

PHILIPPINE TATLER HOMES

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO LUXURIOUS LIVING



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HOT LIST TOP TRENDS OF THE YEAR FROM MAISON&OBJET AND AMBIENTE • **CHIC PICKS** ELEGANT ACCENTS FOR YOUR HOME • **POSH PALETTES** METALLICS TAKE CENTRE STAGE THIS SEASON • **KITCHEN CONFIDENTIAL** SURFACES, TAPS AND SINKS FOR A POLISHED LOOK • **LUXE HOMES** STUNNING HOMES FROM THE PHILIPPINES AND AROUND THE WORLD

Artful Living

AN APARTMENT IN LISBON
WITH AN EXCEPTIONAL
VIEW OVER THE TAGUS
RIVER PROVIDES A
SOPHISTICATED BACKDROP
FOR ITS OWNERS'
COLLECTIONS

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Sitting on the low perlish-covered
centre table are a group of spheres
in a variety of natural stones



In this apartment, with its view over the red tile roofs of Lisbon and the sparkling Tagus, the architecture and design firm SA&V (Sa Aranha & Vasconcelos) were primarily charged with showcasing a contemporary art collection through the renovation of a 1970s space. The owners are a Portuguese couple who moved into this apartment about three years ago. They divide their time between their working life in Lisbon, sailing on their boat, and their farm in the country. They had been searching the market for some time and heard about this apartment from friends. When they saw it, the close proximity to the calming presence of the river sealed the deal. When they are here they like to decompress and entertain. Besides working around the art, the floor plan had to facilitate that so fluid circulation and a direct dialogue between divisions were essential. The project

took six months and the owners moved in only when it was complete. They were demanding about the choice of materials.

A monochromatic scheme in taupe punctuated with silver creates a rich but understated atmosphere of sober sophistication, a signature of SA&V's style. Expansive windows that take advantage of the view also bathe the apartment in Lisbon's renowned natural light. The natural illumination is complemented by halogen spots and LEDs. Floors are in warm, caramelised Austrian pine or icy white Thassos marble from Greece. These elements provide a foil for the visual interest supplied by the owners' collections and the relaxing but ever-changing panorama of life on the river, where watercraft are in constant motion.

The owners travel abroad frequently and this has opened them up to other cultures, which is evident in the breadth of provenance of the art, furniture and objets that fill and

FROM LEFT: The closets in the dressing room have practical doors that fold and open for complete visibility; the elegant powder room **OPPOSITE:** On an 18th century Portuguese console table are two violins by the French sculptor Armand, while on the floor is a stone nude by João Sotero



FROM LEFT: A Capellini chair sits beside the marble sculpture *Planet Sismo 2010* by the German artist Matthias Contzen; a lacquer and gilt chest of drawers against a mirrored wall which reflects an 18th-century Italian Madonna **OPPOSITE:** White leather chairs and sidebars in the dining room create a sleek, pale, modern backdrop for an oil painting by Joaquim Rodrigo

colour the space. "You really feel the presence of the world in this apartment," notes the designer. The collection has been amassed over a long period of time. Each piece has been carefully chosen and has a story behind it. Antique furniture rubs shoulders with sleek leather, glass and metal. Against the pale background, the art pops. A painted plaster sculpture of a book by the artist Manuel Caldeira is an example, as well as a bronze nude acquired on a trip to Florence. In a corner stands an 18th-century Italian Madonna, crowned with an imposing silver Mexican tiara. On one wall hangs an acrylic on paper by Sofia Areal; opposite it, a collage ("Papelinhos") by Gerardo Burmester and a gouache by the Spanish painter Manuel Lecrin. A Dali artist's proof hangs above a small pair of lacquered chairs with vestiges of chinoiserie.

The terrace, which opens off the living room, creates a connection between indoors and outdoors and is a natural and much-used extension of the living space. It is the owners' favourite part of the house, and when weather

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permits, as it often does in this temperate climate, they take most of their meals there. Having deck flooring, wide-open views and breezes from the river, it evokes the feeling of being on the boat that they love. The husband likes taking his morning shower out here, with only the olive trees for company. In fact, if the view of the April 25th suspension bridge and the Cristo Rei statue on the opposite bank had left any doubt, it is those silvery, mature olive trees in large pots that remind one that this is in the end a Portuguese house. In this country they are as iconic as the flag.





When meals move indoors to the dining room, imaginative lighting adds to the ambience. A contemporary chandelier of interlinking rings hangs from a cut-out in the ceiling, oval to echo the shape of the table and lined in silver leaf. A tall sculpture in the shape of tree trunks that stands in front of a mirror by the windows is striking; it is lit through a series of fissures in the wood.

The glass-walled gourmet kitchen was conceived as a place for family and friends to gather with the owners, who like to cook. This room sees a lot of action. As it does throughout the house, here, too, art adorns the space.

The taupe colour scheme continues in the bedrooms, where pillows and art inject points of yellow and black contrast. The overall aim in this room was simply soothing comfort. A gilded French chair upholstered in zebra skin provides an irreverent counterpoint. On the low storage piece designed by SA&V, a mixed media piece by Ana Cristina Leite and

the playful black "Feathers" lamp stand out.

The second bedroom belongs to the owners' adopted daughter, who is in her late 20s and works in fashion. Fuchsia is the primary contrast note. A reindeer skin drapes the desk chair beside a wall lamp made from a recycled drum. The combination of these elements is characteristic of the mix in this space, which distinctly represents the lifestyle and interests of its occupants.

The clients were extremely pleased with the results of this renovation, but is there anything they think they missed in the original plan that they would like to have included?

"A fireplace would have been good," they concur. ☺



Above the bed hangs the Talk to me series, in mixed media on paper, by Pires Vieira **INSERT:**

A small niche houses a collection of special objects, including a Faberge-style eggs encrusted with semiprecious stones

OPPOSITE: The terrace has beautiful views of the Tagus