



The otherwise open-plan living space is partially divided by a floor-to-ceiling custom backlit shelving unit

# Flashes of Light

A family home makes creative use of LED lights and acrylic panels for a stunning take on minimal design

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Cool, calm, bright and breezy – the perfect respite from the scorching desert sun and a combination that has transformed this five-bedroom open-plan Palm Jumeirah family home into a design masterpiece. When the homeowner approached Julie Doran of Elemento Interior Design about a complete renovation of his villa – including new furnishings – he asked her to create a sleek, modern home for him, his wife and their five-year-old son.

“When I first arrived at the house, the rear space downstairs had already been opened to create a large area with a panoramic view of the sea,” says Julie. “I visualised a scheme that allowed the eye to wander from one well-designed area smoothly to the next by focusing on two basic concepts: openness and visual stimulation.” To achieve aesthetic appeal while maintaining the uncluttered sleek appearance the homeowners desired, creative use of lighting was of paramount importance. Large chandeliers,



The accessories were chosen to add drama without distracting from the home's view and clean lines



The glass and marble staircase is a much grander incarnation of the original



In a bold statement, Julie incorporated purple in the dining room. The chairs were upholstered in fabric from Kirkby Designs



lamps and standing lights would have made the home look too fussy and interrupted its sleek and modern aesthetic, so Julie used panelled lighting in the walls instead – incorporating LED lights and acrylic panels. This feature, present throughout the property, is one of its most striking design elements.

Julie's next challenge was to choose furnishings that complemented the villa's minimal scheme while creating a warm, family-friendly feel. To establish a more homely environment, Julie used stylish bespoke furniture in warm neutral tones, incorporating fabric from UK-based textile company Zinc. But there was one exception to this subtle scheme. "The client had confided in me that his wife had a special attraction to the colour purple, so within the basically neutral scheme, I introduced purple into the dining room chairs to quite a dramatic effect."

Creating a divide between the kitchen and the living area of the open-plan main floor is an impressive, illuminated library shelving unit. ▶



Top: The kitchen walls feature inlaid light panels, which add a sleek visual element to the otherwise minimal space



Panelled walls and upholstered furniture add texture and depth to the master bedroom, which also features views of the Gulf's azure waters



The five-year-old boy of the house enjoys a futuristic theme for his spaceship-like blue room with back-lighting behind the blue bed



"To further enhance its impact, additional pieces were introduced and I think these accessories provide additional drama, balance and further visual interest," says Julie. "Every element in this spacious living area is serene, and although beautiful in their own right, they do not detract from the impressive view."

The most outstanding feature is the marble and glass staircase that Julie says was created from the original, much smaller and less impressive structure. "This staircase flows towards the bedrooms and, most notably, the master bedroom, which now has the same panels and lighting as the areas below."

When the project was complete, any feelings of nervousness Julie might have had about the homeowner's reaction were dispelled when they toured the space. "The look of sheer wonder and delight showed me that they loved their new home." ■

## Steal the Style



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**Astra ceiling light**  
Western Furniture,  
Dh2,575



**Lantern**  
Bloomingdale's  
Home, Dh975



**Place mat** Home  
Centre, Dh19



**Vase** Home  
Centre, Dh145