

DECORATION

the ultimate in luxurious living ideas

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Cecconi's
West Hollywood

The Address
An iconic hotel
arrives in Dubai

Home
Sweet
Home
Romance in
the Green
Community

UAE - Dhs 15



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technical tips

Professional Help



Marie-Noëlle Swiderski, a design professional since 1993, set up Blanchard in Dubai in September 2006. Her aim "to comfort her soul with beauty". Blanchard FZ LLC, Tel: 04 3694532, www.blanchard.ae



You feel your property is great but ...if you could just maybe... In these times of optimising what we have rather than looking for new at all cost, is it not time to think how to do so properly? A lot can be done single-handedly, with initiative, curiosity and a lot of patience. More can be done however, better, quicker, cheaper and less painfully, with the help of specialists. But who to approach? How to choose between an architect, an interior designer and a decorator?

It is important to understand that architects and engineers are best equipped to deal with structural issues and all relating to the shell of your property, ie. the outside walls, the roof, an extension for example. Some architects also deal with interiors, but it is best to verify in what capacity they do so, as interiors are best dealt with by specialists who think of interiors with the end user in mind, not purely as volumes and blank spaces to fill. Decorators, in turn, focus purely on the cosmetics of your

interior; mainly colours, soft furnishings such as furniture, window treatments and accessories, including art. They do not get involved in any structural changes or in-depth overhauls. Interior designers or interior architects, are a happy middle between the two, offering a keen eye for style, colours and lines yet a strong background of technical experience that will allow them to address internal changes in space planning, bathroom and kitchen designs, basically all aspects of optimal design of any inter-

nal space. So that space can be used better, lived better and made to look better.

When approaching an interior designer or any other interior specialist, there are several factors to consider. The type of service on offer is as important, if not more I would say, than the size of the company, the styles it has developed previously, or the cost attached to delivery. As in any other relationship, a good fit is essential. After all, you will be spending quite a bit of time with the chosen one. You want to make sure the company you deal with is versed in the type of project that you are aiming to carry out. Is it purely ideas you are looking for, to have implemented by others? Are you wanting to focus on certain problematic areas and not others, perhaps bathrooms, a dressing room and a study, but nothing else? Or do you want to be able to entrust the appointed studio with the concept, the design development, the construction drawings and the supervision of site, so that all is implemented as it was imagined when the design phase took place? Furthermore, do you want to be able to go shopping with the designer or would they have carte blanche? Would you let them run with certain inspirational references or would you be involved in a close collaboration? Most importantly, are these people you feel you can, and are willing to, TRUST???

Indeed, why would you choose to call on somebody to help you improve your home, when you know your taste, your style and your budget? Because consulting an expert is only wise when you want to ensure you get something right, on time and within budget. Because the expert can provide you with all manners of shortcuts, whether it is to source materials, problem solve in a tight space or on site when the inevitable surprises arise. To help you identify exactly what you want but could not quite put together without a nudge. To protect you when you consider living in the property, a building site, while construction goes on and to say: "NO!" To guide you, in a word, and make sure you optimize not only your property but also your energy, your time and of course, your money.

