



# A sense of SYMMETRY

This bright Al Barsha villa is styled for a balanced and calm feel

“As soon as my husband, Badru, and I walked through the gate, we knew this was the one,” enthuses interior designer Masoomah Hilal, referring to the light-filled, spacious single-storey villa that the couple share with their two children, 13-year-old Laila and 10-year-old Saif, plus their cat Jinx and Maltese dog Trixi.

Having previously lived in Dubai for seven years before moving to Beijing for three years with her family, Masoomah was looking for a different experience to their initial Dubai life based in Arabian Ranches. “As the children were



THIS PERSIAN WOOL AND SILK RUG IS FROM MASOOMEH'S CARPET DEALER IN PAKISTAN. "I FELL IN LOVE WITH THIS IMMEDIATELY - IT'S QUITE UNIQUE, WITH ITS ANIMAL, AS WELL AS FLORAL, MOTIFS."



"I love the light in this home - no matter which window I look out of, I can see the garden"

*“The table lamps, which I had bought from China, provided the starting point for my bedroom”*



older, we thought we could live in an independent villa that isn't located in a gated community on our return – and I liked the idea of not being part of a cookie-cutter neighbourhood.” The villa ticked a lot of boxes: it's located close enough to Badru's workplace in Downtown Dubai; it's near to Mall of the Emirates; and its spacious layout, with its wraparound garden, offering privacy, reminds her of houses from her home country, Pakistan.

Masoomah started collecting contemporary artworks when she married 15 years ago, so these are often the starting point for styling each room. “I choose art that I fall in love with, and never with a particular space or style in mind.” Much of her modern art collection is colourful so she keeps her



“THIS IS THE ONLY PIECE OF ARTWORK THAT MY HUSBAND HAS CHOSEN, PLUS HE GAVE IT TO ME FOR MY BIRTHDAY SO IT HOLDS A SPECIAL MEANING – IT'S THE REASON IT'S IN OUR BEDROOM”





sofas and much of her furniture neutral to allow the art, rugs and accessories, which she picks up during travels, to stand out. “I love playing with soft colours, and it’s always more fun using them in plenty of space.”

With her soft colour scheme, artful mix of clean, modern lines and vintage pieces, plus her use of symmetry, Masoomah has created a strong sense of flow between the living spaces, dining area and TV room. “I like having two sofas and two armchairs to complete a seating arrangement,” she says. “You can play around with other pieces in a room that don’t have a balanced look, but I like symmetry for a calm effect.”



Paris art on paper, Dhs999, BoConcept



Epime cushion, Dhs230, Indigo Living



Edel vase, Dhs299, BoConcept



**GET THE LOOK**



Jacques table lamp, price on request, Jonathan Adler



Versailles Cubes urn, price on request, Jonathan Adler



Caracas ottoman, price on request, Jonathan Adler

