Worlds Collide in this Hong Kong Villa

Interior designer Jonas El Zeky designed this seaside villa in Hong Kong with a plethora of vintage and original pieces from around the world that come together in an eclectic yet elegant home

In Hong Kong's Stanley, a tranquil seaside village on the southern side of the island, French interior designer Jonas El Zeky designed this vibrant family villa as a melting pot of cultures and styles. Since he established his design-led but practice in Hong Kong in 2008, the 200-square-metre home features more than 150 pieces of furniture and art sourced from over 20 countries, highlighting El Zeky's multicultural heritage and storytelling approach. My starting point in decorating the house was to create a contemporary interpretation of a family ranch room, and then build around those with dual palettes and contrasts, he explains. "The art pieces were my main sources of inspiration for the whole design."

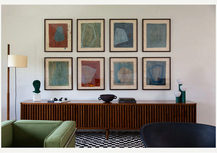
Both around an atrium, the villa opens up onto an entrance lounge where a seating nook is framed by two large paintings by Spanish artist Marta De Viñs and Bulgarian artist Boriana Kaleyna. The lounge leads through to a landscaped seating garden. No such space, we demand of including a home, according to how we wanted every room to feel, El Zeky says. "For example, the yellow painting in the entrance lounge evokes the sun and the feeling of warmth."

Steps lead down to the living room, where a long custom wooden console is paired with eight abstract paintings by British artist Jonathan Ward. The room's sofas are upholstered in green linen and stacked with lounge-finds, such as an antique Chinese lamp with a rose shade handcrafted by a local maker. Materials like wood, metal, wool and linen are paired with organic shapes and pops of bright colours, achieving an understated, welcoming atmosphere.

Similarly, the dining room is a melange of elements from different eras, including a mid-century-style handmade table sitting among a bespoke Turkish Kilim rug and a vintage Italian mirror and lamp. "We tried to make the rooms as cozy as we could, focusing on creating meaningfulness and bringing emotional connection, the designer explains. "We essentially "dressed" the space as you would think of dressing someone."

With that in mind, El Zeky curated spaces to be diverse and reflection of their inhabitants while still achieving a sense of authenticity. She's now working on the family's home in Greece, where she is the trusting relationship both between designer and client.

Text by Nina Millanof
Image by AHP Photography



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