

ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN, INTERIORS + PROPERTY

identity®

ISSUE 210 / JUNE 2021



A New Era of Design

A MOTIVATE PUBLICATION

DHS 35.00 OR 2.70 BD 2.60
SR 25.00 KD 2.10



identity.ae

6291106741137

Features

16 Contemporary heritage

Don Tanani revives the past through objects that are at the crossroads of design and art

18 Labour of love

House of Today continues its efforts in supporting emerging design talent in Lebanon

22 Terracotta dreams

Meshary AlNassar's homely studio is a reflection of his ambitions for design in Kuwait City

26 The future is now

A new era of designers, architects and artists are redefining the future of design in the UAE

38 Weekend lifestyle

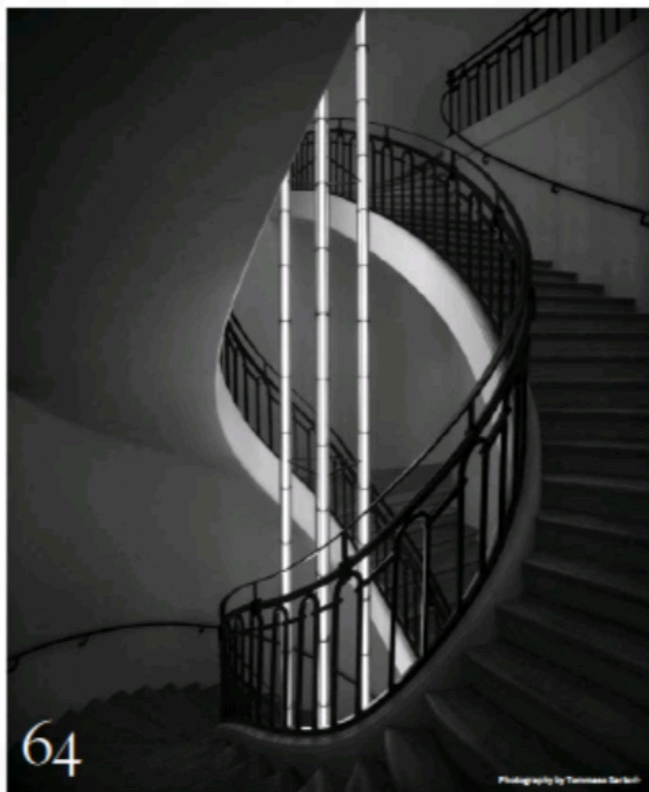
This Sydney home achieves harmony through the perfect balance of proportions, materials and colours

46 Tropical modernism

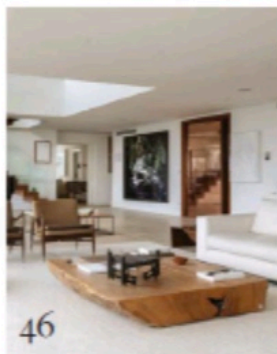
Looking into a São Paulo home that hosts a grand display of Latin American art and vintage furniture

64 A contemporary legacy

Enter the newly opened Bourse de Commerce – Collection Pinault by Tadao Ando and design by the Bouroullec Brothers



Photography by Tamasz Szekely



Regulars

- 10 Newswire
- 52 Design Focus
- 70 Products
- 72 Library
- 74 #idmostwanted

Tropical modernism

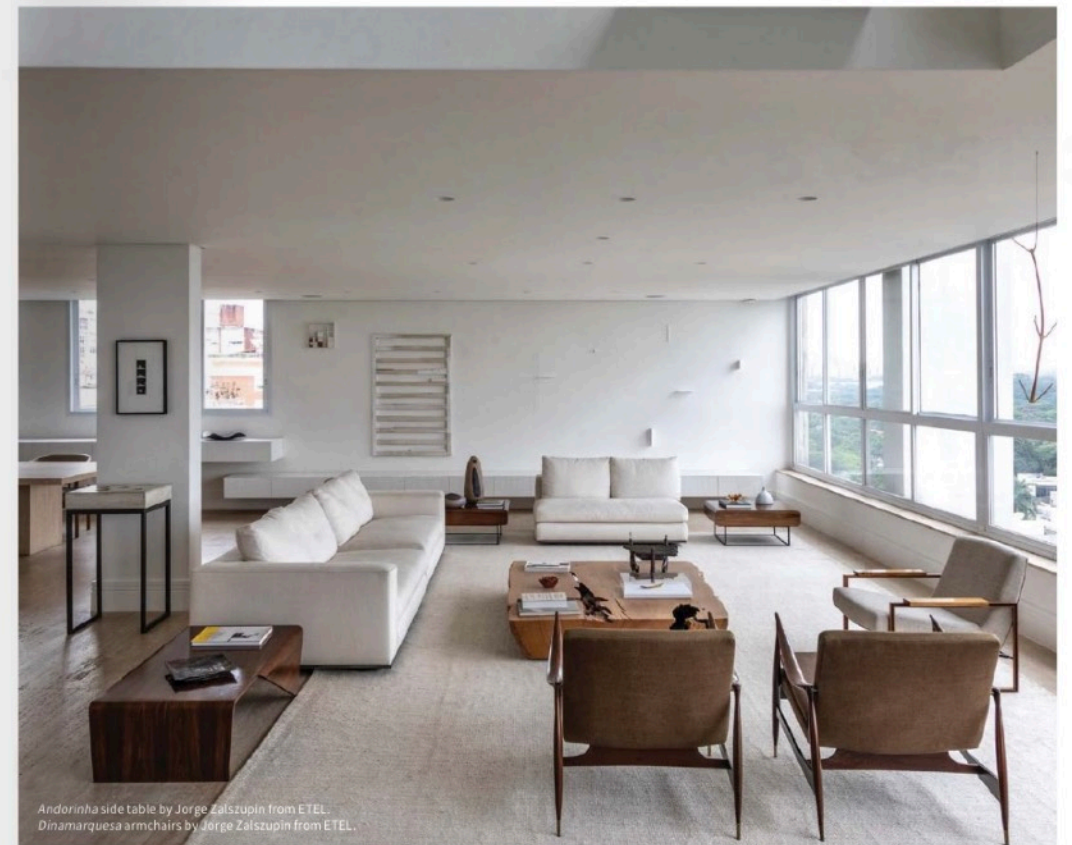
Brazilian architect Carolina Maluhy transformed this São Paulo home into a blank canvas to display the owner's wide collection of Latin American art and vintage furniture

WORDS BY AIDAN IMANOVA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RUY TEIXEIRA



Artwork by Fernanda Gomes. Console by Carolina Maluhy.

interiors



Andorinha side table by Jorge Zalsupin from ETEL.
Dinamarquesa armchairs by Jorge Zalsupin from ETEL.

A tranquil silence engulfs the visitor as they enter the expansive white space of the São Paulo apartment, surrounded by glass windows that overlook an urbanised horizon preceded by a green carpet of tropical forest – a most spectacular panorama of the Jardim Europa neighbourhood. The surrounding views are like having one's own tropical garden in the middle of Latin America's largest metropolis.

The apartment of collectors Stefania and Francisco Cestero and their two children is a duplex set on the 12th and final floor of the building located in Cerqueira César, a central neighbourhood in São Paulo. Given their love for art, design and architecture, they were looking for a simple, noiseless and bright space to enhance their collection of works of art and vintage furniture, with no unnecessary distractions.

"The personality of the couple, who are both passionate about art, design, music and philanthropy, was key to understanding how to design the perfect set [on which] to display their art and design collection, as well as accommodate an intimate venue for jam sessions with musicians and friends around the grand piano, one of the owner's main hobbies," explains Brazilian architect

Carolina Maluhy, the founder of her eponymous design and architecture studio.

"The style needed to be minimalistic and neutral, predominantly white, with plenty of natural light and simple lines, providing a silent stage where the exquisite collection and the musical soirées could stand out." Intensifying the panorama of the city was another vital consideration, which contributed to the architect's decision to enclose the apartment with glass.

"The apartment building where the residence is located is higher than most residences in the neighbourhood, thus providing a privileged view over the surrounding area. While the lower ground benefits from a wide glass façade connecting the interior to the vista, the upper floor used to be an open terrace, which was closed in order to give way to a new living space, also surrounded by glass walls, so that the green view could be let in. In the project, it was important to keep the elements as transparent as possible – such as the staircase sided by glass guardrails. Natural light invades the property all day long, while the plants arranged along the transparent walls establish a dialogue with the outdoor environment," says Maluhy. »



Pendant by Marepe. White linen armchairs by Joaquim Tenreiro. Petalas side-table by Jorge Zalszupin from ETEL.

The architecture of the building itself lends inspiration to the design language inside, following the same minimalist, straight and pure lines – typical of the 1970s classical style of São Paulo's architecture, which was also characterised by regular angles and a strong use of glass. "The project follows the same language, which draws from a Modernist origin, thus respecting the design of the building itself," Maluhy adds.

The social gatherings around the grand piano dictated that it remain the focal point of the lower floor, from which other areas of the space are arranged. An opening to the

upper mezzanine allows daylight to enter, which also finds a way in through the glass walls of the living room overlooking the city. A large table, in the same material as the floors – travertine marble – connects the living room to the dining room and kitchen. At the other end of the lower floor are two suites for the children and an extra suite for guests, as well as two work studios. A glass and wood staircase – made of Cumaru wood, typical of the North Region of Brazil – takes one up to the second floor of the residence, which was rebuilt from scratch, having previously housed an open-air rooftop, and later closed to create a second living space. »



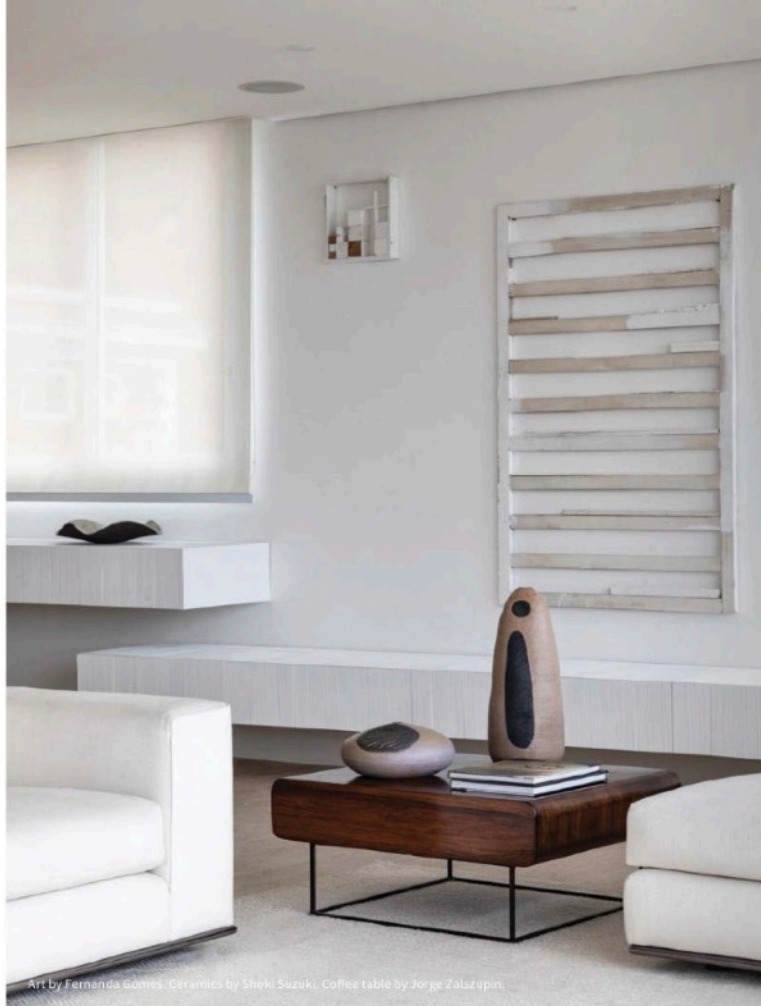
Artwork by Alfredo Jaar. Console by Carolina Maluhy. Leather armchair and ottoman by Sérgio Rodrigues.

Covered by a light ceiling, the upper living room is lit in the middle through a glass dome with a set of automatic Brise soleils in wood, regulating the natural illumination. The starting point was to respect the minimalist architecture and to expand the living space to the second floor, which now houses an extra living room and the couple's master bedroom – the only room in the house with wooden floors and an airy closet. The rest of the floor is a wide open space providing 180° views of the city. In the middle of the second living room of the residence is a fireplace surrounded by an impressive collection of vintage furniture. Glass doors sliding through iron frames subtly divide, or rather connect, the interior space and the outdoor area, the latter kept green not only by the view but also by the plants distributed along the perimeter of the veranda.

"We decided to keep the spaces open to guarantee ventilation and light," Maluhy continues. "The window frames allow the breeze in – essential in the warm tropical days – as well as the clarity that invades the house from end to end. These are the main benefits of an open-plan project such as this one. Additionally, the family enjoys spending time together and with friends, so this absence of divisions allows for a more enjoyable space of communion."

Additionally, the neutral tones of the space allow the furniture and artworks to become the main protagonists of the residence. Brazilian vintage design stands out for its handcraft and the use of hardwood. Such is the case with the rare tables and the *Dinamarquesa* armchairs by Jorge Zalszupin, as well as the iconic *Jangada* chair by Jean Gillon.

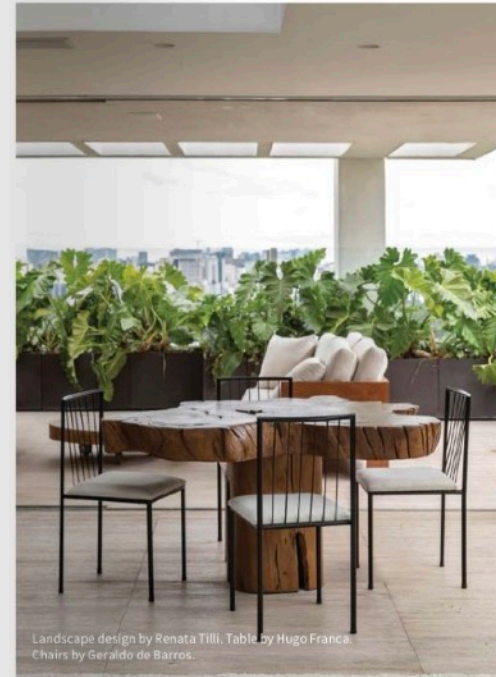
"The design collection encompasses other key names [essential] for understanding the prolific production of Brazilian modernism, among them Giuseppe Scapinelli, Geraldo de Barros, Joaquim Tenreiro, Percival Lafer and Lina Bo Bardi. Designers Pedro Petry and Hugo França take the conversation between wood and furniture to present days through various pieces placed around the house," Maluhy says.



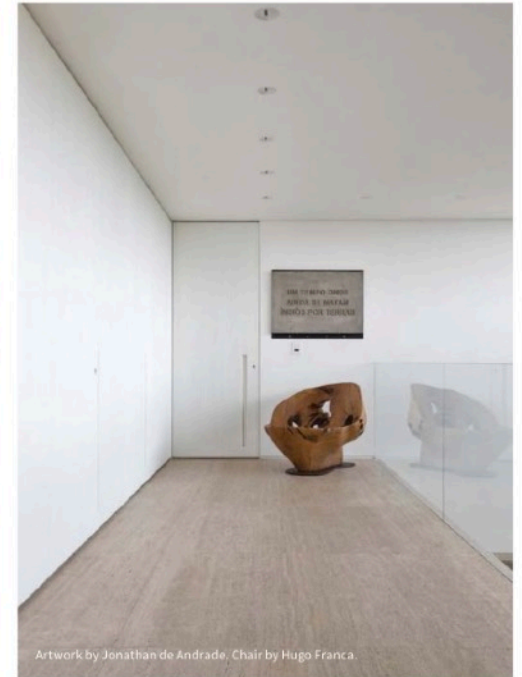
Art by Fernanda Gomes. Ceramics by Shoki Suzuki. Coffee table by Jorge Zalszupin.

The art collection is mainly contemporary, featuring a strong selection of female artists, notably: Fernanda Gomes, whose sculptures compose a music sheet above the sideboard designed for the project; Ana Maria Maiolino, an Italian artist who found a second home in Brazil; as well as Brazilian artists Adriana Varejão, Renata Lucas and Rivane Neuenschwander. The careful selection of works is completed by other important Latin American artists, including: Mexican artist Pedro Reyes, whose silophone sculptures are made with guns from a local disarmament campaign; Brazilian conceptual artist Cildo Meireles, with his iconic Coca-Cola bottles; and Chilean artist Alfredo Jaar, who pays tribute to Italy through poet Giuseppe Ungaretti's verse *Millumino d'immenso*.

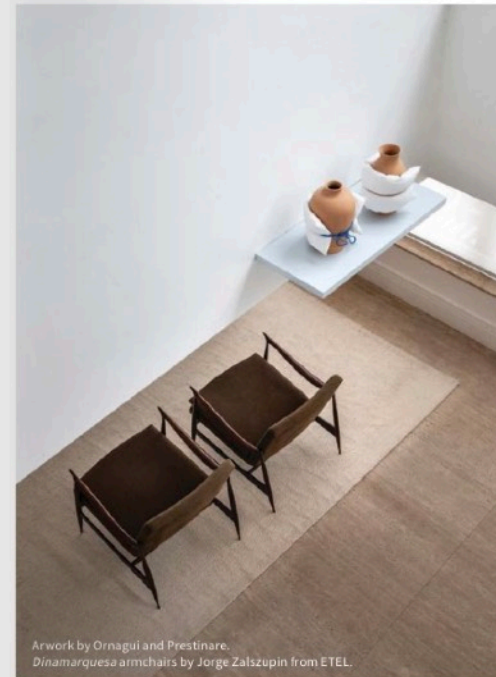
For Maluhy, however, one of the most vital and encompassing features of the residence is 'unity'. "I think that unity, together with natural light and ventilation, brings a feeling of calmness and serenity, which I deeply value," she says. ■



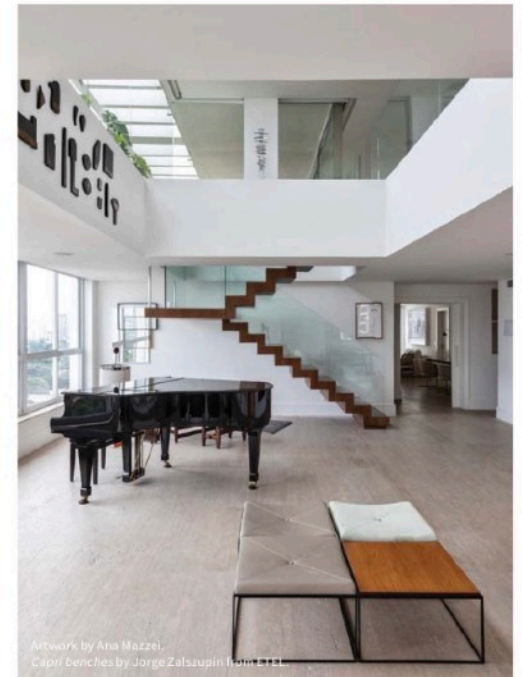
Landscape design by Renata Tilli. Table by Hugo França. Chairs by Geraldo de Barros.



Artwork by Jonathan de Andrade. Chair by Hugo França.



Artwork by Ornagui and Prestinare. *Dinamarquesa* armchairs by Jorge Zalszupin from ETEL.



Artwork by Ana Mazzei. Capri benches by Jorge Zalszupin from ETEL.