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HEART of the HOME

C'est Ici founder Monica Arango has revamped her kitchen into a warm, minimalist haven – with a little help from Cosentino

For Monica Arango, founder of the Dubai-based boutique design studio C'est Ici, interior design is all about a minimalist approach and a philosophy that embraces imperfect beauty. Her own home in the luxurious Jumeirah Golf Estates is perhaps the most accurate representation of her burgeoning creativity. A recent revamp of her kitchen, which she views as “the heart of the home,” brings these design elements to the forefront with Cosentino.

Despite starting her professional career as a lawyer, the Colombian design influencer has had a passion for “all things interiors and crafting unique designs out of nothing” since an early age. However, it was motherhood that inspired her to finally pursue these dreams. “My priorities suddenly changed, and I started to focus more on the home... from there came the spark to design the life of my dreams,” she says. The Mi Casa kitchen can be viewed as an extension of this very desire – a commitment towards emulating the warmth and comfort of family.

A light, neutral color palette dominates the aesthetic, one that Arango defines as “timeless.” This has been achieved through the fixtures and materials in use – light oak flooring, beige cabinets, and Arga, a quartzite inspired engineered stone from the Stonika collection of Dekton by Cosentino. When it came to the statement material, Cosentino was an obvious choice. “It is an amazing product that offers innovative and sustainable solutions, a perfect combination of design, value, and inspiration,” Arango says.

The warm and inviting atmosphere created by the gentle, creamy background and delicate brown-gold veins of the Dekton Arga is enhanced by a symmetrical layout and a strategically placed window that brings in an abundance of natural light. Joinery such as shadow grooves and concealed hinges add to the signature minimalist styling of C'est Ici, while the patinated brass mixer represents a penchant for always choosing something unique.

“We added our personal touches,” continues Arango, “through accessorizing the space with eye-catching statement pieces.” Functional furniture such as the bespoke barstools featuring materials such as taupe fabric, powder-coated black steel, and a touch of tan-brown leather dominates the space. When it comes to accent lighting, everything is sleek and modern to complement the overall design. “As the heart of the home, the revitalized kitchen is the perfect setting for lively entertaining and hosting family gatherings with ease, while also providing a warm and inviting space for everyday moments,” Arango says.