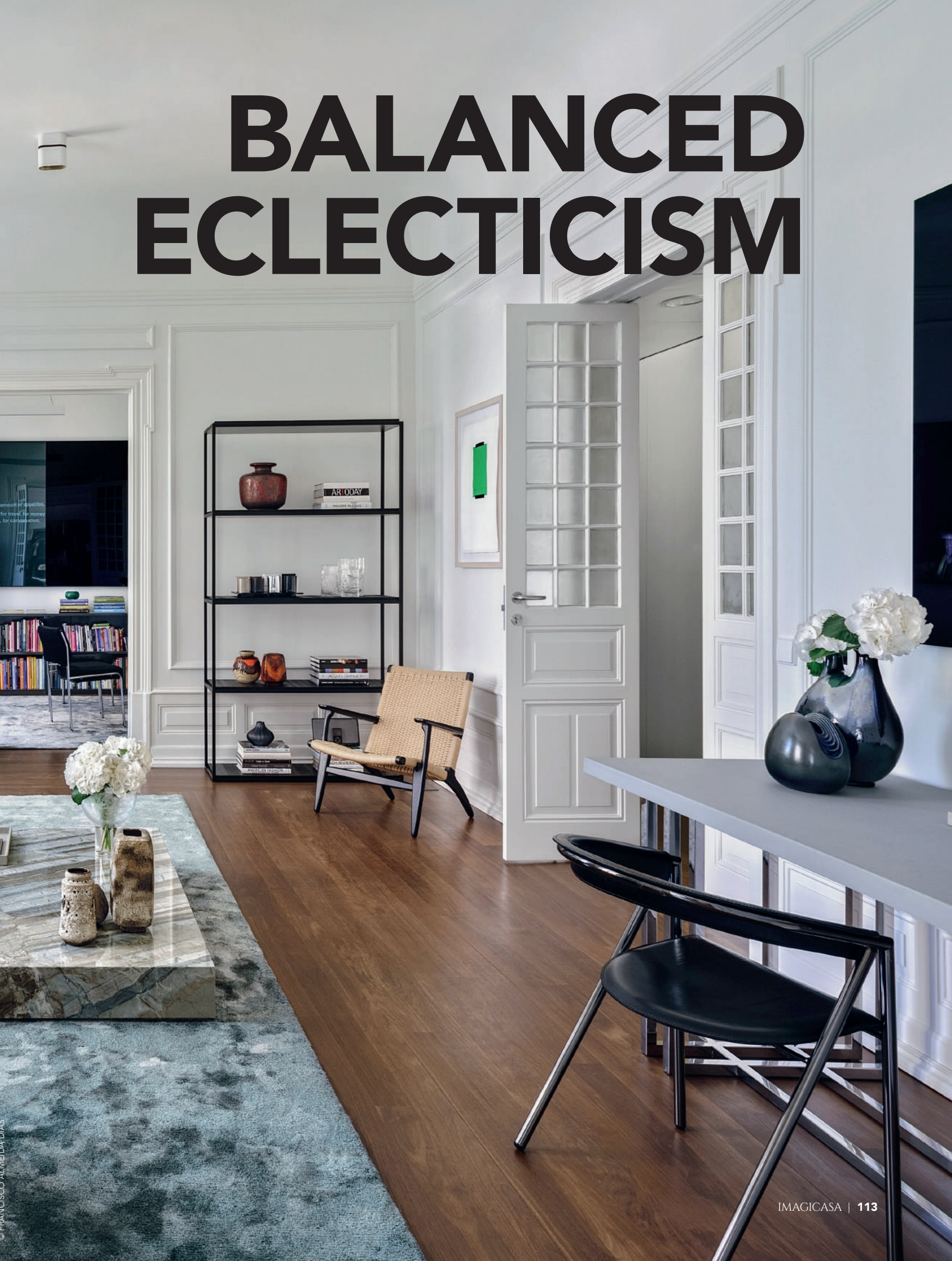


INTERIOR

Text: Eline De Mont



BALANCED ECLECTICISM



With publications in Elle Décor, Architectural Digest, Marie Claire Maison, Metropolitan and Vogue, the commercial and residential projects of this Portuguese interior designer have already received a lot of international attention. However, one of Cristina Jorge de Carvalho's projects has always been overlooked: her own showroom in Lisbon. As the ultimate showcase for architects and design agencies, a company's own office space is, of course, also furnished with the greatest care. That definitely also applies to Atelier Cristina Jorge de Carvalho - Arquitetura e Design de Interiores.

With architects, interior architects and interior designers in the team, Atelier CJC receives a wide range of assignments from both national and international clients. Apart from private residences, they have commercial spaces, spas and offices on their record. As interior architects they are even occasionally asked to design hotels, like the upcoming Crowne Plaza in the popular Portuguese tourist destination Albufeira by the Atlantic Ocean. Time and time again, they manage to create projects that — in their own words — “transcend trends” and are defined by their unique designs, which are both contemporary and timeless. This approach was literally awarding for the company, as they received prizes at the International Design Awards and the European Hotel Awards.

Imagicasa sat down with the founder and creative director of the studio: Cristina Jorge de Carvalho herself. We were able to get a better understanding of who she is as a designer and what she wants to achieve with her architecture and design agency. We are happy to introduce you to Cristina on the basis of what you could call her ultimate business card or cover letter: the recently renovated showroom in her hometown, Lisbon.







CRISTINA JORGE DE CARVALHO

The interior designer grew up in Lisbon, but after graduating from the ISCTE Business School she moved to London. There, she had the opportunity to study at the Inchbald School of Design, where Zaha Hadid also made her first steps into the world of design. In 2000, Cristina returned to Lisbon and founded her own studio.

The interiors are fairly eclectic, yet balanced. CJC plays with clean lines and a simple colour palette in combination with various volumes, materials and textures. Furthermore, they also like to work with custom made pieces by Portuguese craftsmen. Since 2013, Cristina has even ventured to design furniture and decora-

tion herself. This work ranges from cabinets, desks, coffee tables and sofas to carpets and lighting elements. She creates unique and innovative pieces, often by combining materials, such as leather, copper, steel, glass and marble. With just one piece you can transform a room and give it so much more character. Even when combining different pieces, an interior remains stylish and will not give the impression of being too full or excessively decorated.

The designer explains the diversity of in her work as follows: "Everything is a source of inspiration. I give great importance to details. This is what makes a job or idea unique. Any kind of feeling or emotion can feed my inspiration. A song, a movie, a sunset, the rain, a memory, a city or place." In other words, the places Cristina grew up in and the cultures she has had the honour to meet have made — and still make — her work so much richer. Many designers speak of their eye for detail and how it makes their work unique. At Cristina Jorge de Carvalho – Arquitetura e Design de Interiores we can see how these details are combined and how they truly transform clean, understated spaces.

SHOWROOM CJC

One of Atelier Cristina Jorge de Carvalho's most recent projects is the interior design of their own new showroom. It is situated in a late nineteenth-century building on the Avenida da Liberdade in Lisbon and has a total surface of 250 m². Before CJC had its offices there, it was entirely renovated,



EYE-CATCHERS THAT MAKE EVERY ROOM UNIQUE

although many authentic elements, such as the tall windows, wooden shutters and the ceiling work in stucco were preserved. The design agency itself chose to keep the walls all white, like a blank canvas that lends itself over and over again to redesigning and adjusting the spaces for future projects. A showroom like this is of great importance to designers. Cristina also said that this



project was very special to her: “Almost like a cover letter and reaffirmation of our work to the world.” The rooms not only present CJS’s vision of interior design, but also showcase their own collections which they have recently produced and which they have been successfully combining with a curated collection of other design brands and eye-catching art objects.

These spaces are timeless and luxurious, but with a certain modesty. The concept for the showroom was to create cosmopolitan and contemporary spaces, with a neutral colour palette and a pop of colour here and there. The latter can be seen in the velvet blue ‘Electra Armchair’ by the Italian company Arflex, the ‘Together We Stand’ chest of drawers from the CJC collection and the colourful works of art on the walls. Statement lighting elements, such as the striking gold ‘Atolo’ lamp by Oluce and the ‘Taccia’ lamp by Flos also add character to the rooms.

Rather neutral colours can be found in the large beige sofa and sideboard, the black leather chairs by Tobia Scarpa and the vintage Hans Wegner chairs and ‘Elda Chair’ by Joe Colombo. The ‘Threesome Coffee Table’ — also a design by Cristina Jorge de Carvalho — again shows what the studio stands for: modest eclecticism. Despite its neutral colour palette, the unusual shape and the combination of three materials (Calacatta marble, polished, stainless steel and grey lacquered wood) turn this object into a real eye-catcher that makes every room unique.

Many of these objects can be found in other recent projects of Atelier CJC, as you can see here in the pictures of an apartment on the Portuguese Riviera. Here, we also spot the ‘Threesome Coffee Table’ and the colourful chest of drawers from CJC’s own collection and the woven Hans Wegner chairs that truly fit in every interior.

This project not only demonstrates Cristina’s excellent eye for the possibilities of interior design, but also the versatility of her own collections. And of course, the new showroom can take some credit; a successful cover letter indeed! 🌟



© MONTSE GARRIGA GRAU



© FRANCISCO ALMEIDA DIAS



TOTAL WINDOW DECORATION - CARPET - PAINTWORK

SHOWROOM
ZOUTELAAN 58, 8300 KNOKE
TEL. 050 62 78 60

SHOWROOM @ RR-INTERIEUR
NATIËNLAAN 215-217, 8300 KNOKE
TEL. 050 60 43 08

WWW.OVS-DECORATIE.BE