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ECCLECTIC ELEGANCE

Decorator Laura Nazir invites us
inside her live-work space in Jeddah,
decorated in boho-chic style



IT'S SURPRISING TO LEARN that this sunlight-steeped apartment with sweeping sea views is located in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah. The decoration has a distinctly boho-chic vibe.

"I've lived in Saudi Arabia for more than 30 years," says the lady of the house, Laura Nazir, a decorator who launched her eponymous studio more than two decades ago. The Argentinian-American studied communications in New York where a chance encounter would lead to the biggest move of her life. "I got married and moved here with my husband, who was Saudi," she says. "It was difficult in the beginning," she says, "but Jeddah is very comfortable for women, and I learned to love it." After years of living in the coastal Arabian city, Nazir started to get restless.

"Architecture has always been a passion of mine and I decided to go back to school to study interior design," she explains. After graduating from London's Ingham School of Design she headed back to Jeddah to start her own firm. With a focus on plush residential projects, the business started with spaces in Saudi Arabia before branching out to handle international projects. But years later, Nazir's life would change again.

Four years ago, the interior designer was forced to turn a space that she initially wanted as her office into her permanent residence. "I had to suddenly transform this nearly 200 square metre space into both my home and office due to a series of personal events."

So she improvised. "I did a complete renovation, knocking down walls to create more open space and bring in natural light," she says. "From the detail of the mouldings on the walls, to the inclusion of higher ceilings, everything was newly designed." Incorporating a laid-back, beachy aesthetic (an ode to the neighbouring Red Sea, no doubt), Nazir has layered her home with personal touches including souvenirs of her avid travels and gifts from old friends, to her very own customised furniture.

"The sofas and turtle lamps were designed by me," she says, "but the pieces that really stand out the most in my home are my mirrors. I have the dandelion mirror in the entrance hall and a round Trisol mirror in my dining room, which are both by my favourite furniture designer, Christopher Guy."

"The inspiration behind the interior design comes from the things that I have collected over my years of

A dandelion mirror by Christopher Guy hangs in the hallway. The chair on the left is by Baker Furniture.

OPPOSITE FROM FAR LEFT: Laura Nazir stands next to a Trisol mirror, also by Christopher Guy; a collection of artworks by Nazir and Uruguayan artist Carlos Paez adorn the living room.



A collection of blue and white antique porcelain pieces hang on the wall in the hallway. The table was bought at an auction house in Argentina.

OPPOSITE: The glass shelving in the kitchen holds antique plates and silverware. The wicker chairs are a reproduction of a 200-year old piece from China.



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travelling around the world,” Nazir continues. “I’m eclectic when it comes to the pieces I introduce to my home and most of my favourites I found at either antique stores or auction houses.”

On all the walls are collections of mirrors, prints, plates, sconces and animal skins which give her home a refined rustic feel, one that is complemented by neutral tones and a contemporary finish. “I have a few of my paintings hanging on the walls as well, and I am hoping

to soon add more,” she says, while briefly mentioning an upcoming collaboration with a friend, the acclaimed Saudi artist Abdullah Qandeel. “My favourite painting at the moment however is the one of Salvador Dali on my kitchen wall.”

But the aspect that Nazir loves most about her home is its bright energy and versatility. “It’s not only a beautiful and warm home, but it is also a professional and sophisticated office which accommodates my entire team comfortably,” she explains. “And it is superb for entertaining as all the main rooms flow into one another, creating a great ambiance for dinner parties.”

Having come a long way since her early days in Saudi Arabia, Nazir has built an impressive reputation as a luxury designer working on high-end projects across the globe. “I just finished a spectacular estate in Beverly Hills, while my latest project is a stunning palace in Riyadh overlooking an oasis. I’m also working on five private villas in Jeddah and have recently won the bid for ten luxury villas, beating out 13 top architects. Now these houses are under construction and are all reserved.” Sometimes, change is good. [📍](#)

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ABOVE: At Nazir’s nearby beach hut, antique table cloths cover a table dressed with porcelain plates, silver candle holders and coral ornaments.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The bed and curtains were both designed by Nazir, while the vanity table and Louis Vuitton trunk were acquired from an auction house in Argentina.