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UNDERSTATED MONOCHROMES

Interior designer Cristina Jorge de Carvalho renovates an elegant duplex apartment in North Portugal for a family of four in a contemporary interior style.

Photos by Francisco De Almeida Dias, Courtesy www.cjc-design.com



The living room is divided into a sitting and a dining area, but both maintain a physical and aesthetic connection. Pops of colour rise from the Blonde armchairs by Munna upholstered in dark yellow and other decorative elements. The dining table is Ufo by Emmemobil and chairs Eero Saarinen by Tulip Chairs. The antique crystal chandelier is from the beginning of the 20th century.



Portuguese interior designer Cristina Jorge de Carvalho was commissioned to renovate an elegant 350 square metre duplex apartment located in the North of Portugal for a family of four with a contemporary and cosmopolitan interior style. Both inviting and functional, the two floors of this spacious and light apartment are separated by private and public spaces, with the shared bathroom, living room, kitchen and terrace located on the entrance floor and the bedrooms and private bathroom on the floor below. Says Cristina, "The house was already being built when I started the interior decoration project. The architecture was very well done. And the chosen materials were very contemporary, blending perfectly with my decoration project. We chose furniture pieces, mostly designed by us, besides fabrics, accent pieces, rugs, lighting and works of art. There were some small alterations in terms of the architecture of the apartment, such as the total redesign of the social bathroom, the creation of two self-designed screen walls in the entrance area through the dining room and the staircase; and the creation of a volume covered in black vireo to separate and create a more private area for the office."





MINIMAL AND CONTEMPORARY

Most pieces of furniture featured in the apartment were designed by Cristina herself, but the ultra-luxe and modern interior also features pieces by Knoll, Established & Sons, Autoban, Emmemobili and Vitra, among others.

With materials ranging from fine lacquered wood, iron and steel, the predominant look of the apartment is minimal and contemporary embellished by occasional pops of eye-catching colour and a number of intriguing art pieces by contemporary Portuguese artists and more classic pieces from the owner's private collection.

The fabrics in the apartment are wool, linen, silk or velvet, and all made from 100 per cent natural fibres. Rugs designed by Cristina also feature on the top floor of the apartment and are interspersed throughout the Tauari wood floor to add warmth and cosiness to these social spaces. As for the colour palette, it is primarily soothing white and grey, with the occasional touch of green and yellow for added variation and zest.

Explains Cristina, "The walls were mainly painted in neutral colours with the exception of the suite that has a touch of relaxing green and the bathroom with a textured wallpaper covering. The washbasin in grey corian was especially designed for this project. The other bathrooms are in white statuary marble."

"THE MAIN MATERIALS INCLUDE THE TAUARI WOOD FLOOR IN THE SOCIAL AREAS AND WOOL CARPETS FOR THE MORE PRIVATE AREAS, LIKE THE ROOMS."



The chest of drawers is Wrongwoods by Established & Sons, the B&W photograph by Graça Sarsfield and the vases are vintage.





VINTAGE CHARM

The family room is divided into three distinct areas—an office area, a TV area and a reading area. A structure covered in vitroc tiles was created to separate and create a more private area for the office. A lacquered shelf was created on the back wall with ceramic pieces by Anna Westerlund and silver objects and other items from the client's private collection. The bottom half is closed and works as storage for the office.

The two black iron bookshelves are designed by CJC (Cristina), the Eames stools by Vitra, Tencel Diamond Rug and the Palissander wood desk by CJC, the desk lamp by Joe Colombo and decorative items from Anna Westerlund. The curtains use C&C Milano fabric, the elliptical low table is by Vitra, leather trays as well as chest of drawers in walnut wood are designed by CJC, besides artwork by Rodrigo Amado perched on the wall.

Meanwhile, in the entrance hall, the wall which gave access to the living room was eliminated and replaced by a lacquered screen designed by Cristina. The addition of this element separates the two spaces physically, whilst still maintaining a visual connection between them, creating an emblematic decorative element with a strong presence and character.



The natural linen sofa is designed by CJC (above), the cushions use Osborne & Little fabric and the wool carpet is from CJC. (Facing page) The Chalk armchair and stool upholstery in grey velvet is designed by CJC, while the foot stool is Tiffani by Boca do Lobo.

"I LIKE TO PLAY WITH CONTRASTING
TEXTURES AND MATERIALS, WITH
A VERY RESTRICTED AND MOSTLY
NEUTRAL COLOUR PALETTE."





The curtains in the son's bedroom are in Elis fabric, the DSR Charles & Ray Eames junior chair by Vitra, the lacquered desk and drawers by For Small People and the desk lamp Tizio by Artemide. The wall detailing is by SKOR, lacquered bed by For Small People, custom-made bed throw by CJC Atelier and headboard panels upholstered in linen and designed by CJC.



In the children's rooms (facing page), the lacquered furniture is in light grey. The natural linen drapes and the carpet create a neutral base for the décor, making it an easily adaptable canvas to the growing tastes of its inhabitants. Pops of colour are given by the wallpaper detail, which is personalised and colourful.

Meanwhile, the floors and walls of the master bathroom (right) are in statuary marble, with a mirrored suspended cabinet designed by CJC. The kitchen (above) is contemporary, with clean lines. Remarks Cristina, "I aimed to create a contemporary, timeless and structured style with a cosmopolitan feeling."

She adds, "My style can be defined by these words—timeless, elegant, minimalist, luxury, stripped. My design philosophy is to create timeless, elegant and sober ambiances, where comfort is the key. It's essential that a project stands the test of time and maintains its elegance through the years."

CRISTINA'S DÉCOR TIPS

QUALITY: Choose materials that will stand the test of time.

TIMELESS PIECES: Instead of a fashionable piece, choose a timeless one. It will last forever.

COLOUR: My colour palette ranges from white to beiges, taupe, ash, black and light green. I don't use very strong colours and prefer a soothing effect, which can be brightened with pops of colour from smaller décor elements.

LIGHT: An accurate lighting plan is essential for a good decoration project.

