

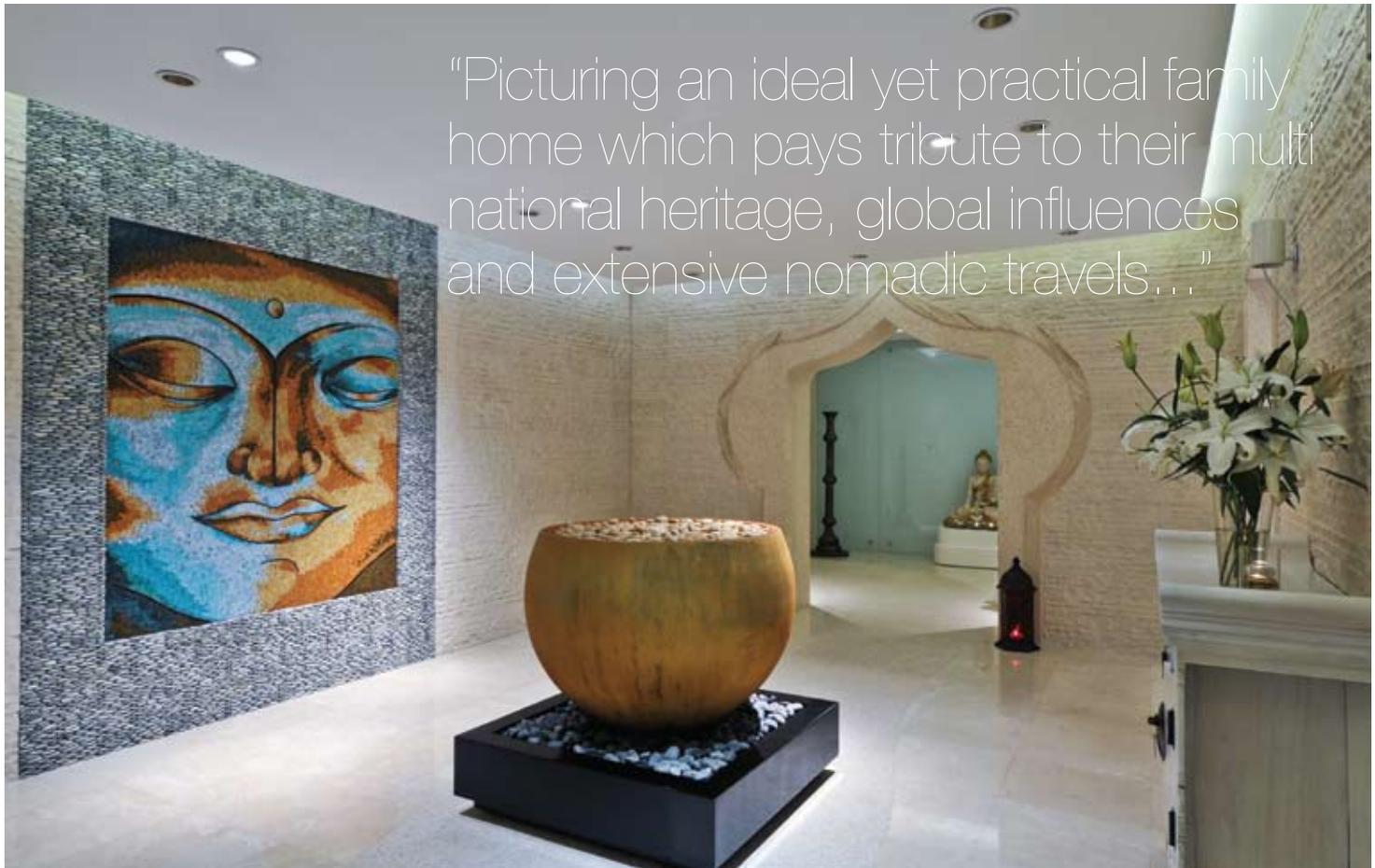
Spiritually Spectacular

Emirates Hills is known to house several breathtakingly beautiful homes, but Leonorah's home paints an almost surreal image of reality. Giving us an insightful guided tour to her mansion like home she reveals the design concept behind it.









“Picturing an ideal yet practical family home which pays tribute to their multi national heritage, global influences and extensive nomadic travels...”

Left: Custom made Rocco Borghese glass chandelier in hallway
This page: Views of the in-house Spa



Hiring Melissa Greenauer of Greenauer Design Group to work on the interiors with her from concept to completion along with a Feng Shui expert, Proshat Sarabloo Lehmann, every aspect of this couple's home was well thought out and pre planned before execution.

Originating from South Africa, Leonorah, and her British husband, decided to build their family home in a global location, Dubai, ideal for a family environment. Upon entering the house you are greeted with carefully placed crystals and salt lamps in several locations throughout the villa to enhance the spiritual aspects of the villa, attracting positive energy and purifying the air which circulates within the home. The family built their home from scratch having purchased the land in 2004. Picturing an ideal yet practical family home which pays tribute to their multi national heritage, global influences and extensive nomadic travels, they began construction in 2006.

Aiming to create an “at home” feeling we see Asian influences throughout the villa as the couple have previously lived in glamorous locations like Miami and Hong Kong. Coming into the villa you are overwhelmed with a grand scale hallway. The hall's Sisis mosaic floor leaves you intrigued but the real ‘wow factor’ attached to the hallway is the custom made glass chandelier from an Italian lighting designer, Rocco Borghese, creating an uplifting ambiance. “The chandelier is placed exactly in the centre of our home, and is an incredible uplifting piece of art.”



This page: The South African themed guest suite

Keen on emanating love in her home, Leonorah tells us about a Sacha Jafri painting which is hung in the hallway close to the entrance of the villa. “It is 238 little hearts that beat as one, representing each one of the Jordanian children who contributed and painted with Sacha Jafri’s whilst he visited and worked in Jordan amongst other war torn, conflict stricken and poverty stricken areas, to inspire young people.” I wanted to bring love into this space and to be able to spread it throughout the home.”

The main lounge boasts bespoke furniture made from fabrics sourced from all over the world. Furniture pieces made by independent New York and European based suppliers and custom made goods and accessories made in Cape Town can be seen throughout the lounge. Speaking about the works of art in the room she shows us artwork by South African artist Walter Meyer and another painting by Sacha Jafri, recently acquired at Art Dubai, a prestigious fair in the region. Turning our attention to a piece by Johanne Corno, “orange is a colour of cleansing and healing, and having this huge orange enigma just brings the room to life. The colour scheme for this room is black and white and the painting brings that splash of colour.”







Moving onward to the South African themed guest suite we are shown a tribal room, with feather trimmed bold graphic drapes. Indigenous wood from South Africa displayed in an antique African chest and a carved bed with a variety of skins. Rich fabric and audacious graphics combine to capture the essence of tribal Africa. The view from the room is of the Thai inspired day bed area, with soft flowing water, creating a meditation haven for Leonorah. Every room has a continuous flow to the outside.

The suite we are shown next, pays a tribute to Leonorah's husband British roots. The mosaic tiles from Sicis forming a Union Jack flag fill the bathroom's walls, making a bold statement. The British influence flows throughout the room. Red leather seating and wall panels in white lacquer form laminate over carved wood. "The floor is made from reclaimed tobacco barn oak from the south eastern parts of America."

The room that leaves us in awe is the bar, created in British colonial style with antique mushroom wood panel walls and tobacco barn oak wood details. Traditional "western style inspired" hand stamped and tanned leather panels surrounded by hunting trophies and South African furniture. Walking through a hidden door and down a shaft like staircase, we enter a different space. "This took a long time to design and build." It's a circular room better known as the home's very own wine cellar. Adjusted to almost freezing temperatures to ensure the wine is kept at a certain temperature the room boasts fur coats (to make the room as comfortable as possible) and is used for wine tasting or "tasting dinners" as Leonorah elegantly puts it.

This page: British themed suite complete with Sicis mosaic tiled "Union Jack" bathroom

Right: Gentlemen's bar made from reclaimed tobacco barn oak







Above: Hunting trophies set on wood clad walls

Below: Dining room

Traditional
"western style
inspired" hand
stamped
and tanned
leather panels
surrounded by
hunting trophies
and South
African furniture.



“This is an 18 century snooker table. It is all hand carved and it’s absolutely amazing we had it restored to it’s former glory.”



Looking around trying to place where we are, Leonorah jumps in and informs us that we are now in the basement. The basement houses the laundry room, the dirty kitchen, the lobby you enter into from the garage amongst many other rooms. Meandering through we see racing helmets displayed at the entrance of the home from the garage. “My husband’s a car fanatic and so collects racing helmets, the cars are all parked through there.” Leading us through the corridors, Leonorah stops at the snooker room. “This is an 18th century snooker table. It is all hand carved and it’s absolutely amazing we had it restored to its former glory.” The walls have original prints of Marilyn Monroe by Eve Arnold. We see the doors to a cinema room and Leonorah takes us inside. Red leather chairs sit in front of a gigantic screen. “It’s the most used room of the house, my kids love it. When it is time to do home work I normally find them in here playing their play station or watching a movie.”



The house is an accumulation of the couple’s experiences and travels around the world. Named “Londonhuis” as London represents, Leonorah’s husband and Huis, a South African word for house, representing Leonorah, it can be said that the spectacular home redefines luxury living.