

ARABIA

marie claire *Maison*

THE POETICS OF DESIGN:

Inside Patricia
Urquiola's Vision



UAE: AED 40 - Saudi Arabia: SR 40

Qatar: QR 40 - Oman: RO 4

Bahrain: BD 4 - Kuwait: KD 4



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INTERIORS

REFINED



MINIMALISM

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MIA INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHY**

Designer Melissa Charlier welcomes Marie Claire Maison to her latest project in The Springs Dubai, a compact space where she masterfully blends minimalism with functionality to create an inviting and harmonious living environment.



☯ SIMPLICITY IN MATERIALS AND COLOURS CREATES A COHESIVE AND HARMONIOUS LOOK ☯

For those working with smaller spaces, Melissa Charlier offers a practical advice to create a home that is both functional and visually impactful. **"Start with the floor plan layout"**, she suggests. "Visualise how you'll use the space and make the most of it by considering the positioning of doors, windows, and structural elements". She emphasises **keeping materials and colours simple to avoid overwhelming the space**. "Choose a dominant colour for 60% of the space, a secondary for 30%, and an accent colour for 10%, ensuring all have similar warmth to create a cohesive look". Lastly, **lighting is key**: "Maximise natural light and pair it with a thoughtful lighting plan to enhance both mood and function".

Charlier's minimalist approach is closely linked to sustainability. "We focus on natural, durable materials to ensure longevity and reduce excess. Going forward, we aim to incorporate more recyclable materials, whether through furniture or eco-friendly finishes, blending minimalism with sustainability".

Melissa Charlier's design philosophy goes beyond aesthetics, focusing on creating functional, effortless spaces with a lasting impact. In her latest Dubai project, she applied her **"less is more"** approach to making the most of a small floor plan while maintaining a sense of openness. **"Designing for small spaces can be tricky, but it's all about creativity"**, she explains. **"The first thing we considered is how the homeowners would use the space and how they would move around. Ensuring a natural and easy flow was crucial"**.

Charlier reimagined the layout to create a seamless connection between the kitchen and living area, using engineered wood flooring and matching veneers to enhance warmth and character. Key furniture pieces were chosen carefully, blending functionality with a minimalist aesthetic to avoid overwhelming the space. **"Lighting played a crucial role in the overall ambiance"**, she adds. **"We maximised natural light to make the space feel bright and open, while implementing a well-considered lighting plan with ambient wall lights, pendant lights above the kitchen island and dining table, and minimal spotlights throughout"**. Together, these elements created a warm, cosy, and inviting home, blending natural materials with a soothing neutral palette. ■



INTERIORS



E T C .

BY MARIE CLAIRE MAISON

RUG
"Ridge" rug
Bo Concept



PLATES
"Dune" tableware
Serax



VASE
"Orimono" vase
101CPH



LAMP
"Flamingo-1510" pendant light
Vibia



SCULPTURE
"Natural Organic" sculpture
Ethnicraft

ETC

TABLE
"Terrazzo" side table
HKliving



CHAIR
"Bufala" chair
NORR11

