of lighting, which gives everything a sense of lightness and airy vastness.

For further details, call 04 409 0998 and quote REF: BHM-R-170912, RERA Permit No.1406695676.

Nearby school and nursery: ITEC Dubai; Hult International Business School.
FOR RENT
From AED70,000 per year

AL SUFOUH SUITES, SUFOUH
Combining a minimalistic aesthetic with a hint of modern charm, this luxurious abode may be less than 782 sq.ft, but its clever use of natural lighting, neutral tones and prefabricated design delivers a feeling of spacious cosiness. From the patterned rugs to the bright green accent chair, the simple add-ons keep it from feeling too cluttered and gives the space a contemporary flair.

For further details, call 04 409 0998 and quote REF: BHM-R-170913, RERA Permit No. 1406695676. Nearby school and nursery: ITEC; Carfax Private Tutors.
FOR RENT
AED78,000 yearly

ELEMENT ME’AISAM, DUBAI PRODUCTION CITY (IMPZ)
The sleek design in this loft-style studio makes it difficult to believe it measures less than 300sq.ft — but it does. Space is utilised to the max with a light and airy décor, featuring funky dashes of colour and pine wood flooring, adding a homely feel. Think spa-inspired bathroom, open kitchen shelving and the hotel’s iconic Heavenly Bed. If you’re looking for the perfect relaxed hideaway, you’ve found it.
For further details, call 04 409 0998 and quote REF: HA355453, RERA Permit No. 1842980251.
Nearby school and nursery: Dubai British School; Building Blocks Nursery.

FOR RENT
AED70,000 per year

AL SUFOUH SUITES, SUFOUH
Combining a minimalistic aesthetic with a hint of modern charm, this luxurious abode may be less than 782 sq.ft, but its clever use of natural lighting, neutral tones and prefabricated design delivers a feeling of spacious cosiness. From the patterned rugs to the bright green accent chair, the simple add-ons keep it from feeling too cluttered and gives the space a contemporary flair.
For further details, call 04 409 0998 and quote REF: BHM-R-170913, RERA Permit No. 1406695676.

FOR SALE
AED950,000

THE SIGNATURE, DOWNTOWN DUBAI
What this glorious one-bedroom apartment lacks in square metres, it more than makes up for with character. Boasting gorgeous views of the creek, this mini pad comprises of a state of the art kitchen space, expansive living and dining areas, a guest bathroom and an en-suite bedroom with fitted wardrobes. What more can one need?
For further details, call 04 409 0998 and quote REF: AP356072, RERA Permit No. 1681273136.
Nearby school and nursery: Hummingbird Early Learning Centre/Pre-School, Canadian University of Dubai.
The glamorous Dubai Marina lures newbies and long-timers for its aspirational blend of shopping, nightlife and postcard-perfect views. A myriad of towering skyscrapers, softened by the backdrop of the sparkling waterfront, it’s a bustling hub of activity and is just minutes away from the beach. For those who want to call Dubai Marina home, there are property options to suit all budgets, so you can live the Dubai dream on your own terms.

WHY MOVE THERE?
An array of amenities, eateries and transport links on your doorstep, all against a backdrop of dazzling views, spark serious social media envy. You’ll definitely struggle to be bored here. For those looking to be a part of the Marina’s bustling scene, rental rates are favourable for the tenants currently, and the market shows it is a good time to invest.

THE COMMUNITY
A collection of over 200 residential buildings appeal to myriad needs, housing everything from studios to high-end penthouses and everything in between. With new restaurants, hotels and leisure attractions opening frequently, the Marina maintains a buzz for residents and tourists alike.

TRANSPORT
Getting in and out is simple, with DAMAC Properties Metro Station easily accessible via a walkway from Sheikh Zayed Road. A tram service connects to the metro station, along with other locations such as Palm Jumeirah and Media City. Alternatively, you can go green by renting a bike on the waterfront.

SCHOOLS
There is a selection of nurseries within the Marina, with Raffles Nursery on the Marina Walk and Marina Village Nursery in JBR. GEMS Wellington school and Dubai International Academy are a short drive away.

SHOPPING
Supermarkets, pharmacies and other everyday essential stores are on the doorstep, while Dubai Marina Mall is a short tram or buggy ride away.

Meet the neighbours
Ramy Azab has lived in Dubai Marina since 2016
Since moving to Dubai almost three years ago, the Marina has been home and I can’t imagine living anywhere else. Its energetic vibe is what drew me in since day one. There’s an exciting youthful feel about it, and with its close proximity to my workplace, and easy access to the beach, I am in for the long-haul.
Dubai Marina is famously one of the most desirable locations to live in, due to its self-contained community and spectacular views. Offering modern studios, apartments and penthouses, the emirate’s original canal city has been a popular spot for the last decade, and with good reason. It offers variety in spades, from lively foodies spots to the running track that loops around the canal.

**Prices have dipped over the past year,** making it a buyer’s market and a good time to consider investing in one of Dubai’s most popular communities ahead of Expo 2020. Many of the apartment have breathtaking, waterfront views, with the potential to offer a high return over the coming years. Your entry point for purchasing a two bedroom apartment from around AED2.5 million. If you’re looking to rent, however, bear in mind that there is wiggle room, with average rental rates falling by 10% last year.

The best bit about Dubai Marina is that it is a well developed and established community. From dining out, to shopping in the boutiques at the beachfront in JBR, you benefit from having a community feel combined with all the glamour of luxury living. It’s a hub of people from all over the world and all walks of life, from families to young professionals. What’s more, it’s a friendly and safe neighbourhood. Public transport in the area is good, with the DAMAC Properties Metro Station (on the Red Line) linking to Dubai Tram.

### 10% the average amount that rental rates in Dubai Marina fell by in 2018

**WHAT IS IT?**
A high-end community of apartments facing Burj Al Arab, this development by Dubai Holding echoes the design DNA of Madinat Jumeirah.

**WHERE IS IT LOCATED?**
Occupying a premium spot in Umm Suqeim, Asayel at Madinat Jumeirah Living is a convenient, air-conditioned walk away from Madinat Jumeirah. It also has easy access to Sheikh Zayed Road (two minutes), Media City (five minutes) and Dubai International Airport (25 minutes).

**WHAT ARE THE MAIN FEATURES?**
Sparkling swimming pools, lush parks and gyms are key features, with family-friendly, resort style living at the heart. Plus, this gated community has its own exclusive shopping zone, underground parking and concierge service for residents.

**WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?**
There is a selection of one-, two-, three-, and four-bedroom apartments to choose from, each with great views. Fresh and contemporary interiors contrast beautifully with the Arabian-style architecture.

**WHAT IS THE EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE?**
Estimated handover December 2021.

**IS THERE A PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE?**
A 5% booking down payment is followed by scheduled 5% instalments spread across three years, with the final 60% due 33 months after purchase.

**For further information, call Betterhomes on 04 409 0998**

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**PROPERTIES IN DUBAI MARINA**

**For Sale**
- AED750,000. Sulafa Tower, Dubai Marina. 1 bed, 2 bath, 1 parking, 979 sq.ft.

**For Rent**
- AED118,000 per year. Yass, Dubai Marina. 1 bed, 2 bath, 1 parking, 1,187 sq.ft.
Calling all homebodies

Upgraded your home with magazine-worthy results? We want to hear from you...

If you’re looking to turn a dated villa into a modern masterpiece, or simply want to make some easy upgrades to elevate your space, we’ve got the skinny on how to go about it. From selecting a design that will stand the test of time, to finding the best contractor for the job and knowing where to shop for those all-important fixtures… we’ve done the leg-work for you. Indeed, Better Living will be bringing you lots of ideas in future issues, so if you have completed a home renovation that you’re particularly proud of, we’d like to know about it. Simply send an email to faye@hotmedialroupublishing.com with a short description of your project along with a couple of images and we’ll be in touch. Thank you!

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