



The stunning villa, located in Dubai's Emirates Hills, was just at the foundations stage when her project began, allowing for the conceptualization of the interior architecture and design as well as the landscape design to evolve through Melissa's complete design process.

The Clients, who hail from South Africa and the UK were looking for a place to raise their young family, while implementing the best possible design solutions and highest international construction quality. Melissa, Principal Designer and Owner of the US based design firm, Greenauer Design Group was hired to handle the project from concept to completion, both inside and outside, including creating a



mature landscape before handover. The brief for this unique design project was clear. The villa was to be, first and foremost, a practical family home but its design was to pay tribute to the Clients' extensive travels, global influences and multi-national heritage.

"They were keen to create a unique space that incorporated the many aspects of their busy global lives," says Melissa, who shuttles between the U.S., Europe and the Middle East on a regular basis, working on exclusive residential interior design projects. "They are bringing so many influences from their worldwide travels and previous home in Hong Kong, that I also wanted the design to give the family that 'at home' feeling whenever they entered a room."

The impressive grand hall is one of Melissa's favorite areas. "I wanted to create a dramatic look on the grand staircase, without using the typical iron railing you see in so many villas in the region." This creative decision then set the stage to bring the real 'wow factor' to the space. The hall's Sicis mosaic floor and bespoke glass chandelier from an Italian lighting designer provides an impressive, grand and unique ambience to this double volume space.

In the main lounge, Melissa sourced exceptional fabrics from mills all over the world, and created a number of bespoke furniture pieces from independent New York and European based suppliers. Add some custom case goods and accessories constructed in Cape Town and this is truly a global home in every sense. Unique pieces of art dominate this impressive room,

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the newest of which is a Sacha Jafri, bought at a recent art exhibition in the region.

Melissa chose to create a series of warm, comfortable and livable spaces for the family, areas in which they could relax and enjoy family life, without compromising on high quality, timeless design. To retain the fluidity in the design, Melissa made sure that many of the materials used were repeated throughout the large-scale villa to allow each material to flow from space to space. "By using the same materials I could retain the fluidity in the design, and change only the application and details to suit each look."

The design strived to incorporate the global lifestyle of the Clients, who have also resided in exotic locations such as Hong Kong and Miami, by encompassing these details into the design – details that would tie all of the different aspects of their lives together in one villa.

The South Africa guest room is noticeably tribal with its feather trimmed bold graphic drapes, antique African chest and grand carved bed, topped off by skins of every variety dotted





around the floors and on the cushions. "I liked the combination of color and richness of the fabric quality for the windows," says Melissa. "It is an outstanding graphic, capturing the spirit of typical tribal African fabric design and creating a lot of impact to build the rest of the room around."

Moving on to Europe, the design of the 'British' guest room carries a tasteful yet whimsy British influence, with an eye catching Union Jack mosaic from Sicis adorning the walls of the bathroom, red leather seating and wall panels in white lacquer formed laminate over carved wood.

The bar has also been designed in a typically British Colonial style. Wooden walls are clad with US materials of antique mushroom wood and tobacco barn oak wood frames and floors, offset by traditional hand stamped and tanned leather panels.



Flavors and influences of the Far East & Asia are apparent throughout the home, and the ancient philosophy of Feng Shui allows positive energy to flow freely throughout the spaces.

The Client's eclectic Asian flair influences many of the rooms in this stunning villa, like antique screens from China which have been restored and hung in one of the home offices and the digitally printed wall tiles depicting the map of Hong Kong which cover the walls in the villa's 'Hong Kong' family powder room. "The children were born in Hong Kong and the Clients wanted their children to feel an affinity with their place of birth so I came up with the concept of a map in the powder room, digitally printed onto tiles, which creates a striking effect – a real talking point for guests."



And finally, Melissa's favorite room? "It has to be the master bedroom and bathroom which carries a Mother of Pearl accent throughout, creating an elegant and wonderful space you can retreat into after a long day."



An Unconventional Home

Yet Strong Identity

BEFORE INTERIOR DESIGNER IMAD IBRAHIM BEGINS A PROJECT, HE STUDIES HOW HIS CLIENTS LIVE. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO ATTEMPT ANY LAYOUT WITHOUT KNOWING HOW THE SPACE WILL LIVE AND BREATHE.



For two recent clients, daily life is characterized by entertaining. Think beyond small gettogethers – more than a dozen people may be gathered in their Ras Beirut apartment at any given time. From a design standpoint, the space required an unconventional approach. It had to feel spacious enough for a crowd, but still convey a strong identity.

Rather than segment the group, the clients requested that their guests gather in one open, airy reception area. To solve the most obvious seating challenge, the designer came up with