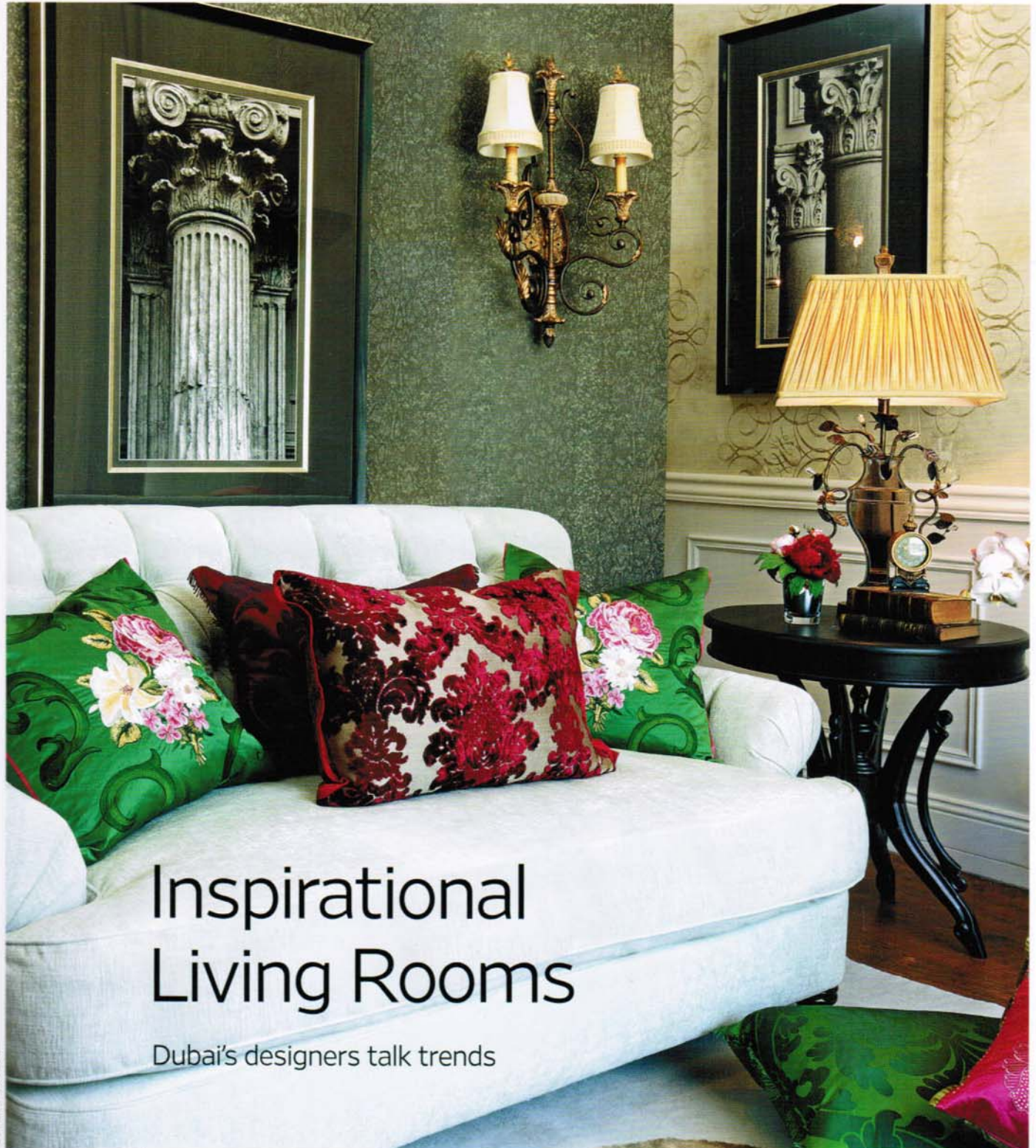


# InsideOut

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## Inspirational Living Rooms

Dubai's designers talk trends

Lakeland Hits Town

Buying in Historic Syria

Freehold Buyers Guide

special feature

Marie-Noelle's touches of bright colours prevent a high-end living room from becoming 'stuffy' and cold



As Blanchard's managing director, Marie-Noelle Swiderski emulates that same air of refined luxury, timelessness and creativity throughout her designs



Marie-Noelle's five years as a documentary director and news producer en route to becoming an interior designer proved to be an incredible source of inspiration. Now favouring timeless, classical design and natural materials, she nevertheless tries to create interiors that don't take themselves too seriously. "A little quirkiness and eclecticism are the essence of a design that you can fall in love with," says Marie-Noelle, who lists light as an important living room factor. "There needs to be natural lighting, but also good quality artificial lighting. There should be different areas for different purposes too: reading, chatting, cuddling, and socialising. It needs to have personality, so I am all for accessories that speak: mementoes from travels, some pictures, books, curios..."

The Padi's southeast Asian, nature-inspired pieces suit Marie-Noelle's influences perfectly. ▶



Above: The Padi meshes Asian lines with global sophistication

"I love art deco and fell in love with the East-meets-West style direction Kelly Hoppen introduced straight away," she says. Andree Putman's exacting design and free spirit has touched Marie-Noelle, as has Saladino's romantic yet contemporary lines. "Design should be beautiful but functional, so I am very big on everyday necessities made easy.

"Dubai's amazingly diverse; you can see the worst and the best, side by side. It's also very inspiring and seemingly limitless. After working in Europe, where space and mentalities can create constraints, it is rather empowering." Marie-Noelle recommends Caspaiou for rare furniture, lighting and accessories, Andrew Martin for marvels and style, and The Rug Company for rich eclecticism. "I am also a big fan of THE One, Marina, The Antiques Museum, and even Dragon Mart at times," she says. ♦



#### Trend Predictions

**Colour:** Neutral shades and saturated colours, e.g fuschia and burnt orange

**Texture:** Rough and rustic versus sleek lacquer. The contrast makes for an unusual twist

**Style:** Cosmopolitan chic is the look to aim for here

**Accessories:** Antiques, odd items (a shoe, a fork), objets d'art. Lights feature structural lines, made from either porcelain, cardboard or even rice paper

**Fabric:** Velvet, glazed linen, and shantung silk all look good

**Window treatments:** Upholstered panels and boat-Roman blinds. Note: always use full-length curtains

**Wall treatments:** Venetian plaster, textured wallpaper and revisited classics work well together

**Flooring:** Limed woods go down a treat for cosmo chic