

The living room has a mix of furniture from Colombia and Dubai: the sofas, wooden table and grey poufs were shipped over, while the Acapulco-style chairs are from Tribe Dubai and the rattan light shade is from White Moss. Tatiana painted her daughter's bedroom cabinet blue for its new life in the lounge.



Here and Now

This contemporary family villa with an eclectic Colombian twist became the perfect launchpad for Dubai's newest interior design boutique

TEXT BY ELEANOR JOSLIN
PHOTOGRAPHY STEFAN LINDEQUE



Above This bright chair from Kaleidoscope by Mimi was an early buy in Dubai; Tatiana loves highlighting regional accents, such as this vintage Afghan top from Sharjah's Blue Souq; the small box inset with illuminated artwork is an installation by a Palestinian artist.



C'est ici co-founders Monica and Tatiana; photo by Natalie Cooks

PROFILE

THE OWNER Tatiana Jaramillo (pictured, right), her husband Jaime Galuie, their children, Simon, 18, and Sara, 13, moved from Colombia six years ago. Tatiana is co-founder of Dubai-based interior design boutique C'est ici, while Jaime is COO for Microsoft (Middle East and Africa).

THE HOME Their modern family villa in Jumeirah Golf Estates has an enviable floor plan over three levels, including a basement with a home cinema. The ground floor features the dining room, living room, kitchen and a guest bedroom, while upstairs there are three bedrooms, a home office and a TV room.

With a contemporary palette of custom-made furniture, designer pieces, locally-sourced accessories, quirky travel mementoes and bold pops of eclectic Colombian art, it's no surprise that the home of Tatiana Jaramillo quickly became a talking point amid her circle of interior-enthusiast friends.

Within months of moving from Arabian Ranches to their new family villa in Sienna Lakes, Jumeirah Golf Estates, fellow Colombian Monica Durou invited Tatiana to take her passion for decorating to the next level; the idea for C'est ici was born and last year they officially launched the boutique interior design practice. With a simple, straightforward meaning "it is here", the duo have an organic design approach, delivering unique and fresh solutions for homeowners stuck in a style rut.

'I have always loved interior design and decorating,' says the mum of two. 'In Colombia I would redecorate my home all the time, and people seem to like my style; I do not follow trends and our home here is a real reflection of our personalities and our family's life, travels and interests.'

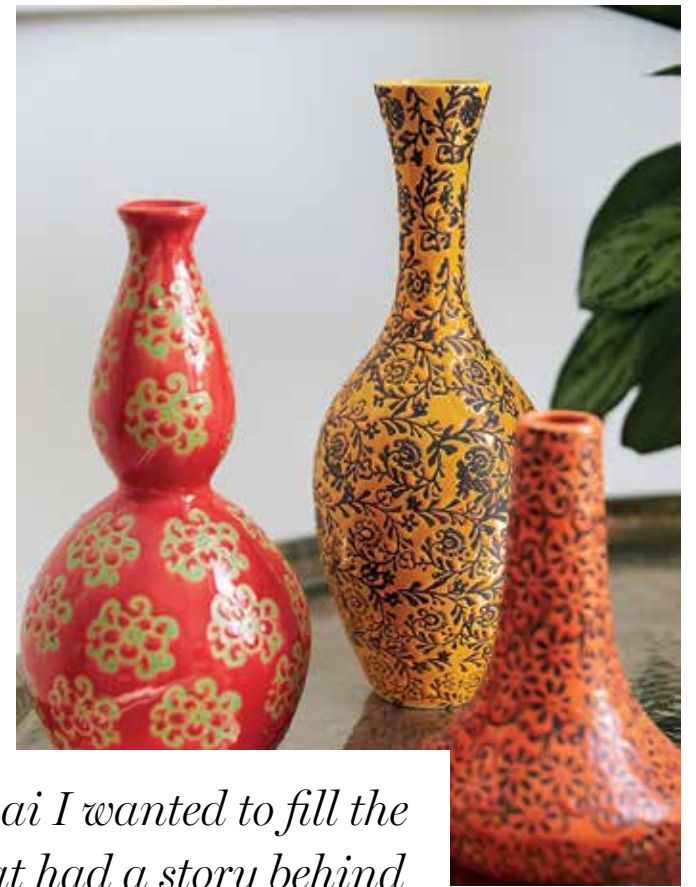
When they moved to Dubai six years ago for Jaime's job with Microsoft, they brought a lot of items from their home country, including many bright, striking artworks by Colombian artists, some antiques and wedding gifts. 'When I came to Dubai I wanted to fill the house with things that had a story behind them, memories from Colombia and things from our trips around the world. Such items make a home special and your home has to be like this; it has to be a reflection of your personality and your life.'

While the family lived in Arabian Ranches for their first five years in the UAE, to be in a close-knit community and near the kids' school GEMS World Academy, they were destined to move to Jumeirah Golf Estates. As a passionate golfer, Jaime has been a member of the community's clubhouse since they arrived. However, back then the area was new and needed to mature and become more populated, to gain the family-orientated, community feeling they were looking for.

'For Jaime it was love at first sight,' laughs his wife. 'He loved the community, the golf courses and the spacious houses. ▶



'When I came to Dubai I wanted to fill the house with things that had a story behind them, memories from Colombia and our trips around the world'



Clockwise from top Distressed, natural materials mingle on a console in the hallway. A set of miniature patterned vases from Cities add colour to the living room. This geometric-patterned chair from Tribe Dubai is a statement seat. Tatiana loves young Colombian artist Leonardo Pineda for his bright paintings.

The dining table is Tatiana's pride and joy, customised from Van Rossum Meubelen's original design to include a grey suede central pedestal and oak top.



They are quite modern, large and designed in a European-style, plus they have a basement which we are used to in Colombia. It's hard to find all these things in Dubai.' Another selling point was the high-quality finishes, which include wood flooring upstairs, marble-effect porcelain flooring in the ground floor living spaces, and a soft concrete-style tile in the kitchen, fitted with contemporary units, some of which feature roll-down coverings instead of doors, and Miele appliances.

'We didn't need to change or update anything when we bought the villa, we only had to focus on the interior decorating,' says Tatiana. Combined with a base palette of neutral and monochrome tones, offset by colourful accessories and artwork from Colombia and local sources, the interior décor is sophisticated and fashionable yet quite unique and – in some places – eclectic, with a mix-and-match feel.

Tatiana's favourite piece of furniture is the customised dining table by Dutch brand Van Rossum Meubelen, which she bought from ikonhouse, based in Dubai's creative cluster Al Serkal. She requested a base with a grey suede finish and ▶



Clockwise from top Yorkshire terrier Theo is at home in the kitchen. The vaulted staircase features a stunning crystal pendant light and artwork gifted from friends. An amusing painting by Chilean artist Renate hangs above a console table from Crate and Barrel, which complements the black Kartell dining chairs and oak table.



Inspired by life in South America, the veranda is furnished in a rustic beach style.



Left and top Sara's Crosley vinyl player is a retro touch while the cute ladder from Tribe Dubai displays some of her keepsakes. Her bedroom is pretty in pink and turquoise, which brightens the white furniture from Crate and Barrel and Pottery Barn. Above The master bedroom has a contemporary monochrome palette, while the wood floor adds warmth.

opted for a beautiful oak top. 'No one has a table like this; it's my take on the original and I love it,' she says.

The dining room also shows off her flair for tabletop styling, which comes to the fore when they throw dinner parties at home, decorating with quirky accessories or to a specific theme. She often brings in botanical elements to add colour, life and character to the table, a scheme influenced by the lush greenery abundant in Colombia – something she says she misses in the UAE. In recent months her styling skills have been commissioned for commercial events by Home and Soul and White Moss, plus F&B outlets Mamalu Kitchen and Waka.

If her clients are not on a strict timeframe she'll look to European brands for investment pieces. 'Of course, we go to Crate and Barrel, Pottery Barn and Marina Home in Dubai, but I try to source from abroad as well, if the client has the time. I love ikonhouse with all my heart, they have beautiful furniture from great designers and brands. I love The Bowery Company for its Nordic feel, and also O'de Rose for its Arabic style – I have quite a few pieces from them. I think you should always have some things at home that hint of the place you live

in, and they have some lovely contemporary items.'

She also likes Poltrona Frau Group, Roche Bobois, Kartell, Kravet and Natuzzi, while for accessories she shops at Tribe Dubai and Maisons du Monde for affordable updates, as well as online boutiques White Moss and Urban Nest. 'I don't like to be uniform or follow trends, which is a challenge here because there isn't a big variety of brands and boutiques to shop from. However, I still try to bring different things to my home and my clients' projects.'

C'est ici's first clients were friends of the co-founders; one needed a first floor makeover in their Arabian Ranches villa, while another wanted to upgrade the finishes throughout their apartment in Downtown Dubai. 'They wanted our help even before we founded C'est ici and, once we had, they hired us as professionals,' says Tatiana. 'It was so nice that our friends supported us and trusted us when we first launched.'

'C'est ici has been a dream come true and it's so fulfilling to put our passion and energies into such amazing projects, creating homes and spaces that are a true reflection of our clients' personalities.' ■

STYLE FILE How to get the look



Emerson Sofa
Ethan Allen, Dh11,410

Kelim Pop cushion
Kare, Dh169

Black wicker lamp
Urban Nest,
Dh1,490

Bevin vase
Crate and Barrel,
Dh139

Marlton dining chair
The Bowery
Company, Dh995

Wild oak Stockholm sideboard
IDdesign, Dh6,400