



# BEAUTY OF



# BALANCE

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In Abu Dhabi's Al Mushrif district, **Masoomah Hilal** refines classical interiors through a contemporary lens



**I**n the heart of Abu Dhabi in Al Mushrif, a redesigned home unfolds like a carefully written story – one that honours the elegance of classical interiors while weaving in the clarity and confidence of contemporary design. For designer Masoomah Hilal, the challenge was not simply aesthetic, but philosophical: how to create a home that felt deeply rooted in tradition yet entirely attuned to the present. Her solution lay in balance: ***“We approached balance by honouring the elegance of classical interiors while reinterpreting them with a modern lens,”*** she explains. Clean lines, bold silhouettes, and contemporary lighting met the tactile richness of boucle, velvet, marble, and wood. Every detail was deliberate, chosen to ensure the home resonated with refinement but never veered into formality. The result is a residence that feels comfortable, lived-in, and beautifully whole.

The narrative of the Al Mushrif Project begins quite literally underfoot. Warm chevron wood flooring from Nordic Homeworx established the home’s foundation, a subtle yet decisive gesture. Its rhythmic pattern speaks to timeless craftsmanship while its warm tones introduce intimacy. ***“It was chosen to complement the elegance of the wall mouldings,”*** Hilal says. ***“The foundation added depth and texture, reinforcing the balance of timeless charm and modern sophistication.”*** In doing so, the flooring became more than a surface – it became the bridge that connected architecture with interiors.

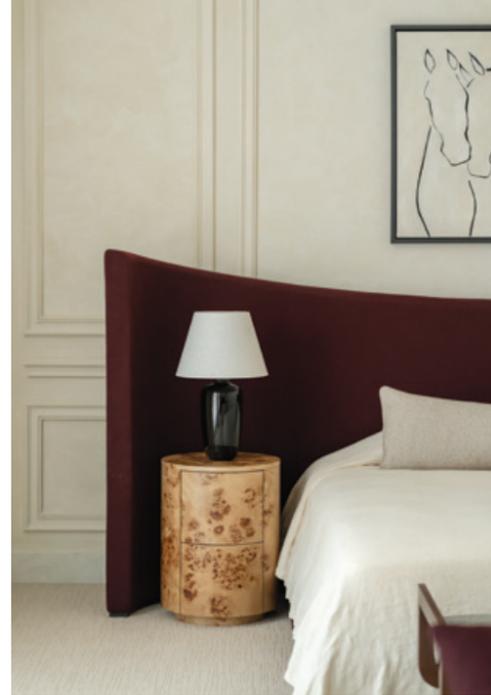
The furniture scheme tells another chapter in the home’s story. International heavyweights such as B&B Italia, Tacchini, and Ferm Living share space with regional curators like The Bowery Company, creating a conversation between global design icons and local voices. ***“For me, it wasn’t about labels,”*** Hilal notes. ***“It was about choosing pieces that spoke to one another and created a home that feels both refined and inviting.”***

This dialogue of contrasts – universal yet personal, curated yet bespoke – is what lends the residence its soul. Alongside the marquee names, bespoke designs from The Line Concept and The Design House inject individuality, while artisanal lighting sourced through Artemest elevates the rooms into artful compositions. ▶



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is about people. The clients, a newly married couple, wanted a home that was both modern and timeless, luxurious yet welcoming. They envisioned a space where they could entertain friends with ease but also retreat into quiet, personal corners. Hilal's design reflects this duality. Large living areas are balanced with intimate nooks, and every material, colour, and texture was chosen to echo the couple's lifestyle and aspirations. **"Our belief is that design should be deeply personal, starting with listening and understanding how people want to live, feel, and move within a space,"** Hilal explains.

One word threads through the home like a refrain: timelessness. For Hilal, this does not mean avoiding trends, but rather creating interiors that remain relevant and elegant long after fashions fade. **"It's about using quality materials, thoughtful proportions, and details that endure,"** she says. In this project, timelessness is not a static idea but a living dialogue between history and modern life, tradition and innovation, memory and aspiration. The home feels both familiar and inspiring. It is warm yet elevated, classic yet undeniably modern. Every element – from the chevron wood floors to the bespoke lighting, from curated furniture to grounding textiles – tells a story of intentionality. It is a project that reminds us of the transformative power of design: to make us feel, to make us linger, and to give us a sense of belonging.

For Masoomah Hilal, this is the essence of her work. **"I want people to feel welcomed, comfortable, and inspired,"** she says. In the Al Mushrif project, she achieves exactly that – a home that reflects its owners while offering a timeless lesson in the beauty of balance. ■

Together, these choices reveal Hilal's philosophy: design should be personal, layered, and deeply reflective of its inhabitants.

If furniture establishes character, lighting creates mood. In this abode, it takes on a starring role. Sculptural fixtures sourced through Artemest serve as both illumination and artwork, while custom pieces lend intimacy to corners and grandeur to gathering spaces. **"Lighting was about creating atmosphere as much as function,"** Hilal reflects. The interplay of soft and bold, warm and dramatic, gives the home its emotional depth.

Textiles, too, play a crucial part. Rugs from Samovar ground the interiors with warmth and definition, while upholstery and fabrics from houses like Kvadrat introduce tactility and softness. These layers transform the spaces from elegant rooms into lived environments, wrapping them in a sense of comfort and cohesion. For Hilal, design is not only about aesthetics – it



Wedgwood x JW Anderson mugs



Wooden ripple mirror by HKLIVING



Green Marble candle bowl by CB2



Poltrona Tria lounge chair by Gubi

ETC



Mist AP<sup>21</sup> lamp by &Tradition



Green Moss Marble cake stand by Crate & Barrel



Dos à dos rug by Atelier Février



Ishi table by 101 Copenhagen



Fountain centerpiece by Ferm Living at The Bowery company