



An  
**ELEMENT**  
of  
**LUXURY**

How this hotel-like home provides  
respite after a busy working day

Who doesn't love the luxury of staying in a hotel: a huge bed, pillows plumped, heavy drapes, deep-pile carpets, pampering room service and an enveloping ambient of relaxation.

One homeowner in DIFC has brought the sumptuous hotel lifestyle home. The British owner of this resplendent three-bedroom apartment in the prestigious Limestone House oozes luxury and comfort, with glossy surfaces, sleek styling, bespoke furniture throughout and both privacy and entertainment catered for.

Unhappy with the bland finishes, lack of natural light and low-end appliances provided by the developer – a bugbear of many owner-occupiers in Dubai – the businessman employed Elemento to completely redesign the interiors into a place he could call home.

Every aspect has been tailored to create a truly unique look – from the made-to-measure soft furnishings and discrete storage to the ambient lighting and neutral colour palette.

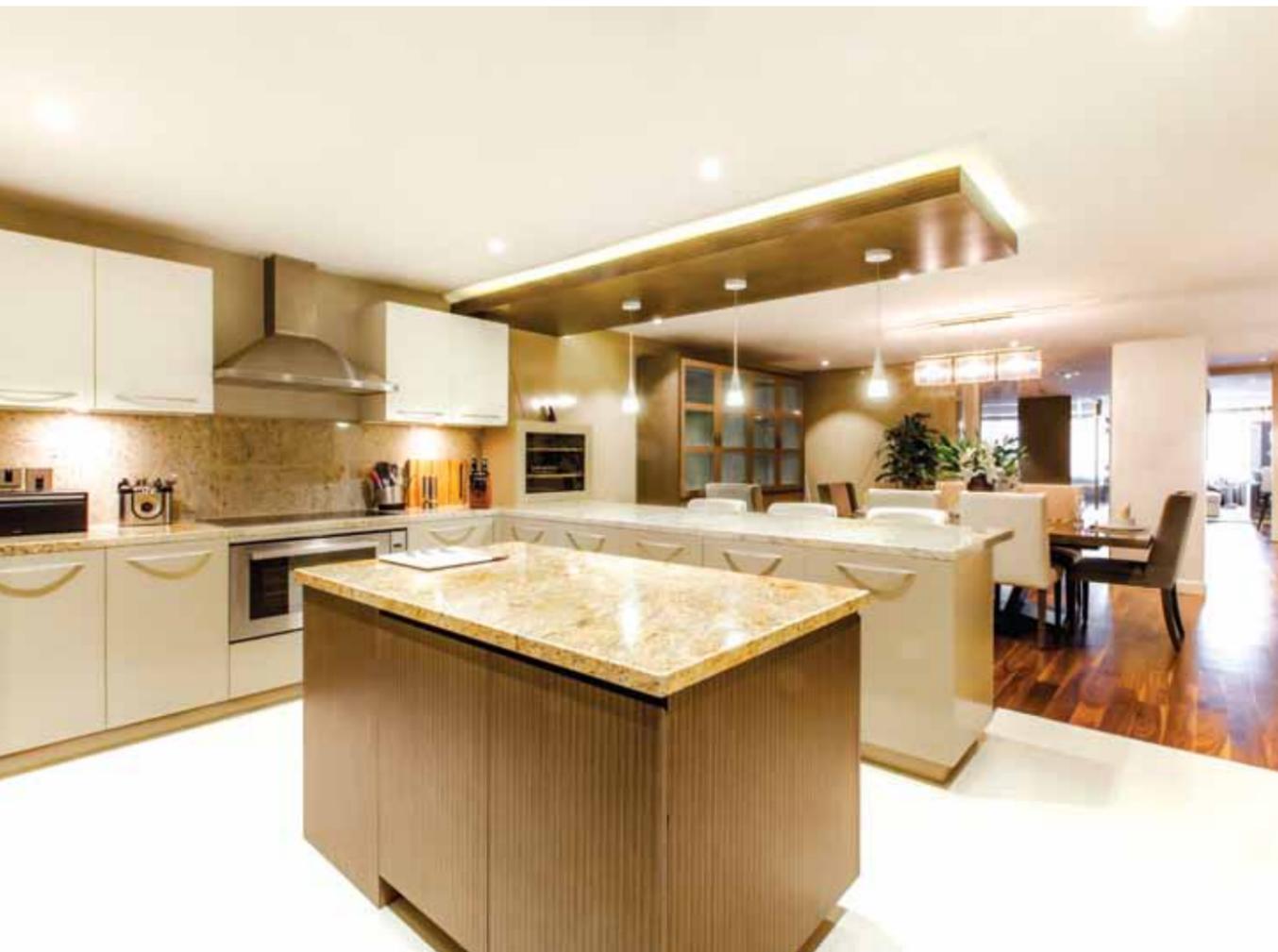
"I must say that I do not have

'artistic flair' and I find it very difficult to conceptualise and envisage the end product," admits the owner, who bought the apartment last year due to its convenient proximity to his business operations. "The end result is pleasing to me and exceeds that which I had imagined. In fact, they seem to know me and my needs better than I do myself."

He asked Elemento to create a comfortable home where he could relax after long hours in the office. Important factors included adding unobtrusive storage space, enhanced lighting features, implementing clean lines and an easy-to-maintain aesthetic and – most importantly – incorporating his La-Z-Boy loungers.

When asked about the polished, hotel look of the bedrooms, he admits it was intentional. "Maybe over the years I have spent too long in such hotels and now such a style feels like home," he laughs.

"The design brief was to deliver a stylish, comfortable and luxurious apartment that was also functional and incorporated an office space," adds Julie Doran, design director and co-founder of Elemento.



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“One particular design element, which was extremely challenging, was the requirement to accommodate his extensive collection of books, records, CDs, DVDs and cassettes, plus the vast array of audio equipment. The core request is basically simple to explain but was challenging to achieve – the apartment had to reflect my client's lifestyle without appearing to be an office, bookshop or a record store.”

This has certainly been achieved and none of these elements are directly displayed in the sleek apartment. Instead, books and records are secreted behind a series of bespoke wall panels and cabinetry. However, there are hints that a music aficionado lives here; a large pop-art painting of Jon Lennon makes a statement in the well-appointed living room and a triptych of Beatles album covers adds colour to the office.

As well as music and art, the owner likes to entertain at home. “Therefore, it was essential to provide a relaxing area where he and his guests could be completely at ease,” explains Doran, who has worked with the client before. “A dining area was created and a separate relaxing space, adjacent to a well stocked, impressive bar, enables my client to socialise in complete comfort.”

“One further aspect of my client's lifestyle, which is of extreme importance, is his two La-Z-Boy chairs which had to be incorporated into the overall design – a place where he is able to really relax. Everything in the design reflects my client's need to be provided with a home that enables him to live the lifestyle of his choice.”

The open-plan layout is conducive to entertaining while also reflective of the limitations of the apartment's interior



architecture. “It is a question of making the best use of the space available,” says the businessman. “Within this limitation, one can make the best use of the kitchen-dining room combination to involve dinner guests in the whole process and ensure a more sociable and convivial dining experience.”

He names this area as one of the highlights of his home, with ample countertop space and sociable seating. The living room and study top the list, with the former providing a relaxed space that can accommodate a good

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number of guests and the latter he praises as functional yet clutter-free.

The bedrooms probably show the most character, with a splash of aqua interwoven into the bespoke furniture, rugs and bedding.

“These areas are the ultimate places for relaxation and are designed to create spaces that incorporate the highest specifications,” explains the designer. “The colour in the bedrooms contrast dramatically with the preferred palette in the rest of the apartment. The blue and aqua-green elements were selected in order to create a peaceful and tranquil environment and, in keeping with the aspiration of the design, the carefully selected furniture and furnishings provide that feeling of ultimate luxury.”

While predominantly neutral, the colours are no less highly thought out. Metallic paints mingle with natural wood floors, beautifully marbled counters and veneer elements, creating a seamless aesthetic throughout the open-plan reception rooms and bedrooms. The client admires the clean lines of this palette and the way in which it enhances his art collection in the apartment. He says: “This allows for flexibility, with the possibility of overlaying a sense of one’s own style – the ability to add one’s own personal effects and artwork, thereby personalising the apartment.

“I am most pleased with the end result,” he concludes. “It has fulfilled all the objectives that we set out to achieve: functional, personalised, clutter-free, unobtrusive storage, and a home in which to relax.”

Pictures courtesy of Elemento.

