

THE BALI VIBE

Absolutely Mama learns more from the **C'est Ici** team about the beautiful interiors of this villa in Al Manara...

Words **KATY GILLETT**

Monica and Talina are the ladies behind **C'est Ici**, an interior design and styling company based in Dubai. And they're passionate about crafting your home without breaking your bank. Most recently, the dynamic duo made over a whole house in Al Manara in Jumeirah, Dubai using dream holiday destination Bali as their inspired fit.

"Our lovely repeat clients from the Netherlands and Colombia, with two little girls aged two and four, recently moved home to a lovely villa in Jumeirah," Monica tells *Absolutely Mama* exclusively. "When I say 'lovely', I mean AMAZING. This spot is absolutely stunning... It was an amazing spot for style and decor!" One of the most striking elements of the villa, Monica tells us, is the light, which streams in

through the entrance and gives the place a very "Bali vibe". "The villa is absolutely spectacular," Monica continues. "In particular the outdoor area, where we had a 'tropical feeling' and there is plenty of greenery. It felt just like somewhere in Bali, not Dubai."

Her well-travelled clients also have a great collection of furniture and accessories, so Monica and Talina were able to mix and match their existing pieces with more adventurous items they spent a lot of time sourcing. "In this case, we were quite adventurous and created more than four feature walls, where the colour had a huge impact. One was defined the colour palette, we used bananas on the sourcing."

"For this project, we mostly worked with the existing and imported a lot of items from Amsterdam. We also used local brands to give the final touches."

Across these pages, Monica tells us in detail what work they did to each of the four transformed rooms...

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Play area

Our client wanted zero pink here. She has two lovely girls and they particularly emphasised the "NO PINK!" situation. Unsurprisingly, she is not the only client that has requested this from us. As a result, we focused our energy on creating a neutral-gender look and feel while still incorporating girly touches. If you follow us online, you will know by now that our starting point of the design phase is creating the right colour palette and inspirational mood board. While the process sounds quite straightforward, we took on different factors, including inspiration, vibe, colour palettes and furniture. This time, our colour palette was literally taken from an ice cream outing. Over the Christmas holidays, Matheo, one of my boys, ordered bubble gum (minty cream), Gaby, my youngest, ordered mango (mustard) and I ordered lemon sorbet (snow white). We were in the designing stage of the project, so I quickly ran all the ideas through the team and developed a more consolidated colour palette. Once we created the colour scheme, we then emphasised on the non-pink girly touches.

Products: Lamps from White Mess, custom-made sofa, carpet from Crate & Barrel, cushions from H&M Home, accessories from IKEA, wallpaper from Paper Pop, armchairs for kids from Marina Home, cactus from Tribe Dubai, storage from NOOK, chairs from ebarza.com and accessories from H&M Home.



Entrance room

The entrance room was bare bones and the end result is a piece of art created with our styling and old treasures from the client. We added a few pieces to the styling of this room, but there were two defining factors. The first key piece is the Persian rug, which was inherited and is a unique piece. The second: the collection of art pieces, which were a dream to curate. Initially, the client wanted to transform this room from scratch and rebuild the whole area by purchasing most of the items, including the rug. As soon as we discovered the hidden gems, we put a stop to the client's vision and advised her that we could do wonders with her existing stuff. We invested most of our design with the colour scheme of the Persian carpet, which is absolutely stunning. We decided to create a feature wall and curate the client's art collection. We managed to fill the wall with memories and art.

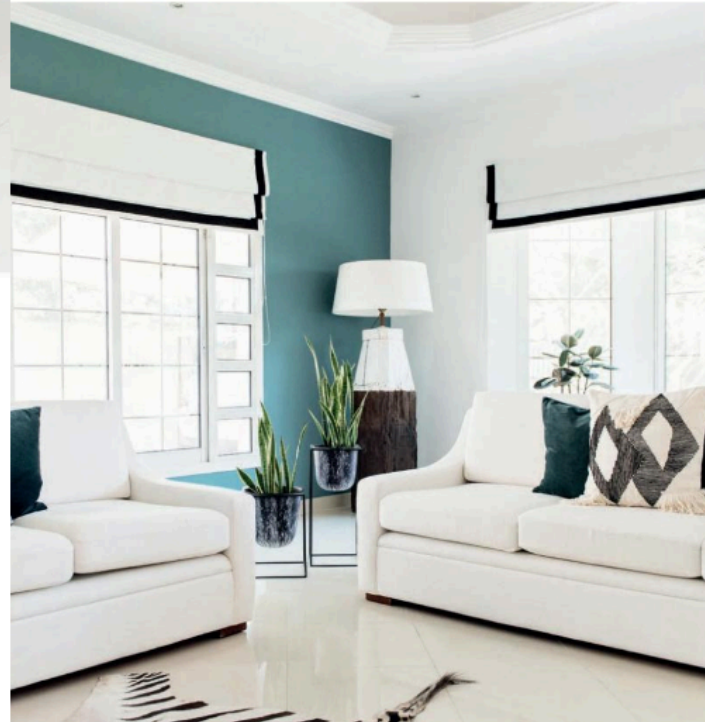
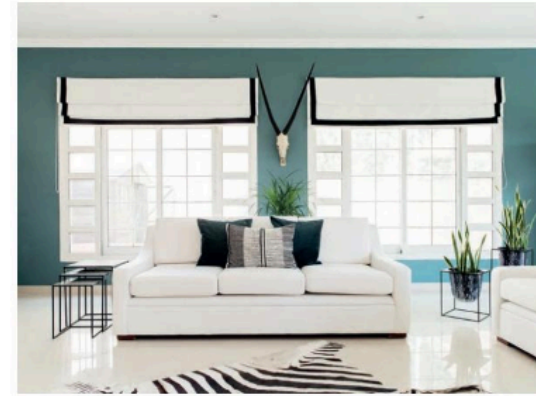
Products: Lamps from LED World, wood centre-table from Pottery Barn, flower sticks from Marina Home, planters from Garden Center, Petroleum Blue paint from Jotun, all the rest are collectibles from the client.



Dining room

● The idea was to create a brother and sister look from the living to the dining room. The villa is quite open and we didn't want the two rooms to be too different. In this regard, the aim was to use the same colour palette with different statement pieces to create the right flow. The dining room is simple and minimalist. The rug is a significant piece for the look as this gives warmth to the room. Again, we incorporated several African pieces from the client, which added character to the room. Lastly, the two oversized rattan shades from Tribe added a more relaxed approach, which was the main aim of the space. The mirror at the entrance of the villa maximised the space.

Products: Rug from NOOK, rattan shades from Tribe Dubai, chairs from Dragon Mart, table is custom-made, mirror from Drift Factory.



Living room

● The living room was definitively inspired by Africa, with a nautical approach. Our clients are great collectors of antiques and animal features, which complemented our styling. Statement pieces such as the hanging planters and greenery lent our signature touch, and also added life to the space. Lastly, our feature wall and nautical linen blinds were key to wrap the whole look.

Products: Planters and trays from Georges of Dubai, velvet cushions from H&M Home, custom-made Roman blinds, cotton cushions from Amsterdam.