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A TWIST ON TRADITION

How a starter home in Mirdif was transformed by marrying tradition with contemporary flair



Before

When Dubai-based newlyweds Yara and Eddy contacted Nisrine Moghraby of Harf Noon Design Studios to help create their Mirdif love nest, they were certain of one thing – that it be built around their collection of vintage carpets. Given to the couple as wedding gifts, their ensemble of richly bold rugs were a sure place to start for Nisrine. “I instantly knew that the colour scheme had to complement them without being overpowering,” she says. The young couple wanted to focus on making-over the entertaining spaces, including the living/dining space and the TV room upstairs. Since the carpets were naturally colourful, they became the focal point for each of the rooms. Nisrine selected shades from them, and chose funky accessories to match. Meanwhile, the walls were kept simple, with a lick of white paint and a large black and white photograph for “some architectural interest”. Moving upstairs to the TV room, Nisrine removed all of the couple’s existing furniture, leaving just the sofa. The multipurpose room was made-over with a slender desk, TV cabinet and storage units for the couple’s books and trinkets. “We wanted to nod to the Star Wars theme that was afoot in the room previously, as this was a part of the husband’s bachelor days,” says Nisrine. “We kept the youthful spirit alive by framing some fun posters and adding a bean bag for hours of comfortable gaming.”

Upon completion, the once blank slate had taken a starting point from the antique carpets and run with a quirky yet trendy feel. In Nisrine’s words, “the house has a consistent charm and unique character that mirrors its owner’s optimism and new life as a couple.”

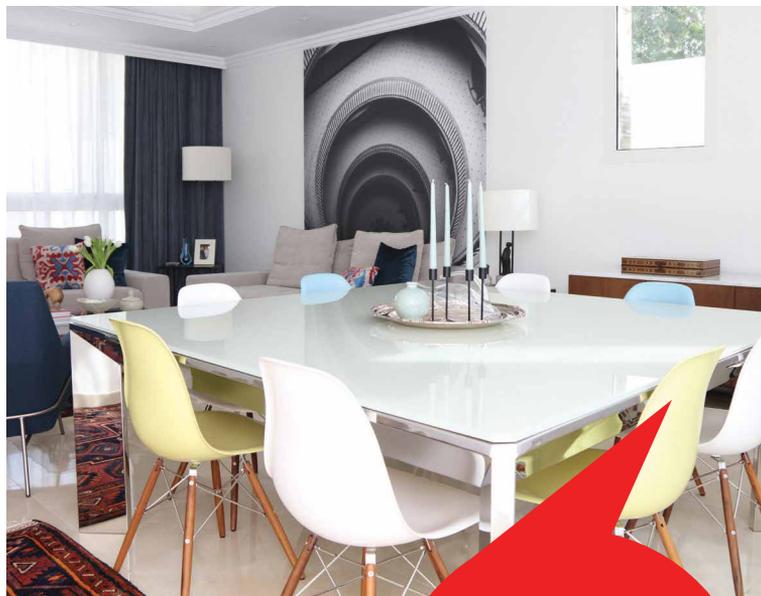
Turn the page to read our tops tips on planning a similar makeover in your home ➤



Make it happen

Want your own funky yet original space? Nisrine Moghraby shares her top tips

- 1 Use one main element as your focal point, as we did with the rugs here. Complement it with a statement artwork in muted tones that doesn't distract.
- 2 Start with simple white walls so that everything pops against them. You can always add wallpaper or bright posters to bring some colour in.
- 3 Keep the rest of the furniture colours neutral - we opted for light grey, which stands out against the walls without overpowering the brightness in the carpets. We used throw cushions to tie in the neutral colours and the bright carpets.
- 4 Opt for a glass coffee table, which will allow a statement carpet or flooring to show through. A dark metal hardware table works well, as the industrial feel complements traditional elements for a modern spin.
- 5 Accessorise with minimalistic yet statement pieces that are fun and young. This will add a quirky vibe without it feeling cluttered.



Photos by Harf Noon Studios, harfnoondesignstudio.com



Before



THE VERDICT
"We love our home's new look. The creative, super sleek finish is better than anything we could have imagined for our home."
Yara and Eddy