

# DECORATION

the ultimate in luxurious living ideas

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**Modern  
Metropolis**  
Elm's Designs  
on Dubai

## Making a **Statement** Accessorizing with Blanchard Design

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technical tips

# Accessorizing

The secret to making a statement



**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 the unseen, unforgettable, ultimate accessory (...) that heralds your arrival and prolongs your departure.” What Coco Chanel had to say about the secret of making a true fashion statement is absolutely applicable to design. It seems obvious to say that accessories can make or break a space and yet they can be found lacking in so many cases. Accessories should not be used as space-filling gadgets, but rather as mood-enhancing, feature-underlining,

interest-generating winks. They need to confirm, develop and enrich the room's natural style and aesthetic intention. But more than that, they are what will seal the space's individual statement and confirm it as 'your' space rather than anyone else's.

When you observe a room with a view to further develop it, try to do so with as clinical an eye as possible. Imagine you are entering it for the first time and be very analytical about what attracts

your eyes, where your attention wishes to linger and what the overall feeling is you receive upon entering. The room will thus allow you to decipher it, revealing its strengths and weaknesses. You will no doubt see the areas for improvement and the lines along which to work. As successful as a room's design may be, it will call for finishing touches that make it unique.

If you find yourself in a room that already has a clearly defined design direc-

tion, suitable accessories will be relatively easy to identify and put together. As a starting point for most rooms, you can put together a selection of cleverly complementary fabric patterns, textures and trimmings for an assortment of cushions. These will, by their varying sizes, colours and details, work with, rather than take over, the existing décor. Cushions are wonderfully flexible, welcoming and essential additions to most rooms, in my opinion. Beyond these soft companions, some easy options to look for are candlesticks and other receptacles for candles, such as storm lamps; vases, pots and bowls for one of life's quintessential wonders: flowers; and beautiful books or indeed artwork of various media. You can work along a theme, colours or patterns that you feel will complete the overall atmosphere you were originally seeking to achieve. Choosing a recurring theme or common thread for most of the accessories and decorative details you use to perfect a room will be particularly helpful in a room that has been designed along more eclectic lines, where perhaps the furniture and artefacts are not of common origins or styles but have each retained more of an individual character. It is best then to work with these personalities and let them collaborate in achieving a successful ensemble.

In any case, the challenge in accessorizing any space may lie in selecting original pieces that will support the confident style present: not only finding suitable, interesting or indeed beautiful, accessories. But finding the right, nay, the perfect accessories. Beyond the predictable but still strong choices we mentioned above, as in any design decisions, it is essential that you free yourself from what it may seem you should have or should want to have featured in your interior. What you do want and what you will never tire of, are pieces that were truly 'found', by you or for you. This means that almost any occasion is ripe to discover accessorizing treasures – a wander through the Satwa or Deira back streets, a chance encounter in an Al Quoz warehouse, a stopover on a desert highway market or a desert oasis. A sensuous length of fabric – all can be framed, arranged along a rhythm, paired up or focused on as you wish. Every time you enter the room you will know that this is your, unique, space.

