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# WELCOME TO THE NOVEMBER ISSUE



**E**vent season is in full swing this month. This year's Dubai Design Week (12–17 November) is its biggest yet, with more than 120 institutions participating and a strong focus on the flourishing regional design scene. Meanwhile, the Middle East's leading design trade fair, Downtown Design (13–16 November) offers a new element, Downtown Editions, dedicated to bespoke and limited edition design, capsule collections and designer collaborations.

So in this issue, we chat to Downtown Design participant Myrtille Ronteix (page 34), take a tour of interior designer – and champion of local talent – Ruth Abela's villa in Mira (page 40) and ask artist John Castaldi how to nail the West Coast aesthetic (page 22).

**Editor**  
[lucy@hotmediapublishing.com](mailto:lucy@hotmediapublishing.com)

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# TOPS ON TOP



Cindy Crawford on Silestone® Eternal Calacatta Gold

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On Top



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# SHOP

Support skilled artisans and bag yourself a hand-produced dhurrie that combines the best of historic design with contemporary colours and simplified lines. Dubai-based former advertising director Elizabeth Morrison is the brains behind this ethical brand, which is loved as much by locals as by international interior designers. *White and royal navy Lattice dhurrie, from Dhsl,900, From Jaipur With Love, [fromjaipurwithlove.com](http://fromjaipurwithlove.com)*





# SHOP TALK

The latest in homeware, interiors and design trends



## FOLLOW NOW...

**@athomewithashley**

Looking for some pink home inspiration? Utah-based interior designer Ashley Wilson's oh-so-pretty Instagram feed is one to check out. With a husband who wasn't previously a fan of this feminine shade, Ashley turned him around by starting with a few pops of pink in cushions and artworks.



## SOFTLY, SOFTLY

With the weather at its best right now and staycation season upon us, why not turn your garden into a spa? We're plumping for a whirlpool by Softub (softub-me.com) for its bespoke massage experience.





## CUT A RUG

We're coveting the handmade wool and silk rugs from Milan-based company Illulian (*Please Wait...* by Luca Nichetto is pictured above), which will be showing at Downtown Design (downtowndesign.com) at d3 from 13 to 16 November.

## TAKE TWO

Tactile sofas

### SPLURGE

Venice sofa,  
Dhs18,900,  
CHATELLE  
& MORE



### SAVE

Zindelo three-seater, Dhs2,250, PAN EMIRATES



## SLEEP TIGHT



Sunil Dulam, sleep technologist at the London Sleep Centre, revealed his top tips for catching more ZZZ's at a recent Home Centre workshop so you can rise and shine feeling rested...



**1** If you sleep on your back, a medium pillow will adequately fill the space between your head and the mattress to keep your body in a neutral position and reduce snoring. For those who sleep on their side, a firm pillow to prevent serious neck and back pain is recommended. On the other hand, if you sleep on your stomach, you'll need less fill in your pillow in order to prevent your neck from bending at an angle that can cause aches.

latex foam and memory foam that feature springs are ideal because they allow air to flow freely around your body when you sleep.

**2** If your mattress has been around for over eight years, it's probably time to throw it away. There are two main points to consider when buying a new mattress...

- Your sleeping style: Of all furnishings, a mattress is the one that's the closest to you. Hence, it's essential to buy a mattress that keeps you comfortable in your preferred sleeping position. And if you like to mix it up, a hybrid mattress is a good choice, as the responsive memory foam and pocket springs provide optimal support for your back.
- Composition: Mattresses made of a combination of

**3** Choose your sheets well. Opting for a breathable fabric will stop you from overheating. Pay close attention to the thread count – anything between 200 to 400 thread count is an ideal range. The cotton-and-jersey blends, for instance, work well for all seasons.

**4** Block outside noise. Try using earplugs or an air purifier to create a background hum and reduce unwanted noise. You can also set up a white noise machine that produces special sound effects, such as a waterfall or wind blowing through trees, to mask background noise.

**5** Light can send wake-up messages to the brain, suppressing the production of the sleep-inducing hormone melatonin and making it harder to fall asleep. Use blackout curtains or blinds in your bedroom.





## INFUSING ENERGY INTO LIVING ROOMS

It is believed that art is a fusion between the hand, head and heart. The legendary Lech Bonar personifies this philosophy to create a piece of art that blends the functionality of a modular style sofa with artistic aesthetics. The Samoa has no match. Just like your unique sense of style.

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D.Tales

*"Plants make  
a home feel  
more natural"*

Noni Anand, interior designer



- 1. Flower-shaped candle,  
Dhs55, ZARA HOME
- 2. Metal framed mirrors,  
Dhs1,040 for two, AL HUZAIFA
- 3. Velvet printed daybed,  
Dhs6,900, HKLIVING  
at URBAN NEST
- 4. Tear flowerpot,  
Dhs419, BOCONCEPT
- 5. Catherine cup and saucer,  
Dhs395 for set of six,  
JASHANMAL HOME





Tribe. Photograph by Chloe Lodge



1. Shopenna table lamp, Dhs95, **IKEA**
2. Palms school chart, Dhs350, **HKLIVING** at **URBAN NEST**
3. VW Combi T2 cushion cover, Dhs150, **FLORENT BODART** at **DRAWDECK**
4. Round plaited cotton pouffe, Dhs599, **ZARA HOME**
5. Esther table, Dhs5,184.90, **D.TALES**
6. Paris pot vase, Dhs210, **HOME & SOUL**
7. Straws wallpaper, Dhs208 per sq. m., **MR PERSWALL** at **D.TALES**
8. Florentine Crusoe mirror, Dhs4,725, **MARINA HOME**
9. Trisa fountain, Dhs799, **PAN EMIRATES**

# CALIFORNIA COOL

Bring that classic West Coast feel into your home



"Beach vibes, white tones, driftwood, surfboards and vintage Americana epitomise the Californian aesthetic," reveals artist John Castaldi ([instagram.com/castaldiartist](https://www.instagram.com/castaldiartist)).

"I love paintings of palms, open white spaces, sun-bleached furniture and lots of plants, including cacti."

"For inspiration, I recommend *Sandcastles: Interiors Inspired by the Coast* by Tim Neve, visiting Dubai Flea Market ([dubai-fleamarket.com](https://www.dubai-fleamarket.com)) and heading to the beaches after storms to collect driftwood pieces and fishing floats. Furniture stores, such as Antika ([antikadubai.com](https://www.antikadubai.com)) have some great pieces that can work the beach feel, my gallery in Jumeirah 1 also has some breezy, whitewashed items and D.ales ([design-ales.com](https://www.design-ales.com)) has some gorgeous plant and wood-effect wall coverings."

"Keep it clean and casual, and if possible, blur the boundaries between inside and outside living."





A photograph of two young boys in a bathroom. The boy in the foreground is wearing blue swimming goggles and a grey shirt, looking up with a focused expression. The boy behind him is also looking up and holding a blue balloon under a running faucet. Water is splashing everywhere, creating a dynamic and playful scene. The background shows a mirror and a window with light coming through.

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# BOSCH'S NEW DUBAI HOME

Bosch Home Appliances Dubai flagship store launches in a stellar setting

Looking for innovative yet surprisingly simple solutions for a healthy balanced life? Then head to Bosch's new flagship store on Umm Suqeim Street, in the heart of the city. The new showroom boasts 360 sq. m. over two floors, offering more than 150 different appliances and models, all designed by German engineers. "The new space offers an important meeting point for Bosch consumers," enthuses Tomas Alonso, BSH Home Appliances FZE CEO. "This is one of our biggest showrooms in the region and I'm looking forward to people exploring the concept in this beautiful new space."

With an expert team on hand, you'll be able to check out areas dedicated to kitchen inspiration, cooling, laundry, cooking and baking. What's more, the second floor makes room for the UAE's newest cooking school with a live cooking area, showing off the functionality and beauty of the true purpose of a Bosch kitchen.

[bsh-home.com](http://bsh-home.com)



## TOMAS' MUST-HAVE

My Bosch XXL fridge makes my life easier with its large capacity. Its practical usage, adjustable temperature control mechanism and separate compartments for meat and fruit and vegetables ensures longer freshness.





# IDEAS



Create an airy, elegant look with a dreamy, light palette and luxurious, natural textures. *Morus in grey* (curtains), Dhs684.50 per linear metre, *Spruce in cedrus* (sofa), Dhs537.30 per linear metre, Larsen. Available from Lelievre Middle East, 04 430 9599, [dubai@lelievre.eu](mailto:dubai@lelievre.eu)



HOW TO...

# DECORATE A NURSERY

Create a sleep sanctuary for your little one



"Start with something that makes you happy and develop it into a theme," says Christiane Daou, founder of online design store The Bowery Company. "You don't need to stick to a single concept. However, it is important to create a cohesive design that blends elements together."

"You also need to choose a style and colour palette. Study your baby's room. If it benefits from natural light, you can choose a rich, bold colour palette and paint the wall behind the cot in a dark colour. If the nursery needs some brightening, consider traditional pastel shades to make the room appear bigger and brighter. You can always add a bold accent with some brightly coloured accessories, such as cushions or curtains. A minty green or a cool grey with earthy neutrals are my favourite colour combinations for gender neutral nurseries, while soothing beige from Jotun's AW18 range is a current personal crush."

"Aim for eco-friendly pieces of furniture, free of harmful chemicals and don't forget to baby-proof the nursery."



Home Centre



Sloebery Cloud mobile, Dhs195, THE BOWERY COMPANY



Fenomastic My Home rich matt paint in soothing beige, Dhs15 per litre, JOTUN



Handmade dolphin sculpture, made to order, CRIB DECORE

Chevron Illusions rug, from Dhs960, FROM JAIPUR WITH LOVE



White rocking sheep, Dhs600, THE BOWERY COMPANY

Bunny cushion, Dhs149, JOBOA COLLECTION at WHITE MOSS



Spotches armchair, Dhs520, INDIGO LIVING

# ASK A DESIGNER

Our interiors expert answers your queries and shares her hidden gems in the city



**Hala AlSabouni,**  
interior designer  
at Ellington

## How can I include natural materials while renovating my home?

Wood, stone, cork and leather are all natural materials that can easily be incorporated into a home renovation project. Using treated or engineered wood for joinery and flooring will give a warm, cosy look to your home. Wood can also be used for screen partitions between spaces instead of building a wall. Using your desired type of stone is great for feature walls and kitchen splashbacks. Cork and leather (or faux leather) can be used for panelling or crafted furniture. All these materials can be reclaimed and fabricated to reduce waste and increase sustainability.

## I'm looking for accessories to personalise my rented apartment. Where should I start?

Add your personal touch by creating your own gallery of different sized framed photographs or prints and collectable items, such as postcards and objects with significant meaning to you on a main wall. The combination of images and three-dimensional objects will create variety and texture.

Consider a tasteful colour scheme that complements the space and showcases your personality, while selecting accessory pieces. The main point to always consider while styling your home is to focus on your own desired look and feel to achieve a unique outcome that expresses your individual character.

## How should I plan the layout of my home so that it is aligned with the principles of Vastu?

Vastu is a traditional Hindu architectural system that marks out the principles of design, ground preparation, space geometry and interior space layouts. This system should preferably be considered from the first stage of design to combine the five elements of nature (earth, fire, air, space and water) to create balance. If you are dealing with an existing shell, the space layout must complement the principles to align with the four cardinal directions to create a positive flow of energy. Your entrance should preferably be placed at the north direction for stability and prosperity; your living room and kitchen should be placed east or south-east for strong social relations and health; bedrooms and bathrooms need to be located south or south-west for comfort and relaxation; while dining and guest rooms should be west or north-west for nourishment and entertainment.

## MY LITTLE BLACK BOOK

### FOR LIGHTING:

For readily available locally sourced lighting, Indigo Living ([indigo-living.com](http://indigo-living.com)) displays an exceptional collection of light fixtures. Other more premium designer brands, such as Lee Broom ([leebroom.com](http://leebroom.com)) and Flos ([flos.com](http://flos.com)) cover a fantastic collection of light pieces that definitely provide the wow factor.

### FOR STATEMENT PIECES:

SkLO ([sklo.com](http://sklo.com)) offers perfectly crafted hand-blown glass objects treated with different colour gradients. For other show-stopper pieces, Editions Milano ([editionsmilano.com](http://editionsmilano.com)) has a vibrant designer collection of screens, credenzas and sideboards.

### FOR HOME SCENTS:

Artisan home scent Dr. Vranges (available from Bloomingdale's Home) includes diffusers up to five litres that can easily be displayed as statement pieces in entry zones.

### DREAM BUY:

Ombre Glass chair by Germans Ermičs (pictured below). The beautiful hues of the glass allow you to really look at the material rather than see through it, while the invisible hardware and clean craft showcases the piece, making it appear almost completely weightless. The chair is visually simple and elegant yet extremely complex in terms of fabrication.





# STEAL MY STYLE



## ANTONIO MINUTELLA

The chief architect at ISSARCH L'Atelier del Design reveals his design influences



### HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS

I love a luxurious sink in the powder room and bathroom, plus a gigantic central island in the kitchen.



### COLOUR COMBO TO TRY

Green with beige and greige (the colour of the sand).



### MOST PRIZED POSSESSION

My lounging chair – it's an armchair by Charles Eames that was gifted to me from my uncle, an architect, who inspired me to consider my profession.



### SPLURGE ON

A good couch. To me, a sofa represents comfort and it also expresses the personality of the household. It should be welcoming, yet formal.



### WHO IS YOUR DESIGN HERO?

Architect and interior designer Joseph Dirand. His designs are timeless – he infuses traditional French designs with clean lines, using different, natural materials.

FROM TOP: EAMES LOUNGE CHAIR OTTOMAN, HACKER KITCHEN, COHEN SOFA BY LONGHI, JOSEPH DIRAND, JOTUN PAINTS

# IN FULL FLOWER

Glossy or moody, the new florals are big on impact



## SMELL THE ROSES

Perfect for a feature wall, this wallpaper features a single rose in full bloom – delicate yet strong. *Hope wallpaper* from the *Expressions* collection, Dhs208.45 per metre, Mr Perswall. Available from D.Tales, [design-tales.com](http://design-tales.com)



## SHINE ON

With its thick surface printing and reflective qualities from metal foils, designer Anna French ensures this traditional branching floral has a warm, old block print vibe. It's available in six delicate colourways. *Bird in the Bush* wallpaper in foil, Dhs495 (GBP102) per roll, Anna French for Thibaut, [thibautdesign.com](http://thibautdesign.com)









## BE BOLD

Add drama to your space with this striking design, which combines an elegant chrysanthemum head motif and a dynamic colour combination. *Evelyn* from *The Muse* fabrics collection, Dhs510 per metre, Zoffany. Available from *Style Library*, [stylelibrary.com](http://stylelibrary.com)







### A SOFT TOUCH

With its watercolour painting feel and ethereal quality, the Bloom collection by American wallcovering specialist Philip Jeffries includes digital prints that capture blossoming flowers in hyper detail. It is shown here in a bathroom of a Long Island property styled by KA Designs. *Bloom India* ink on white manila hemp wallpaper, Dhs2,058 (GBP427.50) per panel, Philip Jeffries, [philipjeffries.com](http://philipjeffries.com)



# HANDMADE IN THE UAE

French artisan designer **Myrtille Ronteix** on creating products inspired by the emirates

Interview: **Lucy Land**

**B**ased in Dubai for the last five years, Myrtille Ronteix works primarily with porcelain. She enjoys applying patterns and adding materials, such as wood and gold. However, for her participation in Downtown Editions during Dubai Design Week this month, she will be launching a limited-edition light installation and a table runner under the Tanween label. We catch up with the creative ahead of the event...

## **How would you describe your design aesthetic?**

Natural, organic and clean. Because nature is my main inspiration, I explore materials, textures and pure lines. I am also influenced by my travels in Europe and the Middle East.

## **What are you currently working on?**

I am finalising the production of the first 10 pieces of an affordable product, mixing two traditional techniques typical to the UAE, which will be presented during Downtown Editions at Downtown Design. This is part of the Tanween programme – four designers chosen by art and design practice Tashkeel to create products inspired by the emirates. I am also working on various ceramic pieces, including a special collection for Al Ghadeer UAE crafts, plus making a range of wooden toys designed by my grandfather in the 1950s – I'm really fond of this project given how contemporary it looks.

## **What does sustainability mean to you?**

Any project or idea that is functional, respects the environment, is manufactured well and is long lasting can be considered sustainable – these values are very important to me.

## **What's your take on the local design scene?**

There is a lot of pride in discovering and showcasing the UAE's heritage. It is a real source of inspiration. Craftsmen and women are very invested in supporting regional design – I believe this is a strength that can only grow.

## **How does the UAE inspire your work?**

Through its nature, modernity and peacefulness.



## **What's the most important thing to get right in the home?**

My home is a representation of my family – every object is personal and has a story. I also like to use lights and natural colours to create a warm atmosphere.

## **How much impact can your home space have on your quality of life?**

Part of my home is also my workshop, which means I spend a lot of time there and it's an important part of my life. I like to start my daily routine with a large coffee in my favourite mug, while my home is filled with design objects that inspire me – they are all minimalist and functional.

## **What's on your bedside table?**

A black and white ceramic plate that I've designed and where I keep my favourite jewellery (some from my own collection), a book called *En attendant Bojangles* [Waiting for Bojangles] by Olivier Bourdeaut and some interior design magazines.

## **What's your top home décor tip?**

Keep your interiors personal but don't forget to have fun, with a dash of fantasy thrown into the mix.

## **How would you describe your home?**

It's a mix of Scandinavian and Parisian styles. I like to mix and match different eras, such as a modern lamp on top of old furniture found in an attic, all featuring pure lines. It's minimalist yet cosy, and mostly white.

## **What should we look out for at Dubai Design Week?**

Limited-edition products and, specifically, the Tanween collections. I've seen the projects created by my fellow participants and I'm really impressed. There will be numerous workshops, too – I'm very excited about *The Hands of a Designer*, as it's all about passion, lights and handcraft. I would also recommend taking a walk around d3 to allow corners and new initiatives to simply take you by surprise.

**Dubai Design Week takes place at Dubai Design District (d3), 13-16 November, [dubaidesignweek.ae](http://dubaidesignweek.ae)**





# Made to last

Enjoy a workspace worthy of a Michelin-starred chef with our edit of kitchens made from prestigious materials



## Blurred lines

The 1.2 cm -thick Dekton Keon stone by Cosentino creates a visual flow, from the backsplash to the breakfast counter edge, while Sand Grey high-gloss lacquer teamed with a natural walnut veneer adds texture to this high-tech, handleless kitchen located on Palm Jumeirah. *Schüller premium range from next125. Available from Goettling Interiors, [goettling.me](http://goettling.me)*





## The dark side

Create a rich, luxurious look by combining natural materials with darker shades. The beautifully textured cabinets contrast perfectly with the Vintage Oak waterfall island shown here. *Iron Grey kitchen, Hacker Kitchen, hacker.ae*





## Balancing act

A curved light wood surface adds warmth to the thin ceramic worktop of this large island, which is further softened by an illuminated glass base cabinet featuring black matte metal frames.

*Pure SLX by SieMatic, [siematic.com](http://siematic.com)*



## IN SINK



K700 Eurocube sink, **GROHE**



Sanitized Fraganite sink, **FRANKE**




Zenit stainless steel sink with drainer, **TEKA**



Burnished brass apron-front sink, **OFFICINE GULLO**





# Striking the right tone

Interior designer Ruth Abela's villa in Mira  
offers serenity for the whole family

Words: **Lucy Land** Photographs: **Muthu Kumar**







“We chose this villa because the back gate opens onto a park,” says interior designer Ruth Abela of design company Setting the Scene ([settingthescenedubai.com](http://settingthescenedubai.com)). “It’s a really friendly neighbourhood and the kids have plenty of friends here.” Ruth lives with her lawyer husband Dan, their three (of four) children – six-year-old Alfie, four-year-old Jake, two-year-old Oscar (while 18-year-old Robyn is currently in London) – plus four cats and two dogs so it’s not surprising that a garden and speedy access to a park were on the must-have list for the large family.

Muted tones provided a starting point for the home interior. “I chose whites, greys, black and blonde wood, which plays out differently in each room throughout the house,” Ruth enthuses. While Instagram, Pinterest,

magazines and the family’s travels offer inspiration, with garden ornaments picked up from Bali, paintings from Cambodia and other pieces bought in Thailand, local designers also influence the family villa.

There’s an upcycled chair, painted by Michael P Whittle using chalk paint by Annie Sloan, in the master bedroom. Michael also created a cute fox’s head inside Oscar’s wardrobe. Valerie Browning of Paint Pixie, meanwhile, painted the mountain scene in Jake and Alfie’s bedroom. “There’s so much amazing talent in Dubai. As well as the many artists based here, I love the work of interior designers, such as Lilly Engelbrecht and Rhian Clarke,” Ruth says. “Showrooms offer interesting designs, too. The stylists from Live Loud Girl, for example, recently transformed some products into bespoke pieces for IKEA.”



"I LOVE THE SIMPLICITY AND FUNCTIONALITY OF THIS WORLD MAP," SAYS RUTH. IT IS FROM DESIGN COMPANY HOAGARD.



“I style corners and bookcases by clustering colours, while being mindful of varying heights and sizes of objects”





### The bathroom:

"The original layout was awful," reveals Ruth. The bathroom was divided into two tiny rooms – one with the WC and a shower; the other housed a double sink. She opened up the space and worked with Bagnodesign and 3DLux on the interior.



THE BEDROOMS  
FEATURE SOFT  
COLOURS TEAMED  
WITH PLENTY OF  
TEXTURE FOR  
A CALM AND  
COMFORTABLE VIBE





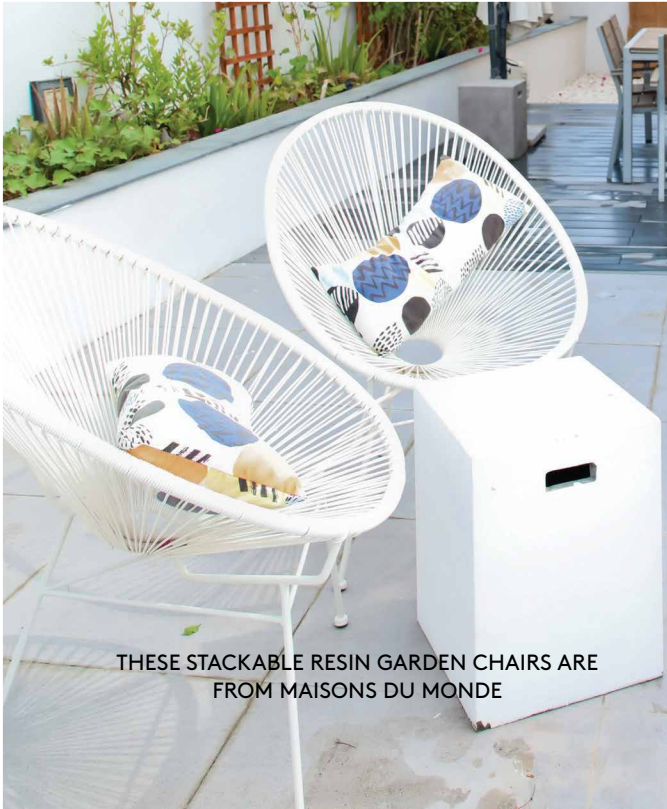




**The kitchen:**  
From Bagnodesign, the flooring arrived in strips. "I got them cut down and herringboned." Subway tiles were chosen for the backsplash, while the countertop is made from polished concrete produced by 3DLUX.



RUTH FRAMED  
SOME WRAPPING  
PAPER FROM  
BLOOMINGDALE'S  
HOME FOR THIS  
ARTWORK



THESE STACKABLE RESIN GARDEN CHAIRS ARE FROM MAISONS DU MONDE





## HOME COMFORTS

Your interior starting point...  
Should be your colour palette.  
I work with five or six colours.

Home is...

Family, laughter and a place to  
spend with friends.

It is also a space...

That can accommodate every  
family member.

## GET THE LOOK

Phoenix plume  
tribal mirror,  
Dhs395,  
**WHITE MOSS**

Suburban Dreams  
vintage poster, from  
Dhs85, **HIGH LIFE**



Anthurium  
in cement  
vase, Dhs250,  
**CHATELLE &  
MORE**



Green glass votive  
collection with  
wooden tray, Dhs180,  
**BLOOMINGVILLE  
at AMARA**



Spring bucket chair,  
Dhs945, **HOME & SOUL**







# Rustic Charm

Weathered antiques have been artfully teamed with cosy, natural textures in this French rural retreat

Words: **Lucy Land**

Photographs: **Paul Houlsby**





Surrounded by rugged mountains, lush valleys and dramatic gorges in the heart of Cévennes National Park, south of France, sits a several-hundred-year-old farmhouse called Le Vaquier, built from local stone and comprising three buildings. “The views from it are breathtaking and the region is home to some of the most famous vineyards and cheeses, such as the pélardon goat’s cheese, in the world,” enthuses Paul Houlsby, who bought the property as a holiday home.

The main house was originally used for silkworm production; the adjacent barn once kept goats; and the guesthouse was a chestnut smokehouse. While its bucolic location and history provided a huge draw and an antidote to Paul’s busy working life in Dubai and Paris, it wasn’t without its challenges and transforming a house initially intended for a single person into a practical home for entertaining family and friends became a labour of love.

Building firms couldn’t give a quote in advance of the work or a guarantee of the final results because of the buildings’ and grounds’ location on precipitous slopes only accessible by car and small vans. “Finally, a small firm took on the project, doing everything by sight, though the venture wasn’t without a few mistakes, setbacks and reworks along the way,” Paul explains. “Creating the central staircase was a leap of faith, while blasting the rock under the house to open up the arches and move the septic tank was a high-risk, painstaking inch-by-inch task without a guaranteed outcome.”

Paul’s priority was changing the layout, with challenges that included the kitchen being located in a different building to the living room; a lack of indoor dining space; and an absence of space at the top of the stairs where a huge bathroom was located, leading directly onto an enormous bedroom divided into two, and then the library. To that end, the two main buildings were connected with a hallway and the property now boasts six bedrooms, four bathrooms, plus two kitchens – one in the main house and one outside. “The kitchen is such a social focus for a house, so we created a large island and open-plan layout next to the main living room.” Meanwhile, a landing at the top of the stairs was





“A SMALL FIRM TOOK  
ON THE PROJECT, DOING  
EVERYTHING BY SIGHT”





## “BEING SURROUNDED BY NATURE BRINGS A VERY SPECIAL QUALITY TO LIFE AT LA VAQUIER”

made, connecting the two bedrooms, the bathroom and the library, which was transformed into a self-contained apartment, with direct access to the stunning grounds.

In keeping with the soft hues of the property's stone walls, wood beams and panelling, Paul put together a mood board featuring shades of stone, dusty greys and charcoal before applying it throughout the home. “I didn't like the dark orange terracotta flooring but it's very durable and high quality. With changes to the interior and the addition of huge, custom rugs, we took the focus away from the floors.” Paul wasn't keen on the large amount of wood in shades of black through to orange either, so the oak window frames, shutters and doors were painted with French Gray by Farrow & Ball, while the orange tones of the beams were removed, enhancing the blacks and dark browns caused by chestnut smoking. Wood panelling was painted with an artichoke green-grey base and an off-white patina, which were worked in with a cloth and umber varnish to create a patina effect.

Paul shopped the stores and flea markets of the local town Uzès for traditional furnishings, including linen-upholstered sofas and teak garden furniture, while botanical prints and vintage photos were sourced from the bouquinistes (antiquarian booksellers) of Paris.

With a river looping the lower boundary of the beautiful grounds of the property, outdoor spaces were designed to suit the way the light moves around it and to maximise its gorgeous vistas. The terrace, situated off the

kitchen and dining room, catches the morning light, while carefully pruned overhanging trees provide dappled shade for breakfast time; the terrace at the entrance, where the flowing river is audible, offers shade from the mulberry trees in the afternoon; and the middle terrace overlooks the swimming pool and is a perfect spot for evening drinks.

The grounds' highlights include a fully working kitchen situated next to the large heated swimming pool. “Because of its location in a gastronomic region, I decided to go all out, with a dishwasher, oven and hob,” Paul says. “Tucked into a stone-built niche with weathered-looking doors, the look, however, is very rustic.” Hardwood decking and travertine marble adorn the pool and poolside, which is lit with anthracite metal wall lanterns and copper step lights. The dining table, meanwhile, is made from an old boat. “It's really heavy but it adds character and charm.” There is also a pergola planted with white wisteria. “I'm looking forward to it taking over the space.”

It's the sense of being at one with nature that Paul loves most about the home. “Being surrounded by flora and fauna brings a very special quality to life at Le Vaquier, from the harmless ladybirds and gendarme beetles that fill the shutters in October to the host of swallows diving and soaring above the property in high summer,” he says. “You can catch a glimpse of incredible dragonflies and the rarest of butterflies, you can even meet a family of wild boars or badgers along the roads or see them trekking across the forest.”



### HOME COMFORTS

**Choose a cohesive palette of colours and style...**

**And apply it throughout the home.**

**Work with the light and nature.**

**Choose plants most suited to the climate.**

**Home is...**

**Harmony and balance that comes from layout, colour and texture.**

**It is also a place...**

**Where your pulse slows down the minute you walk through the door.**





## GET THE LOOK

Diamond teal blanket, from Dhs212 (GBP45), **WEAVER GREEN**



Skultra floor lamp, Dhs3,680, **KARE**



Ardley candle holder, Dhs179, **PAN EMIRATES**



Stone Canyon cocktail table, Dhs18,500, **INTERIORS**



Mystik coffee table, Dhs5,800, **MARINA HOME**





# AUTISM

IS NOT A WORD TO BE FEARED  
IT'S A CHILD TO BE  
LOVED



STRATEGIC PARTNER



TELEVISION PARTNER



EXCLUSIVE ASIAN RADIO PARTNER



GOLD SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSOR



SOCIAL & DIGITAL MEDIA



SPACE COURTESY





# AREA

With a slew of fantastic activities and events throughout the year, desert-styled Arabian Ranches is a locale that really brings the community together. Discover the area's highlights and homes available to rent and buy in our must-read guide.





# MOVE TO ARABIAN RANCHES



**Chris Jones, Arabian Ranches Specialist for Betterhomes, on living in a sought-after community**

A well-established gated community set in 1,650 acres of desert-themed landscaping, Arabian Ranches is made up of 24 individual neighbourhoods that contain over 50 styles of villas and townhouses. There's a swimming pool, children's play area, plus parks and walking paths at the heart of each community – perfect for young couples, growing and large families alike.

Centrally located, Arabian Ranches is easily accessible via E311 Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Road. It is 10 minutes' drive from Mall of the Emirates, 20 minutes' from Downtown Dubai and an easy drive to Sharjah and Abu Dhabi. Arabian Ranches 2, meanwhile, is located off Al Qudra Road.

There's something for everyone in this locale, with properties offering generous living space that includes balconies, courtyards or terraces and range from affordable two-bedroom plus maid's room townhouses to luxurious seven-bedroom villas located on the golf course. Each community is inspired by various architectural styles, including Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic. What's more, many of the villas have been upgraded, which means that no two are the same.

At more than 14 years old, the sense of community is strong: families and friendships are firmly developed, children grow up playing together and the streets are lined with beautiful trees as old as the development.

Arabian Ranches 1 is set around a challenging 18-hole golf course that attracts sportsmen and women from all over the UAE. The rich, undulating fairways set the backdrop to many homes, as well as to the buzzing Club House and Maison Mathis – a chic Belgian restaurant-cum-bar.

The Polo Equestrian Club is a short five-minute drive. There, visitors and members can enjoy the luxury of horse riding, playing and watching polo – both horse and camel – and using the luxurious gym and pool facilities.

With five lakes throughout, the neighbourhood also offers two village community centres with retail amenities including Carrefour supermarket, restaurants, fast food outlets, coffee shops and a medical clinic. In the centre of the community, a short walk from the shopping centre, you can find Jumeirah English Speaking School (JESS), which caters for FS1 to Year 13 (age three to 18) children, while Ranches Primary School is located in Arabian Ranches 2.



## To rent

Two-bedroom with study townhouse  
Three-bedroom with study townhouse  
Three-bedroom with study plus maid's room townhouse  
Three-bedroom with maid's room independent villa  
Four-bedroom with maid's room independent villa  
Five-bedroom with maid's room independent villa  
Six-bedroom with maid's room independent villa  
Seven-bedroom with maid's room and golf course views

## Approximate price

Dhs95,000 - Dhs115,000  
Dhs120,000 - Dhs140,000  
Dhs150,000 - Dhs200,000  
Dhs175,000 - Dhs240,000  
Dhs200,000 - Dhs260,000  
Dhs225,000 - Dhs380,000  
Dhs290,000 - Dhs400,000  
Dhs300,000 - Dhs400,000

## To buy

Two-bedroom with study townhouse  
Three-bedroom with study townhouse  
Three-bedroom with study plus maid's room townhouse  
Three-bedroom with maid's room independent villa  
Four-bedroom with maid's room independent villa  
Five-bedroom with maid's room independent villa  
Six-bedroom with maid's room independent villa  
Seven-bedroom with maid's room and golf course views

## Approximate price

Dhs1.3 million - Dhs1.75 million  
Dhs1.75 million - Dhs2 million  
Dhs2 million - Dhs2.9 million  
Dhs2.75 million - Dhs4 million  
Dhs3.3 million - Dhs4.4 million  
Dhs4.2 million - Dhs5.6 million  
Dhs4.5 million - Dhs8 million  
Dhs5.5 million - Dhs10 million







# FOR SALE

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## ALVORADA 1

4-Bedroom Villa, Arabian Ranches

### AFFORDABLE LUXURY

A truly one-of-a-kind, stunning four-bedroom villa is available for sale in the sought-after Alvorada community. With a great layout and quality finishing throughout, this property has received a complete overhaul and has been extensively upgraded, with over Dhs600,000 spent on it. What's more, the overall built-up area of the property has been increased by over 400 sq. ft. from its original space. The downstairs has seen the kitchen, living room and guest bedroom extended, too, while a separate maid's quarters has been built on the grounds, complete with a private kitchenette and private entrance. The professionally landscaped garden includes amazing lighting features, plus a gorgeous temperature-controlled swimming pool and a large Jacuzzi, which are covered by professional shading for optimum comfort. There is also an outdoor shower, a lovely raised outdoor eating area and open space for the kids to play in.

**AED 5,394,999**

#### THE DETAILS

Approx size: 4,000 sq. ft.

Reference No: VI358921

RERA Permit No. 1669673762



Listed by **Neveen Abdulahad**



# FOR SALE

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**Palmera 2**  
Arabian Ranches

**AED 3,289,000**

Ref No. V196435  
Chris Jones  
RERA Permit No. 1199047974

3 BR  
5,643 sq. ft.



**Saheel 1**  
Arabian Ranches

**AED 4,200,000**

Ref No. V196810  
Kulmiye Tifow  
RERA Permit No. 0408870924

5 BR  
4,909 sq. ft.



**Lila Villas**  
Arabian Ranches

**AED 3,900,000**

Ref No. V1351092  
Sherif Nabil  
RERA Permit No. 1887824756

4 BR  
3,631 sq. ft.



**Mirador La Colecci n 1**  
Arabian Ranches

**AED 6,500,000**

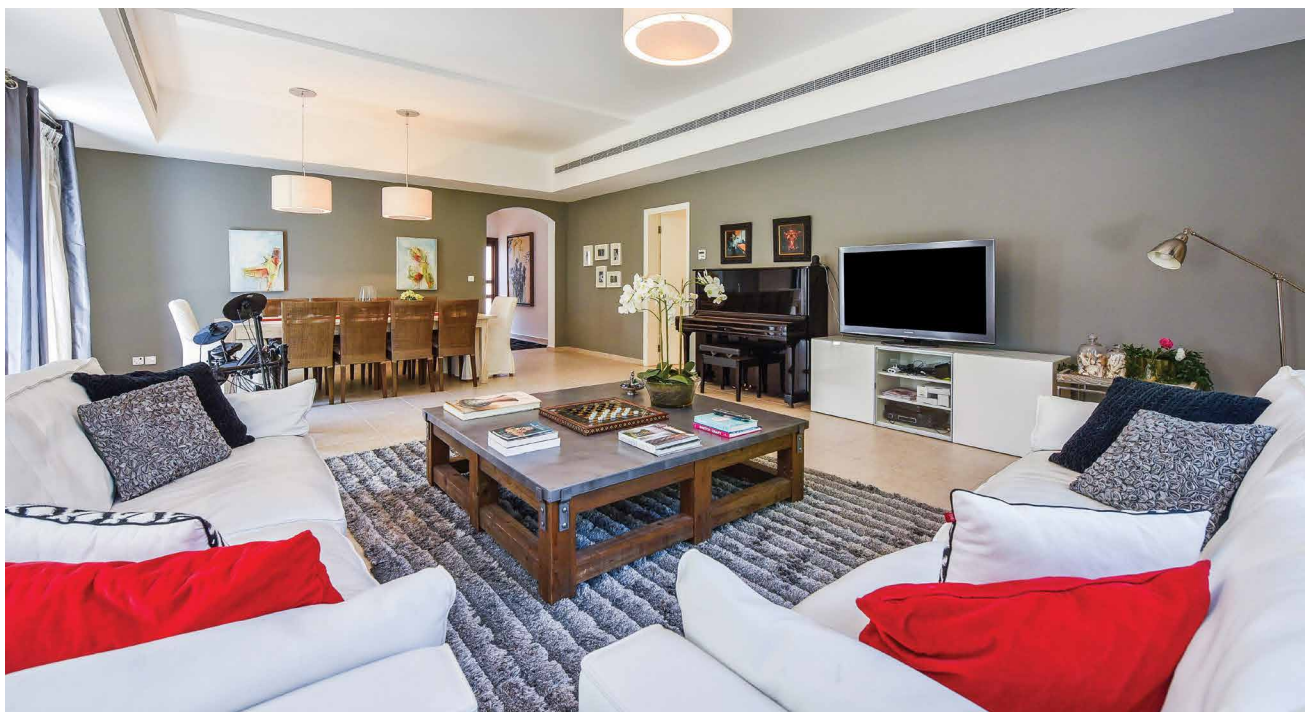
Ref No. V1356162  
Sana Hajjar  
RERA Permit No. 1951049679

5 BR  
5,000 sq. ft.



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## **Al Mahra**

*Arabian Ranches*

Ref No. V1360025  
Neveen Abdulahad  
RERA Permit No. 0177069127

**AED 5,199,999**

5 BR  
4,051 sq. ft.



## **Saheel 1**

*Arabian Ranches*

Ref No. V1356285  
Kulmiye Tifow  
RERA Permit No. 1063798081

**AED 3,250,000**

3 BR  
3,166 sq. ft.



# FOR SALE

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## MIRADOR LA COLECCI N 1

5-Bedroom Villa, Arabian Ranches

### A HOME WITH VIEWS

Located in the luxurious villa community of Mirador La Coleccion overlooking the desert course at Arabian Ranches Golf Club, this villa has been fully upgraded to a high standard throughout. There is a fully renovated kitchen, extended upstairs to include an extra family room and refurbished bathrooms. The plot has been fully landscaped, offering a beautiful infinity swimming pool, gazebo with full golf course views and a barbecue bar area. The property consists of five bedrooms plus maid's room, with four bedrooms and three bathrooms situated upstairs, plus one en-suite guest bedroom downstairs. This home, located on a built-up area of 4,401 sq. ft., has excellent living space and is one of the most popular layouts for families.

**AED 5,590,000**

### THE DETAILS

Approx size: 4,800 sq. ft.

Reference No: VI361658

RERA Permit No. 0383756664



Listed by Neveen Abdulahad



# FOR SALE

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**Mirador 1**  
*Arabian Ranches*

Ref No. VI361384  
Neveen Abdulahad  
RERA Permit No. 1077353731

**AED 3,799,999**

5 BR  
4,559 sq. ft.



**Mirador 1**  
*Arabian Ranches*

Ref No. VI360299  
Chris Jones  
RERA Permit No. 1665648375

**AED 5,200,000**

6 BR  
5,900 sq. ft.



**Mirador 1**  
*Arabian Ranches*

Ref No. VI360445  
Neveen Abdulahad  
RERA Permit No. 1236503587

**AED 4,949,999**

6 BR  
5,230 sq. ft.



**Savannah 1**  
*Arabian Ranches*

Ref No. VI339409  
Chris Jones  
RERA Permit No. 0554031406

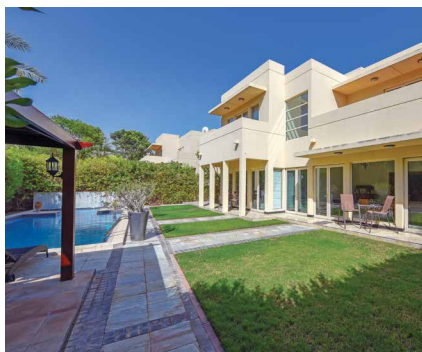
**AED 3,999,000**

3 BR  
3,166 sq. ft.



# FOR RENT

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## SAHEEL 3

5-Bedroom Villa, Arabian Ranches

### LUXURIOUS LIVING

This spacious, five-bedroom plus maid's room, type 4 independent villa in Saheel is located on a plot size of approximately 10,000 sq. ft. There are sliding doors leading from the living room onto a wonderfully mature garden, giving plenty of natural light. The living/dining area, kitchen, maid's room and one bedroom are located downstairs, while four bedrooms with three bathrooms, built-in wardrobes and a TV area are situated upstairs. The property is very well maintained and comes with a gorgeous garden that includes a swimming pool and gazebo. Arabian Ranches is a very sought-after gated community, with landscaped gardens, a shopping mall, school, shared swimming pool, children's play area and a membership golf course.

**AED 280,000**

### THE DETAILS

Approx size: 4,909 sq. ft.

Reference No: Ref V1359106

RERA Permit No. 1773219376



Listed by Neveen Abdulahad



# FOR RENT

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## Mirador La Colecci n 1

*Arabian Ranches*

Ref No. V1298174  
Neveen Abdulahad  
RERA Permit No. 1044686671

**AED 270,000**

4 BR  
4,096 sq. ft.



## Alvorada 2

*Arabian Ranches*

Ref No. V1359777  
Neveen Abdulahad  
RERA Permit No. 0838305141

**AED 240,000**

4 BR  
4,100 sq. ft.



# FOR RENT

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**Polo Homes**  
*Arabian Ranches*

Ref No. V1356964  
Chris Jones  
RERA Permit No. 1977688346

**AED 600,000**

7 BR  
11,000 sq. ft.



**Saheel 1**  
*Arabian Ranches*

Ref No. V1323714  
Yaseen Chudasama  
RERA Permit No. 0868413782

**AED 175,000**

3 BR  
3,216 sq. ft.

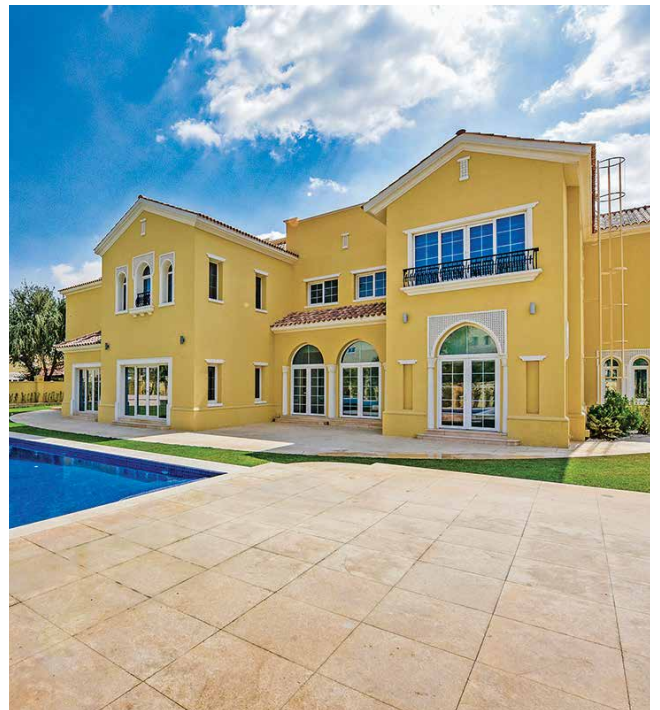


**Lila Villas**  
*Arabian Ranches*

Ref No. V1352451  
Kulmiye Tifow  
RERA Permit No. 0237939606

**AED 180,000**

4 BR  
3,600 sq. ft.



**Polo Homes**  
*Arabian Ranches*

Ref No. V1356657  
Chris Jones  
RERA Permit No. 1880031841

**AED 600,000**

6 BR  
10,000 sq. ft.



# FOR RENT

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**Al Reem 3**  
*Arabian Ranches*

Ref No. VI315693  
Arvinder Singh  
RERA Permit No. 1798289346

**AED 130,000**

2 BR  
1,800 sq. ft.

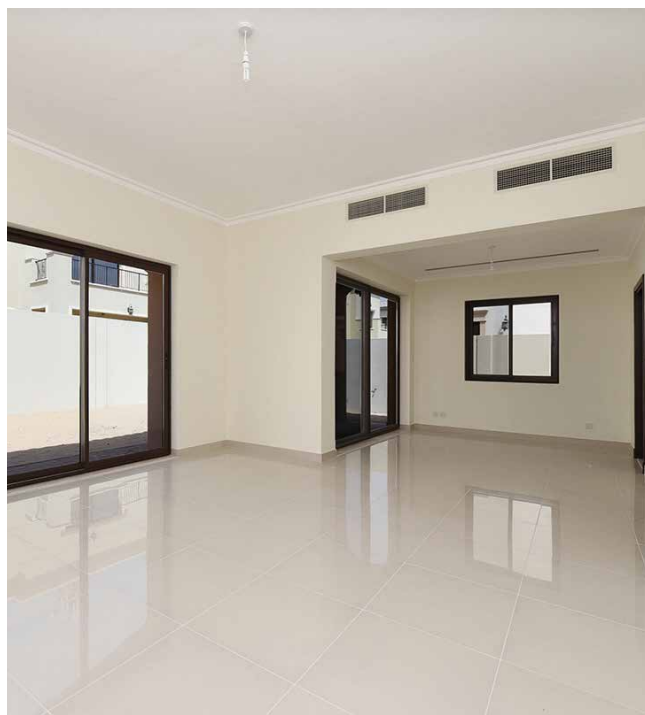


**Saheel 3**  
*Arabian Ranches*

Ref No. VI359106  
Neveen Abdulahad  
RERA Permit No. 1740105169

**AED 280,000**

5 BR  
4,909 sq. ft.



**Samara**  
*Arabian Ranches 2*

Ref No. VI361104  
Syed Wajih Uddin Ahmed  
RERA Permit No. 1669448169

**AED 165,000**

4 BR  
4,282 sq. ft.



**Mirador La Colecci n 2**  
*Arabian Ranches*

Ref No. VI360546  
Chris Jones  
RERA Permit No. 1923069329

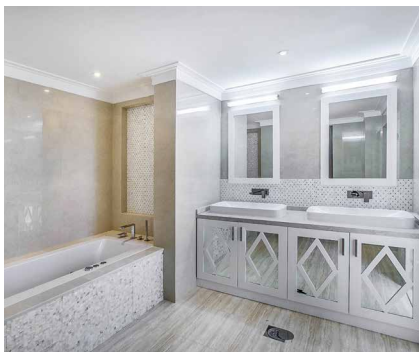
**AED 290,000**

6 BR  
5,230 sq. ft.



# FOR RENT

If you like what you see and want to view more,  
visit [bhomes.com](http://bhomes.com) or call 04 409 0998



## POLO HOMES

6-Bedroom Villa, Arabian Ranches

### EXCLUSIVE RESIDENCE

Located in the polo fields of Arabian Ranches, this brand new type F, Polo Homes villa celebrates the equestrian heritage of the Middle East. The six-bedroom villa is set on a huge plot of more than 24,000 sq. ft., offering a full view of the polo training field. With plenty of outdoor space that includes an amazing private swimming pool, gazebo and barbecue area in its huge, landscaped garden, the property also boasts a built-up area of 10,227 sq. ft., a spacious living area, dining room, fully fitted kitchen, family room and maid's/laundry rooms located on the ground floor. Upstairs is home to five spacious family bedrooms, all of which have their own en-suite bathrooms and built-in wardrobes.

**AED 700,000**

### THE DETAILS

Approx size: 9,750 sq. ft.

Reference No: VI357808

RERA Permit No. 1036167020



Listed by **Chris Jones**





# WHICH NURSERY?

Pavla Garioboli, manager of Crystal Valley Nursery, on providing personalised care



**What sets your nursery apart from others in the city?**

Each day at Crystal Valley Nursery is unhurried, gentle, full of wonder and centred around each child and family's specific

routines and rituals. We passionately acknowledge that it takes a community to raise a child, which is reflected in our local charity participation. This goes hand in hand with our Reggio Emilia-inspired approach to the UK Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and our nursery-parent happiness communication programmes.

**Tell us about your team...**

We are incredibly proud of our nursery team, who are all early childhood professionals holding either nursing, early childhood degrees or Council for Awards in Child Care and Education (CACHE) Level 3 qualifications and we fully embrace the importance of effective teamwork within our setting.

**Is there anything else parents should know about?**

Every child's days are spent building knowledge and making sense of the world around him or her. This is

incredibly exciting and we work together with each child, their parents, the Early Years team and the community on this. We pay close attention to every family to ensure they feel secure that their child is in the very best care.

**What do your key facilities include?**

Our spacious and creative open-plan classrooms include age-appropriate equipment and materials, including Promethean interactive whiteboards and laptops. We also have dedicated babycare rooms for playing, sleeping, bathing and dining; large indoor play areas to encourage imaginative play; a fully equipped music and multi-function room. The cosy children's library, meanwhile, is stocked with English, Arabic and Mandarin literature, while the Early Learning Support Unit offers light and sound sensory areas.

The beautiful gardens boast sand pits, a covered swimming pool, a child-sized tennis court, a mini zip line and a climbing, rolling, sliding hill. Planned outdoor activities include painting, messy and water play, block and construction, role-play, music, dancing, Kung Fu and ballet. The gardens are cared for as a community venture – children, their families and our staff cultivate their own organic produce.

## SHORTEN THE NURSERY RUN

Three homes within 15 minutes' drive of Crystal Valley Nursery



**MAAAO Villa**  
Mirdif

AED 5,990,000

Moustafa Elmiligy  
Ref No. VI356547  
RERA Permit No. 1829907266

3 BR  
10,375 sq. ft.



**Townhouse**  
Mirdif

AED 2,500,000

Rihab Nouredine  
Ref No. TH315326  
RERA Permit No. 0454474602

3 BR  
2,404 sq. ft.



**MOMAG Villa**  
Khawaneej

AED 300,000

Sana Hajjar  
Ref No. VI359896  
RERA Permit No. 1861236143

5 BR  
7,800 sq. ft.



Tel +971 4 2828290



**Yellow Brick Road  
Nursery**

**Yellow Brick Road Nursery  
Garhoud**

Tel +971 4 2845519



**Crystal Valley Nursery  
Al Mizhar**

**WWW.BeautifulMindsNurseries.com**

- 🌿 Eco-Conscious Reggio Emilia Inspired Early Childhood Care & Education
- 🌿 Convenient Timings  
7:00a.m. until 6:00p.m.
- 🌿 Babies 45 days  
up to 3+ years

- 🌿 Curriculum EYFS British Early Years Foundation Stage
- 🌿 Accredited with UK  
Preschool Learning Alliance
- 🌿 Organic Breakfast  
& Lunch Provided

Well valued & respected Early Childhood Care & Education since 2001

Curriculum is  
taught in three  
languages:  
English  
Arabic  
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**REGISTRATIONS OPEN**





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