

DECORATION

the ultimate in luxurious living ideas

July/August 2008 – Issue 26

Fendi Paris
by Peter Marino

Anantara Resort
The Island of Gods

laguna
beach
An Italianate estate

UAE - Dhs 15



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technical tips

Wind of inspiration

How to design an interior



Marie-Noëlle Swiderski, a design professional since 1993, set up the Blanchard Design House in Dubai in September 2006. Her aim "to comfort her soul with beauty".



It is all very well to look at the various parts that sum up an interior but, frankly, the secret behind a good interior is an inspiration. At Blanchard, whether we call it vision, wish, or style, we truly believe a successful space will have been born out of the seed of an idea, a sight, a smell; an experience.

I could keep detailing to death the various types of furniture, fabrics, window treatments, joinery pieces, art even, that are available or that I feel you could be

seeking in today's ever-expanding and ever more global market. What remains the most fundamental truth about the interior you are truly seeking is within yourself. This does not at all mean that you cannot or should not call on professional help to make it happen and put it together. It simply means that, whether before you do that or as you are developing your collaboration with the designer you chose, who will hopefully be professional enough to listen and guide

you, you will learn to listen to yourself. To delve into the memories or latest accelerations of your heartbeat, to find the true result, the true indelible effect you are looking for in the interior you want to obtain in the end.

Easier said than done when you actually do not know what you want? Possibly so. But I am sure, nay positive, that you know what you don't want. Think about it. You have seen friends' interiors that looked like furniture showrooms, or a

storage depot, or a desolate warehouse. You have been to hotels where everything was white and shiny, or beige and matte or resembling Harlequin's costume. You have seen, touched, felt fabrics, pieces of furniture, accessories, art and finishes that seemed fake, too raw, too industrial, too expensive, too ostentatious, impossible to live with or maintain, uncomfortable and uninviting or so casual they belonged in a scrap yard. Yes? The best exercise you can do before you begin in earnest the process of having your interior designed (whether by yourself, with the help of a friend or in the capable hands of a trained professional), is to gather as many examples of what you like. They can be in the shape of magazine cutouts, pictures you have taken on your travels or around town, color or fabric swatches, 'bits' (of stone, shell, wood, a broken plate, a button, who knows?). We encourage all of our clients, at Blanchard, to 'do their homework', as we call it. Anything goes, truly, as the idea will be to translate their interpretation into your interior. A client of ours came to us with the amber beads of a treasured but sadly irretrievably broken piece of jewellery as the key color in her interior. It turned out beautifully and it worked, not just aesthetically but in turning her house into her home. Because it existed in her life already, it was in her heart and in her soul: a thing of beauty that belonged to her but needed new life.

Create inspiration piles using materials that you like in terms of color, texture and that evoke good memories. By separating the items in piles of similar inspiration, or origin, or 'mood', you will find yourself with a canvas to work from. Within a home, there is a natural hierarchy that identifies types of spaces, according to their location, their size, their function, etc. Between these blocks of spaces, you will have ample use for most if not all of the aesthetic paths you have developed yourself. Your formal, or reception spaces can follow one, your informal spaces another, your bedrooms yet another (or be split between Master, children's, guests'), and your bathrooms can follow that or have their own. It does not prevent from creating a common thread that ensures the property has integrity, cohesion and emanates a feeling of quiet confidence. How? Because it will be your home, your interior. You will have been the composer and the conductor.



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