

HOME SUITE HOME

Celebrity stylist **Kelly Lundberg** reveals what it's really like to live in a hotel residence

Interview: **Lucy Land**

"If Coco Chanel could spend her life living in a hotel, then why can't I?," Kelly Lundberg tilts her head back slightly and laughs. She's only half joking, though. The celebrity stylist, presenter and author was recently at a crossroads in her life, and needed to move home. "I thought about what I wanted," she explains, simply. "Overlooking the sea was top of my list. Who wouldn't want to have coastal views? And then I considered which location would be on my dream list," she continues. "I thought about how amazing the Anantara Residences at Palm Jumeirah look and that I'd really love to live there." Her next step was to make the move happen.

Kelly moved into her one-bedroom hotel apartment in January 2017. "The hotel management asked how I was settling in," she recounts. "I let them know that I'm never leaving, which amused them enormously. I'm living by the motto that you only live once." Contrary to embracing the anonymity that hotel living offers, Kelly got to know the staff. "I really feel like I'm part of their family."

Kelly's move has brought plenty of surprises, not least of all that all-important beachfront setting. "I think the residences offer the best view of Dubai," she smiles. Looking out towards the Burj Al Arab, Kelly has also witnessed fantastic fireworks displays from her balcony and regularly enjoys sightings of dolphins swimming. Unsurprisingly, her favourite spot is the balcony. It's her go-to place for work, dining as well as hosting parties.

She also relishes the perks of living in a hotel residence, which include regular housekeeping, a discount on the hotel food and beverages, access to the facilities and of course, the comforts of a hotel bed.

"I sleep so well," she reveals. With access to hotel life, it's hard to tempt her to socialise elsewhere. "I find myself inviting people over to mine to avoid meeting up somewhere else," she admits. "And I really enjoy entertaining." She's good at it, too. She gives her homemade mini cupcakes to housekeeping staff as they leave her apartment.



Kelly's decor tips

Build up the little things

Place books on the coffee table or create personal displays using small mannequins

Personalise things you have brought over from your native country

For example, I turned a tartan pinafore that my granny used to wear into cushions

Add cushions and some colour

It's an easy way to lift a space

Hotel life conveniences bring with it the temptation to put everything on a hotel bill, however. "For the first few months, I was determined not to use the hotel bill option but when I had family visiting I started doing it – it's massively dangerous." Are there any other downsides to living in a hotel? Kelly thinks carefully before responding, "The only annoyance about living here is the sunset traffic at Atlantis [The Palm, Dubai] on Fridays."

Having lived on Palm Jumeirah for eight of her 14 years in Dubai, Kelly loves the beachfront community as well as the feeling of living in a city without being in the thick of it. "With the sea view and beach on my doorstep, I feel like I have the best of both worlds."

Kelly's move presented one challenge, though. It meant downsizing her space. She bought two new wardrobes from Ikea, which she added to her bedroom, and had a wardrobe edit. She also converted a cupboard close to her kitchen into a shoe closet. However, there's still a rail of clothes in her bedroom that is searching for a more permanent home. Although the luxurious apartment is fully furnished, Kelly was keen to add her personal touch with photos of family and friends, as well as her – mostly fashion-related – home accessories, including cushions featuring illustrations of shoes by a Dubai-based artist and artworks by international fashion artist Megan Hess. Most of her art was acquired while on her travels. One pop artwork, which she bought at the Beverly Hills Art Fair in Los Angeles, features the quote, "I sold my sole to Louboutin" alongside an illustration of a pair of blue Christian

Louboutin shoes: Kelly owns the exact same pair.

On top of family and fashion, music features prominently in Kelly's life. "There's a fabulous built-in sound system. The first thing I do when I wake up is put on my YouTube playlist," she says, before adding, "Living here offers such a good lifestyle. I don't think a lot of people know that there are residences either side of the hotel. Often, people I meet in the lift say to me, 'Enjoy the rest of your holiday,' and I have to reply to them, 'No, I live here!'"

