

HOUSE of the MONTH

Dress sense

A power couple in the fashion world, Yilmaz and Gülden have created a fabulous space to escape to – filled with calm colours and soothing shapes

Photography – James Merrell
Words – Andréa Childs



HALLWAY
‘We adore nature, which is why this setting on the coast, overlooking the bay and surrounding hills, is perfect for us,’ says Yilmaz. The internal courtyard brings the greenery even closer.
GET THE LOOK The chaise and ottoman/table were designed by the couple’s interior architects Ofist. For similar seating, see the São Conrado sofa by Claudia Moreira Salles at Espasso.

Home profile

THE OWNERS Yilmaz and Gülden Yilmaz, founders of Turkish fashion empire Koton, and their daughter Deniz, 17, and son Ege, 13.
THE PROPERTY A two-storey villa in Bodrum, Turkey. The lower-ground floor includes a living room, kitchen-diner, larder and an internal courtyard, plus four en-suite bedrooms, a WC/shower room and a terrace. Upstairs is the master bedroom with en-suite bathroom, dressing room and balcony, plus a guest bedroom and en-suite bathroom.

LIVING ROOM

Yilmaz and Gülden wanted to create a balance between fast-moving trends and timeless design – cue ‘normcore’ sofas teamed with a sleek coffee table.
GET THE LOOK These are Andersen Quilt sofas by Rodolfo Dordoni for Minotti. The coffee table is by Ofist. Try Content by Conran for similar. For a rug like this, see Ideas to Steal.





STAIRWELL →
 The house's entrance is on the ground floor, with stairs descending to the main living space. 'We knew we wanted a spectacular pendant to create an impression as you walk in – and it had to be long to maintain that drama as you walk downstairs,' says Yilmaz. 'Finally, we found it!'
GET THE LOOK This is the Series 21 pendant by Omer Arbel for Bocci. Arc Fabrications makes similar metal balustrades. Ecora's Black Oiled oak flooring is a match for this one.

LIVING ROOM
 The house was built in an international style that didn't reflect its setting. To establish its roots as a Turkish family home, the designers added a floating wood ceiling as a nod to traditional local architecture.
GET THE LOOK This is the Lampe Gras 411 floor lamp, available in the UK at Twentytwentyone. Visit Porada to source side and console tables in this style.



Chic, serene and classic

were the watchwords when designing this house – the antithesis of the fast fashion world of owners Yilmaz and Gülden Yilmaz, founders of international boutique chain Koton. Not that they completely abandoned their day jobs when it came to planning the interiors – like any designers, they began with a moodboard of colours, textures and materials that they planned to incorporate in the final look. 'We wanted to include trends, but also to create a style that has longevity,' says Gülden. 'It was interesting to connect the quick turnaround of fashion with the longer architectural process. I think we've settled somewhere in the middle of the two!'
 The couple spend most of their time in Istanbul, but this house in the beautiful resort of Bodrum is their summer retreat; a haven from the handbags and the gladrags, where they hang out with their teenage children and extended family. 'It really is an escape and the design had to reflect that,' says Gülden. At the same time, they wanted to 'Mediterranean-ise' its décor. 'We've owned the property for three years and it was fitted out in a Far Eastern style when we moved in,' she explains. 'When we stripped that back, it was obvious the building itself had been designed in an international style that would have worked just as well in Los Angeles or Dubai.'
 Yilmaz and Gülden teamed up with Istanbul-based architectural company Ofist to bring a Turkish flavour to the scheme, creating a contemporary take on traditional interiors. It started with those materials pinned on the moodboard – chunky slate tiles and smooth and textured plaster for the walls, lots of wood for solidity and warmth – and a clever rethinking of the original plain ceilings. On the lower-ground floor, floating wood panels were installed overhead to add depth to the space and also to reference the

roofs of local buildings. Upstairs, in contrast, wood beading was fixed to the ceilings in order to reflect graphic Turkish motifs.
 The main structural change was an extension to the existing kitchen. 'I love to cook and my daughter is as good as a Michelin-starred chef, so we needed a bigger space to prepare food – and to eat,' Yilmaz says with a smile. A long dining table extends from the work surface, surrounded by Hans J Wegner chairs in uplifting sky blue. Paired with a wood dresser, the effect is like a designer take on dungarees – country style with a knowing edge. There's a similar juxtaposition in the hallway, where glazed doors open on to an internal courtyard filled with palms. It's an unexpected explosion of greenery at the heart of the house, not least because much of the property's focus is outwards – to the terrace and pool in the garden and on to the view of Bodrum Bay glistening in the distance. 'We love to feel nature around us,' says Yilmaz. 'The courtyard and the view of the sea are instantly relaxing – it's what this house is all about.'
 For the same reason, Gülden majored on pastels when it came to choosing the colour scheme, such as the eau de nil drapes gently filtering light through the windows. At night, the house is lit by a succession of statement lights, from arching lamps in the living area to miniature pendants that dangle like earrings in the bathroom. But the *pièce de résistance* is the show-stopping fixture that hangs in the stairwell. Its flutter of white shapes swirl like a perfectly tapered skirt. Seems like this designer duo couldn't keep fashion out of their house after all...
 Learn more about Koton boutiques at koton.com.tr. See more of Ofist's design portfolio at ofist.com

LIVING ROOM

Beach-house staples – bleached-out linen and nautical stripes – offset the glamour of a chic slate wall and designer light.

GET THE LOOK This is the Mod. 2129 pendant by Gino Sarfatti for Flos. These are Gray 07 armchairs by Paola Navone for Gervasoni. This is the small Ink coffee table by Emilio Nanni for Zanotta. The bespoke shelving is by Ofist. See Ideas to Steal for similar. The Natural Stone Company stocks a range of similar slate wall tiles.



KITCHEN-DINER

The one thing I asked for during the renovation was a big kitchen,' says Yilmaz. The couple doubled the existing space, adding a long table for evenings spent with family and friends.

GET THE LOOK The cabinetry and dining table were designed by Ofist. For a similar kitchen, try John Lewis of Hungerford. Go to Benchmark for a large dining table like this. These are Wishbone chairs by Hans J Wegner for Carl Hansen & Søn. The Non Random pendants are by Bertjan Pot for Moooi.



'We like both modern European and traditional Turkish styles – they work so well together'

MASTER BEDROOM

'We use strong colour in our clothing designs, but it can be too much at home - a pastel palette is more relaxing,' says Yilmaz.

GET THE LOOK For a matching wall colour, check out Fired Earth's Manna Ash matt emulsion. The desk is by Ofist. Try The Conran Shop for similar. This is the Nerd chair by David Geckeler for Muuto. The Alcova '09 four-poster bed is by Antonio Citterio for Maxalto at B&B Italia. This is the ST04 Backenzahn side table by Philipp Mainzer for e15.





DENIZ'S ROOM ↑

'This space is a bit too bright for me,' says Yilmaz of his daughter's room, but Deniz loves it!

GET THE LOOK The bed and shelving unit are by Ofist. Try Feather & Black for similar. The lamp shades are by Turkish knitware company Babucoco. Visit Etsy for similar. The wall light is by Le Klint.

Home truths

GÜLDEN, CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS?

Driven, open-minded, excited.

SWIMMER OR SUNBATHER?

Neither – thinker and explorer.

WHO INSPIRES YOU? Anyone with an open mind and a wild vision.

IF YOU HAD A SUPERPOWER, WOULD YOU RATHER FLY OR BE INVISIBLE? Fly – definitely.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SECRET TALENTS? I used to play basketball.

IF YOU DIDN'T WORK IN FASHION, WHAT WOULD YOU DO? Anything, as long as we could still be a team.



MASTER EN SUITE ↑

Bespoke cabinetry is tucked into a recess at one end of the room. A trio of miniature pendants makes an eye-catching addition to the scheme.

GET THE LOOK The vanity unit and mirror are by Ofist. CP Hart sells similar bathroom furniture and accessories. The East West pendants are by Hüseyin Turgut for Turkish company Lightwork. Try Rothschild & Bickers for similar.

TERRACE

The house's hillside position affords fabulous views over Bodrum Bay.

GET THE LOOK The Mood outdoor dining table is by Belgian company Tribù. Indian Ocean stocks its designs. The Harp chairs by Rodolfo Dordoni and Basket modular sofa by Gordon Guillaumier are by Italian outdoor furniture company Roda. Contact the European Design Centre for more info.



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TRADITIONAL MATERIALS such as slate, plaster and wood that reference the Mediterranean setting in a contemporary way.

HOW PASTEL TONES of pink, pistachio and sky blue soften the clean lines of the architecture.

THE STAIRWELL'S STUNNING LIGHT FIXTURE, which is picked up in other small groupings of pendant shades throughout the house.

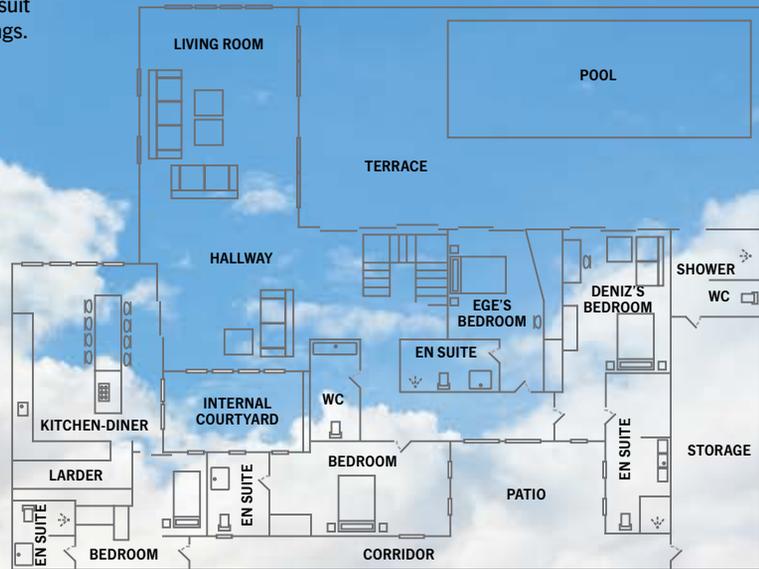
AN INTERNAL OASIS that injects vivid jungle colour into the heart of the home.

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The blueprint



GROUND FLOOR



LOWER-GROUND FLOOR

