



Home tour: Inside a Mediterranean-inspired villa with feng shui elements in Discovery Bay, Hong Kong



By Andrea Lo
Oct 18, 2024



COVER Iman El Zeky Studio transformed this home in Discovery Bay, Hong Kong

Iman El Zeky, of the eponymous interior design studio, transformed this home into a sanctuary for a family with French and Hong Kong roots

In this 3,229 sq ft villa, tucked away on a quiet beachside lane in Discovery Bay, Hong Kong, a warm, neutral palette dominates—juxtaposed by vibrant colours in its custom-made furnishings and artwork.

The work is thanks to Iman El Zeky of the Hong Kong- and Paris-based Iman El Zeky Studio, who took on the transformation of the living room, lounge, family room and one of the bedrooms—spaces that span 1,615 sq ft—in a six-month process, with three months dedicated to the design phase.

The villa is home to a family of four with French and Hong Kong roots. The client wanted a soft, serene and natural space that aligned with feng shui principles, with artistic touches that reflect her personality.

Home tour: Inside an oceanfront Hong Kong apartment, where a stunning marble kitchen takes centre stage



ABOVE The dining room adjoins the living space, with colourful art and objects as decor on the shelves

“Our signature is really to create personal interiors where we combine a sense of elegance and harmony, always with a touch of surprise,” says El Zeky. “I would describe our aesthetic as a harmonious blend of materials and motifs from around the world, seamlessly merging vintage and contemporary styles.”

El Zeky had met the client’s daughters through a partnership with their Hong Kong landscaping company, My Rooftop Is Green. “Their mother had been struggling to find the right designer to revamp her home, so they introduced us,” says El Zeky. “I felt an immediate connection when we met.”



ABOVE The living room features a pop of soft pink



ABOVE Iman El Zeky pictured in the home

Prior to this project, the home had just undergone a renovation—it is the result of two villas merged into one. “While the architectural shell was set, our role was to bring soul to the space through thoughtful interior design,” says El Zeky.

The design process kicked off with a thorough client interview—what El Zeky calls “an ‘immersion’ to uncover their desires and aversions”. It allows the designer to create a narrative that draws from the clients’ personal stories, memories and aspirations, she adds. She then created tailored solutions to the clients’ needs, which included the desire for feng shui philosophies to be applied, as well as the need for personal spaces in the bedrooms, which led to the incorporation of custom-designed furniture.

The natural light flooding each room from the nearby beach played a crucial role in El Zeky and her team’s choice of colours, textiles and shapes. “It inspired and led us to a harmonious blend of natural woods, travertine and soft materials, complemented by commissioned artworks.”



ABOVE The living room



ABOVE A console

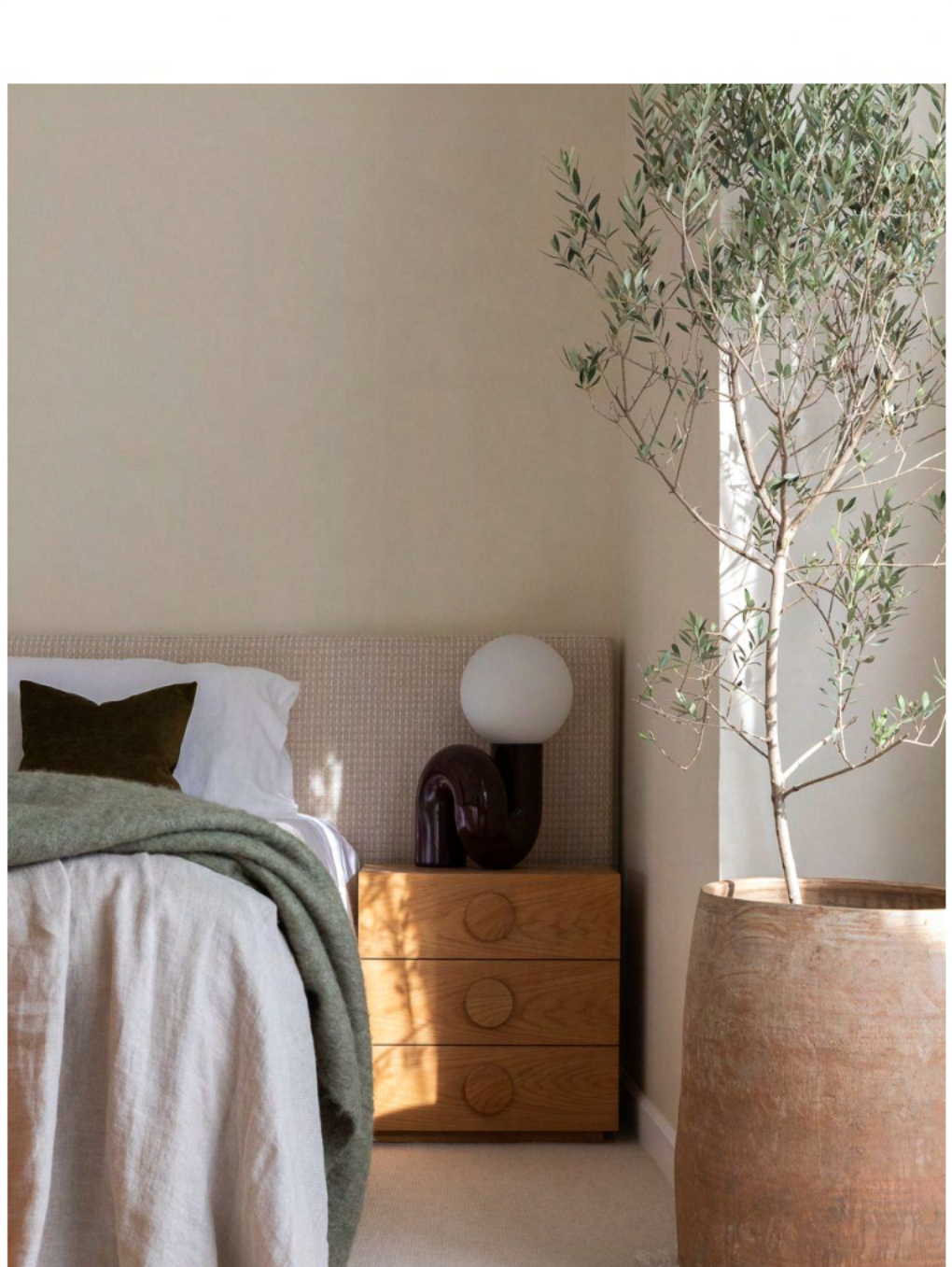
In the bedroom, its slanted high ceilings immediately caught the designer’s eye—it “evokes a Mediterranean ambiance that is rare in Hong Kong”. This feature inspired the design of a bespoke sofa, conceived in a single brushstroke to mirror the ceiling’s slant while adhering to feng shui principles.

In the lounge, the designer added a bespoke oak console that doubles as a bar and a sculptural statement piece.

The adjoining living room features contemporary designer pieces, including a striking, two-meter-high handcrafted Allied Maker floor lamp and an Arvo Ray Studio table lamp, which El Zeky says reinforces the home’s elegant and crafted character.



ABOVE Inside one of the bedrooms



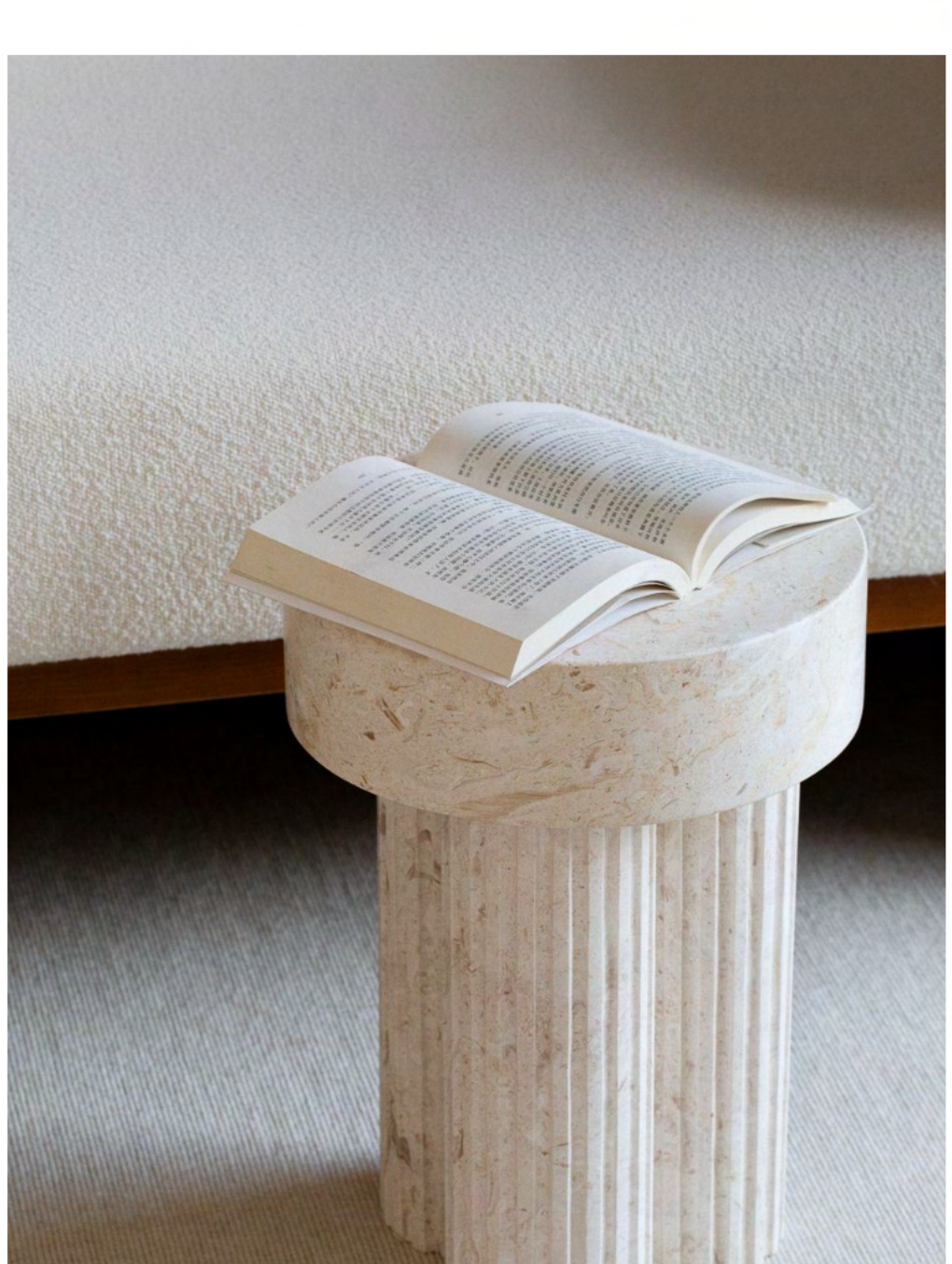
ABOVE The space is designed with feng shui philosophies in mind

The family room takes inspiration from the vibrant use of colour by the late Mexican architect Luis Barragán, whose work remains influential almost four decades after his death. The designer chose a soft, uplifting pink hue that shines through a custom L-shaped sofa, upholstered with a Pierre Frey fabric. A Beni Rugs Moroccan rug, meanwhile, evokes a cosy atmosphere and invites relaxation. Works by Monika Gardyla and Anne Nowak add visual interest to the space.

A collection of mixed media art pieces and objects, curated by El Zeky, are displayed throughout the home. These include delicate wall paintings by ceramic artist Barbara Raimondo, an artwork by Alessandra Williams, a painting by Semaan Khawam, a collage by Monika Gardyla, a print by Anne Nowak and a photograph by Katie Burdon.



ABOVE One of the spaces in the home



ABOVE The home features plenty of custom-made pieces

Throughout the project, El Zeky says she and her team adopted “a collector’s mindset”, curating art and unique decor elements that bring what she calls a magical touch to the home. “Our clients want personalised, singular spaces, and we are committed to infusing creativity into every corner, regardless of the project size.”

Looking back on it all, the designer considers “turning the house into a home imbued with soul and character” to be the most significant transformation; the client, she adds, had expressed amazement at how “fresh, welcoming, original and full of artistic charm” the home was.

“It’s a magical feeling when clients express newfound joy in their space; when they are excited to entertain and share their home with loved ones. For us, that means our mission is accomplished.”