

# Community Spirit

Ziena Masri Bawab, interior designer, discusses colour, Frank Lloyd Wright and setting up community classes

PHOTOGRAPHY NEMANJA SESLIJA

**How did you first become interested in design?**

Fascinated about the word art and what it means, I found myself drawn to it at a very early stage and age and that was when I started drawing and painting in water colour. Travelling, visiting museums and taken by so many beautiful landscapes made me decide to study architecture. I graduated from the University of Jordan then later pursued my passion in interior design.

**How would you define your own personal style?** I would say classical contemporary. I love taking antique pieces and placing them against the clean lines of stark contemporary furniture and vice versa. In so many ways it's a ying-yang scheme of contrasting colours and textures. While I strive for balance I still like to create that visual shock.

**What has been your most rewarding project?** The Prime Ministry Head Quarters in Amman, Jordan. It was an amazing project and a very fulfilling experience. I felt honoured to be in the team that was in charge of the design and supervision.

**Your specialty is working with iron, wood, gypsum and other natural products. How did this come about?** When I first started my career, I worked with Al Sharkiyoun Interior Designers which is a leading company based in Jordan. That was where I was introduced to the intriguing world of those design elements and their role in enhancing the visual experience and I now use them continuously.

**From a client's point of view, how would you advise them to approach an interior designer?** Working with an interior designer will help the clients realize their dreams in a more organized and creative way with the assured eye of a professional. I believe a person has to be honest with herself while keeping an open mind in the process to end up having her dream space.

**Do you believe there is a particular Dubai style?** One of the many wonders of Dubai lies in the diversity of the styles it has opened itself to. A rich and intriguing mixture of magnificence, beauty and absolute uniqueness is the result.

**What are you into right now?** As I am passionate about interiors, I am offering my experience to the local community interested in this field through interior design courses to the ladies of Dubai. I realized that there's a real requirement for this kind of service as Dubai ladies are constantly looking for ways to enhance their living environment. I also do consultations and take interior design projects for residential spaces.

**Do you have any design heroes?** Frank Lloyd Wright who was recognized in 1991 by the American Institute of Architects as "the greatest American architect of all time". I. M. Pei, Designer of the Louvre Pyramid. Zaha Hadid, the first female recipient of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, architecture's Nobel Prize.



**"I OFFER MY EXPERIENCE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IN MY COURSE AT DUBAI LADIES CLUB."**

**home?** Colours and style which give me an idea of his or her personality and their approach to design.

**What is your obsession in life?** I believe it's being able to design forms and spaces that excites the senses and sparks the imagination. Bringing warmth and charm to people homes by offering fresh ideas to enhance the quality of their surroundings and lifestyle, and getting them in touch with their aesthetic preferences. I believe a beautiful place is one that gives you a sense of happiness once you enter it. I hope to help in that.

**What do you love about what you do?** Always being around beauty with its different forms and being introduced to innovative ideas and creative people.

**Your often lead interior design courses. When is the next one and what are their format?** The next course is "Creating Intimate Homes" scheduled for December 13-17, 2009. The course will be for five days from 8:30-12:00 daily. The course will be useful for anyone involved in designing, planning, or implementing interior design layout for residential spaces. The programme should be of special interest to people furnishing their homes and want to have a hands-on training on how to select colours, the best furniture layout and the right mix to create that dream home. ■

More information on the course [www.zienasinteriors.com](http://www.zienasinteriors.com).