



Designer Values



Name: Imad Bechara

Profession: Lebanese interior architect who owns and runs Design People, an interior design company and showroom, besides designing furniture. He is also an artist and has held exhibitions locally.

Favourite design style: Mixing hi-tech with ethnic and antiques.

Favourite designer: Tadao Ando.

Favourite period in design: Art Deco and also contemporary.

Favourite destination: Far East.

Future plans: To create his own furniture design line under the label 'Design People'

The dining and living area... the simple lines and neutral colours make this area a perfect comfort zone for the Bechara family

Serene and Simply cosy

By Sona Mampilli
Photographs by Joseph J. Capellan

Imad Bechara's Jumeirah villa is a designer's home which is also a family man's personal haven. An address created with love for peace; a reflection of his passion for style; and an ode to contemporary spiritualism...

When the Becharas decided to shift into a new home a month ago, they looked for a property with a garden. "My wife and I immediately liked this home," says he. They moved in two weeks before Christmas and went about the business of making it a home.

"I follow Feng Shui. But due to the limiting shapes of the houses in this region, it is difficult to follow it by the book," says Bechara. "For instance, my 'relationship corner' happens to be the dining area and not the bedroom, which it would have been in the ideal situation. So I introduced relevant touches like red colour to give warmth and copper sculptures for the sake of good energy."

Bechara's taste for all things unique is evident at the entrance to the house itself. "We wanted it to be a part of the house and not just 'the entrance,'" says he. The focal attraction is a merbau wood and paras stark sculpture with copper insets. He designed this piece

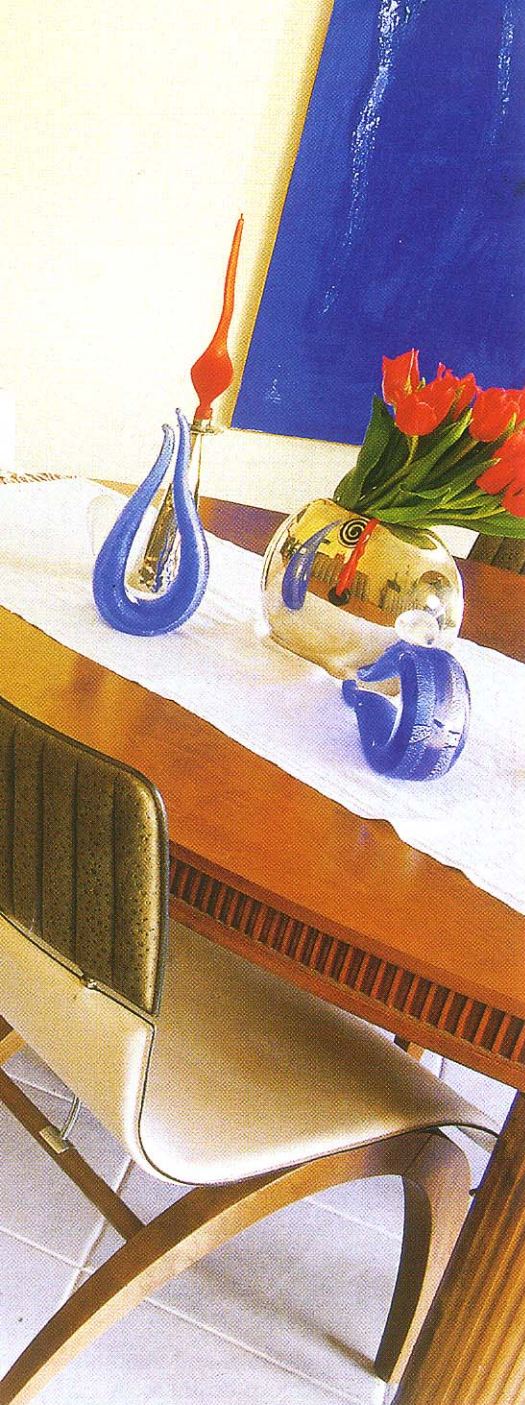
and got it sculpted in Surabaya. "I did the sketch, chose the materials and had it sculpted. The big Chinese coin in the centre is used as a decorative detail in Indonesian gardens," says he.

The living and the dining room furniture is a perfect blend of chrome, wood and alcantara fabric and is from the famed Italian Saporetti label. "See the curved lines in the dining chairs. Hence, I chose the square table to break the monotony a bit." Lending a dramatic flavour to the ambience are the modern sculptures by Syrian sculptor Souheil Baddour.

His paintings hang on the neutral-coloured walls. "I would love to have colours on the walls like I have done at the entrance area and in the bedrooms, but this kind of furniture needs neutral coloured walls," he explains.

"We also changed the tiles to ➤

The imposing sculpture in the entrance area... designed by Bechara himself



Pace. Absolute, uncluttered peace. That is what designer Imad Bechara's home is full of. Wind chimes tinkling in the gentle breeze and the minimalistic ambience lend the house an aura of serenity. "In my earlier house you could find my collection of objets d' art all over the place but in this one, I decided against it. I wanted simple, pure and clean space in my new home," he adds. Decluttering his interiors has greatly enhanced the calm atmosphere within his home. "It also brings in good chi or energy," he feels, expressing his belief in Feng Shui.

The objets d' art, though, speak of his love for travel. Whether it is the singing bowl from Tibet, where he went on his honeymoon, or a carving made out of a stalactite, or an old wall light from Timor, each piece has beautiful memories and they lend the house an air of calmness as well.



Interesting corner... an old wall light from Timor, burgundy velvet upholstered chair and an Indonesian antique with folded hands



The foyer area... a celebration of colours and a breathtaking break in the pattern that governs the house

► light colours to enhance the furniture." Instead of conventional curtains, Bechara has just draped linen fabric to let in the light and enhance the spacious look which prevails all over the house.

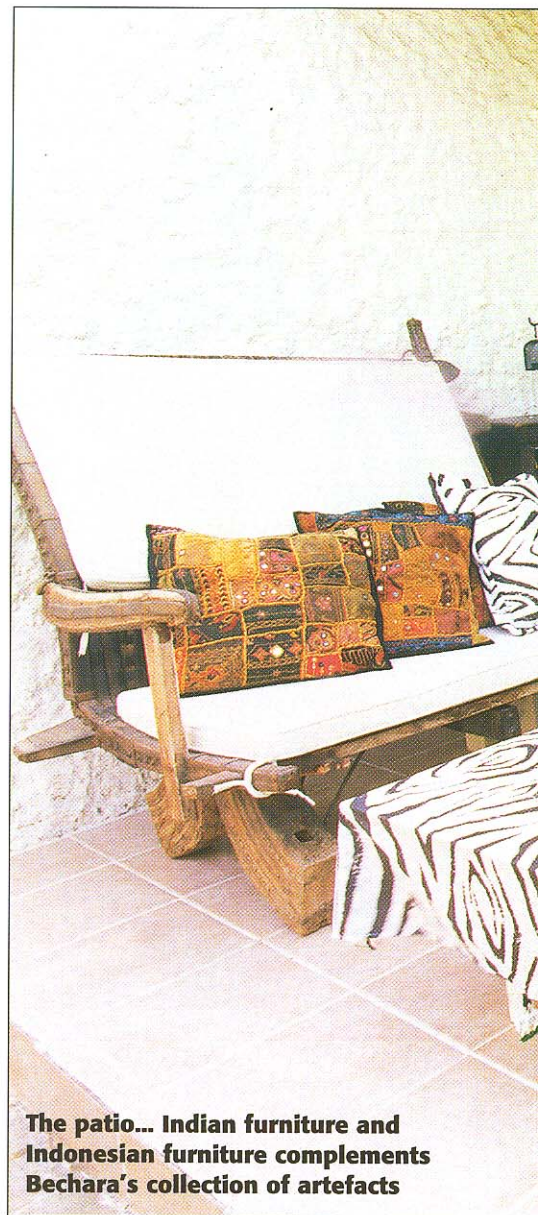
His daughter's room, on the other hand, is a vibrant shade of purplish blue – an unusual colour for an infant's room. "She is a fiery child and this will calm her," he believes.

The room also has a lot of interesting accessories like a frog clock that croaks and so on. On the walls are three artworks in various shades of orange, yellow and green that Bechara has lovingly painted for her.

The foyer reflects an aura of warmth and oriental charm. A Balinese door

Handy tips...

- ✓ Mix shapes of furniture. It breaks the monotony.
- ✓ Kitchen accessories do matter – it is simply a part of everyday life that we take for granted. Accessories somehow make this area both pleasing and personal (Bechara prefers Starck, Graves, Mendini, Giovannoni, etc).
- ✓ You do not always have to change the furniture for a new look. Change your paintings and accessories.
- ✓ Neutral colours give you the freedom to play around with the decorative pieces.
- ✓ Try to avoid going overboard with artefacts and decorative pieces.



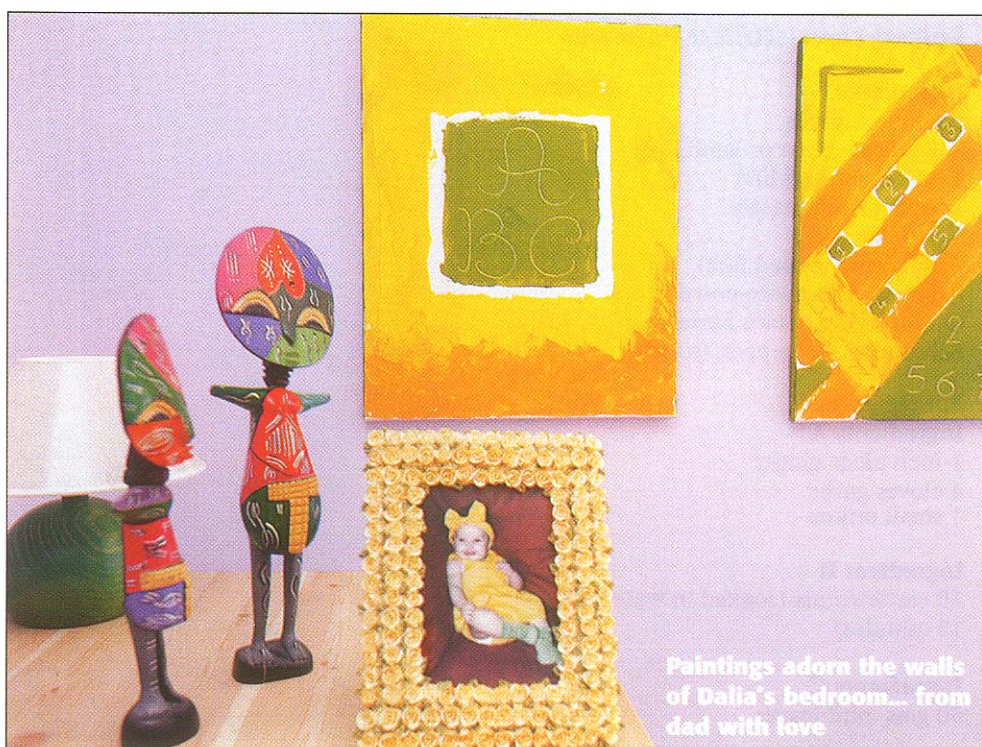
The patio... Indian furniture and Indonesian furniture complements Bechara's collection of artefacts

and bright hues of orange and magnolia lend the area a touch of cosiness. A chunky unit standing by the door, silk rugs and kilims dotting the house... all accentuate the feel.

Bechara's love for the outdoor is evident in the patio. The furniture, which is Indian and Indonesian, is bought locally but the key hanging on the wall is from Tibet. "I like antiques. But too much of wooden pieces make for heavy interiors. So I mix it with the modern," he justifies.

Bechara likes to have his home reflect the change in seasons. "I want the house to have one look in summer (light shades) and another one in winter (warmer colours)," he says. Perhaps the designer in him urges Bechara to experiment with colours and moods.

The strong fusion of Bechara's strong belief in Feng Shui, his basic love for life and his designer's eye, all blend to create a home and not a statement in trend. ■



Paintings adorn the walls of Dalia's bedroom... from dad with love

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