

DECORATION

the ultimate in luxurious living ideas

September 2009 – Issue 33

Unique Architecture

The Balaam Residence by Arkhefield

Martin Waller
The man behind
Andrew Martin

SWITCH
Re-defining dining
in Dubai

UAE - Dhs 15



6297000169019



technical tips

TUCKED AWAY



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



Back in Dubai after a break from the heat and the rush, we get back into the swing of things; school, office and the living routine, with a strong feeling that the home needs to work as hard as we do and with us, so that our lives can be made easier.

When you look around your home, does it feel like everything is in its place? Like it even has a place? A permanent temporary or an actually dedicated, fully functional location for optimal use? Storage, filing, organizing can never be overrated. If not thought through properly, they will take over a

space, distracting from its other functions and features. They will also eat up your precious time, as you run from drawer to drawer, rummaging pointlessly, increasingly frustrated.

When we design any space at Blanchard, we focus on optimizing it. This does not mean that we ensure every square millimeter is filled. Simply that we provide the best possible balance between breathing space and useful areas. We look at allowing sufficient circulation, comfortable seating, lying, working, as the case may be. And within what is left, we carve out creative void

along with intensely purposeful zones. Whether these in turn welcome a free-standing or a built-in piece of furniture that will house papers, knick-knacks, tools, mementoes, accessories or gadgets, remains to be decided. It may very well be also that the storage has been accommodated within a silly, awkward nook in the room, giving it purpose and identity. Whichever solution is chosen, it is important that the provision is there.

We have created low mansard closets below staircases, angled shoe compartments or even a medicine cabinet

wedged in the shallow gap between two structural columns, niches around ventilation shaft voids, bookshelves in wall or even wardrobe returns. The possibilities are almost endless, provided you think your requirements through and keep an open mind about finishes if space is an issue.

More obvious priorities are to ensure bathrooms have adequate vanity pieces, that not only display a basin that is handsome and deep enough, but also allow for drawer space (deep ones for taller jars, pots and appliances, and shallower ones for hair and makeup, shaving and other personal grooming paraphernalia), and perhaps open shelving (for towels, paper reserves). Little is as annoying as to be using a bathroom that does not allow you to put down your hairbrush without having to first move your soap, drop your toothbrush in the bin and knock over your perfume...

Bedside tables are a great conundrum and I have yet to find enough clever ones that are also lovely. Near your bed, you may want to keep a book maybe two, some magazines, a glass of water, a clock, a lamp, perhaps ear plugs or other smaller implements of your bedtime and morning routines. How to keep this handy and tidy at the same time if there is not enough space or some allowance for enclosing some of it?

We all have papers, hill after hill of documents, some important, others less so but seemingly all equally at the time... They sit on top of each other, occasionally lucky enough to be filed purposefully. Others end up in the 'everything' drawer, with the Hello Kitty hair bows, spare batteries, elusive scissors and tape, a broken watch, the water coupons, capless pens... Sound familiar? How beautiful is the thought of having a dedicated home for these papers, bows, batteries, etc?

Now is the time to do something about it. Look around, think of what should be where and make it happen. Draw the ideal piece or have it drawn and made for you, keep an eye out for a possible key piece that you can make yours, by refinishing it or simply adopting it. There is an amazing sense of accomplishment that comes from knowing things are in the right place.

