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# BetterHomes

Complimentary copy

M A G A Z I N E

April 2017

## BREAKING BOUNDARIES

Lorenzo Castillo  
does it his way



# Step outside

Playful swings, relaxing sunloungers and sociable seating to maximise outdoor living

NEOCLASSICAL STYLE ● SOFT-EDGED BATHROOMS ● DISCOVER DOWNTOWN DUBAI

# STYLE FILES

Take your cue from those in the know

## STEAL MY STYLE



**Mohammad Abu-Seer, managing director of Lamar Interiors LLC**

### Design DNA

We always try to be as simple and elegant as possible.

### Go-to brands

The market in Dubai is large. However, in general we're a bit conservative when it comes to selecting from a big list of brands. We usually recommend brands or countries of origin for certain items. For example, we always advise our customers to go for Italian brands for ceramics and porcelain, and for mixers we advise going for Hansgrohe, for durability and great design. In many other cases, the brand isn't the only factor for selection; technical specifications, material used and even production period are the most important factors.

### Wallpaper or paint?

In many cases using wallpaper is advisable, especially for kids' rooms, or in classrooms, where you want to create a sense of joy. In

other locations, such as offices or restaurants, using paint is more suitable for simple, plain colours (usually related to a brand or logo).

### Splurge on

In general, spending more on MEP (mechanical, electrical, plumbing) works is very critical in places such as restaurants. In other cases, spending on finishes is more important, which is the case for houses or hotels. Specifically, we advise people to spend more money on floor finishing as floors are the first element, in my opinion, that reflects the real image of the space. Finishes of walls come second and, finally, the ceiling.

### Colour combo to try

For elegance and richness, go for earthy colours. For a fresh look, I'd recommend blue, green or even yellow in different shades – these hues create such positive energy and joy. Keep bold colours like red, pink, orange and purple to a minimum.

### Top décor tip

Use the available resources around you. Also, simplicity in selecting and using different décor elements is important. Lastly, create a contrast, such as stainless steel with wood.

## GET A HANDLE ON THIS

These pretty doorknobs will add a personal touch to your drawers



Ceramic drawer pull, Dhs99 for four, **LAURA ASHLEY**



Quatrefoil design petals doorknob, Dhs1,227, **HAUTE DECO**



Bauble ceramic and glass knob, Dhs29, **ANTHROPOLOGIE**



## FOLLOW NOW...

**@designmuseum**

It's the most followed design museum in the world on Twitter and its Instagram account isn't doing too badly either. London's The Design Museum – which found a new home in Kensington towards the end of last year following a pricy transformation of the listed Commonwealth Institute building – takes an innovative approach to its social media. Numerous posts will make up one full image, video posts reveal design processes and there's a popular #architecturefriday campaign. "Our Instagram page is experimental, playing with colour, photography, symmetry and emerging digital trends in order to position the museum as an active social-media participant," enthuses social-media coordinator Sophia Ghonim.

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