

LUXE LIVING

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THE PALM BEACH LUXURY HOME REDEFINED

No rules

Mimi Masri's defining designs

No limits

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“Location does not set a specific style, but acts as more of a backdrop to the design presented.”

— Mimi Masri, MM Designs



No rules No limits

Mimi Masri's defining designs

BY KELLY MERRITT
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At Mimi Masri's MM Designs, innovation is all in a day's work.

Yachts. Anything but typical nurseries. Bathrooms that feature religious art. Chandeliers that look like bubbles floating through the air.

On a list of what creates a great space, Ms. Masri believes rules have no place in design. Expect the unexpected in marriages of textures, colors and architectural elements.

The houses often are big in Palm Beach.

But one thing far outweighs square footage when designing a room. For Ms. Masri, it's the emotion of a space. A big area should look great, but how does it feel? One example of making this work is a home she designs that looks more like a luxury hotel than someone's home, yet it still maintains an inviting feel.

Ms. Masri made something cavernous feel welcoming, rather than intimidating.

“We used features such as the awnings over the covered loggia to

close in the space along with the built-in sofas, keeping the space open but adding some built-in features helps to define such a large space,” she said. “In the covered loggia, the chandeliers help to bring down the ceiling along with the large curtains enclosing the space further to create an atmosphere of intimacy, while the summer kitchen and backsplash help to add to the comfort of an indoor kitchen but still plays with the element of the outdoor space.”

Take a Red Cross Show House.

The design did not conform to the Florida stamp.

To get this look, Ms. Masri looked to the original designer, Mother Nature.

“Use colors from and inspired by nature and expand the interpretation. For example, yellow can translate to gold, brass and chartreuse — a color that gets demonized, so what you might want to call it lime yellow or green yellow,” she said. “For the show house, we used our own nature inspiration by powder-coating the bed gold, hanging gold Roman shades under the floral printed cur-

tains and installing the brass pendants.”

She didn't stop there. “We added a unique spin on the traditional bedside lamp, along with the oversized sectional upholstered in chartreuse,” she said.

Ms. Masri says her team mixed natural materials such as the French pine cabinet and the Indonesian teak table to bring in another color palette and add texture. It's an example of how to continue the introduction of the outdoors to the indoors.

“In painting the furniture surfaces the colors of nature, you imitate the way that a native South Florida scrubland truly presents itself in color,” she said. “The biodiversity of the species along with the color differences in the differing plants allows for an incredible natural range of complementary colors.”

She also believes in looking up. “Who says ceilings are not a blank canvas?” Ms. Masri said.

She suggested the gold leaves and tracing on the ceiling as art for the beautiful chartreuse and gold bedroom.

Ms. Masri suggests looking at the purpose of a space long before the design process begins. Case in point: A marine project completed by MM Designs contradicts what many boat owners say about decorating yachts: “They all look alike!”

She says the key is never try to turn a boat project into a home, commercial or plane project.



“Boat living has its own style even with the varying differences of size, make and model or even whether it is custom, working or leisure — the nature of boat owners is to live in a nautical environment,” she said. “Making a yacht interior look like the interior of a chateau, a Fortune 500 reception area or the interior of a private 747 misses the point, because living on a boat needs to translate to the fact that one is floating on the water.”

That brings her back to her home base.

Ms. Masri describes Palm Beach as bold, sophisticated and architectural, a place where she never goes into a project with just one line of thought.

“Location does not set a specific style, but acts as more of a backdrop to the design presented.” ■

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