



# Hutton's Zodiac ence

Interior designer  
**Emma Hutton's** villa  
in Jumeirah 3 is a  
popular retreat for  
family and friends

There's a villa in Jumeirah 3 that is affectionately known as Hotel Hutton by its regular guests – friends and family of interior designer Emma Hutton. On arrival, visitors are greeted by permanent resident Chase, a boisterous French bulldog, who shares his home with Emma, her property lawyer husband Scott and their two children, Cooper and Harrison. The spacious hallway is scented with Dr Vranjes reed diffusers and fresh lilies, which adorn the large marble Saarinen table along with framed family photos, candles and a vase of white tulips, while the walls are decorated with artworks chosen on family trips and there's a fun bar located under the spiral marble staircase. Books, left by guests and family, line the windowsills surrounding the staircase.

The home's wonderful blend of sophistication and liveability can be attributed to Emma's lifelong passion for interiors. "I was always moving things around and fixing things even as a child," she enthuses. "I remember placing dried flowers on folded towels when I was younger." Originally from Ireland, Emma developed a career in interior design, working with the likes of Helen Turkington in Dublin and the UK on private and commercial projects prior to moving to Dubai nine years ago. She's seen a lot of change since her arrival. "I've found that more people are staying in Dubai for longer so are buying villas instead of renting. I think that has led to more people making further effort to make their villas look homely."

The other big change that Emma is pleased to note is the growth of bespoke companies creating home accessories such as artworks and rugs. "There's a lady who works for herself and gets all her wonderful handmade rugs from India (her company is called From Jaipur With Love). If you want something different or you want something custom-made, you really have to get out of the malls and find it but Dubai is definitely growing in that area, which is brilliant," she says. "Interior design has changed massively since I arrived and I think there's a lot more to come."

For her clients' and her own home, Emma will start with a piece of artwork or a cushion she loves and build on that when choosing the colour scheme. Sitting in one of her favourite rooms, her home office, she nods towards the sofa. "It was plain grey before I got it re-covered. The painting above it inspired the pink piping." The most arresting artwork in the office is a large black-and-white painting of a girl's face with a pink graphic butterfly over her mouth and lower face. "Some people thought I was a bit crazy choosing it; that it looked a bit like something from *The Silence Of The Lambs*, but I love the striking colour." Emma's go-to colours are pink and mustard – the large artwork in the hall features a lady wearing a mustard-yellow dress – though she doesn't have any rules for colour combinations. "Even when it comes to fashion, I like to mix navy with black, and grey with cream, which some people still say are no-nos."







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She doesn't stick to particular styles, trends or periods either. "If I'm drawn to something, that's it – I'll make it work in my house," she says. "I don't need to be really trendy or up to date; it's just whatever works." Her style has evolved since her move to Dubai, however. "When I was in Ireland, our house was very neutral and now I have a lot more colour. I wonder if living in the sunshine allows you to be more creative," she ponders.

Emma spends most of her time in the home office. Her children will join her at the desk to do their homework. "This is where I'll do personal stuff such as holiday bookings and the kids' school work as well as my own work." Evenings are spent relaxing in the living room and, weather permitting, weekends are spent in the garden.

Before moving into their villa, Emma brought her husband to see the property. "The outside was completely barren except for two big trees, the hall was painted bright blue, the staircase was a vivid red and another room was yellow. Scott thought we couldn't possibly live here. 'I trust your judgment but it had better work as we're not moving

anywhere again,' he teased. I had the interior painted grey so we could start with a blank canvas."

The kitchen previously featured random tiles. "Scott said, 'Look at this hideous thing the last people left' – he was referring to a Manuel Canovas blind that I had fitted," she laughs. She spray-painted some old wooden chairs bright blue and yellow and added blackboard paint below the cupboards, hung sunhats on another wall and had a family photo blown up into a canvas to create a tongue-in-cheek shabby-chic vibe. "When Scott saw the finished look he said, 'I get it now.'"

Scott appreciates his wife's easy style. "He loves the fact that I go a bit mad on the house and everything's a bit more colourful than most people's taste," Emma reveals. "Our home is relaxed, which is what he wants." With its whimsical artworks and clever colour combinations, which have resulted in a cosy yet refined style, the Huttons' home is certainly inviting.

**Emma Hutton is available for interior design consultancy, show homes and turn-key projects on 050 235 9682, emma@hollandsandhutton.com**



## HOME COMFORTS

**My aesthetic is...**

Comfortable and eclectic.

**Style rules**

Stop before it gets too much because you can overdo anything. Peel it back until it feels right. One extra cushion can be too many, for example.

**I couldn't live without...**

My artwork and my two brown club chairs, which I bought for a steal – Dhs500 for the pair – from the villa's previous owners.

**Top tip**

An inexpensive way to fill a large wall space is to frame a piece of gorgeous fabric. I've used Manuel Canovas and Timorous Beasties in my home.

**Home is...**

My happy place and my family.