

emirates

100s OF HIGH IMPACT  
LOW-EFFORT FESTIVE IDEAS

WIN  
TABLE ART  
VOUCHERS  
WORTH  
DH\$5,000

# home

*christmas!*

Fresh ideas for modern living  
COLLECT & DECORATE 2008

## MAKE IT WHITE

NEW WAYS TO DECORATE,  
CELEBRATE AND INDULGE



STYLE IN  
THE CITY  
THE WINNERS OF OUR  
HOUSE & APARTMENT  
OF THE YEAR 2008



GLAMOROUS GIFTS • SOPHISTICATED WREATHS • FASHIONABLE FOOD

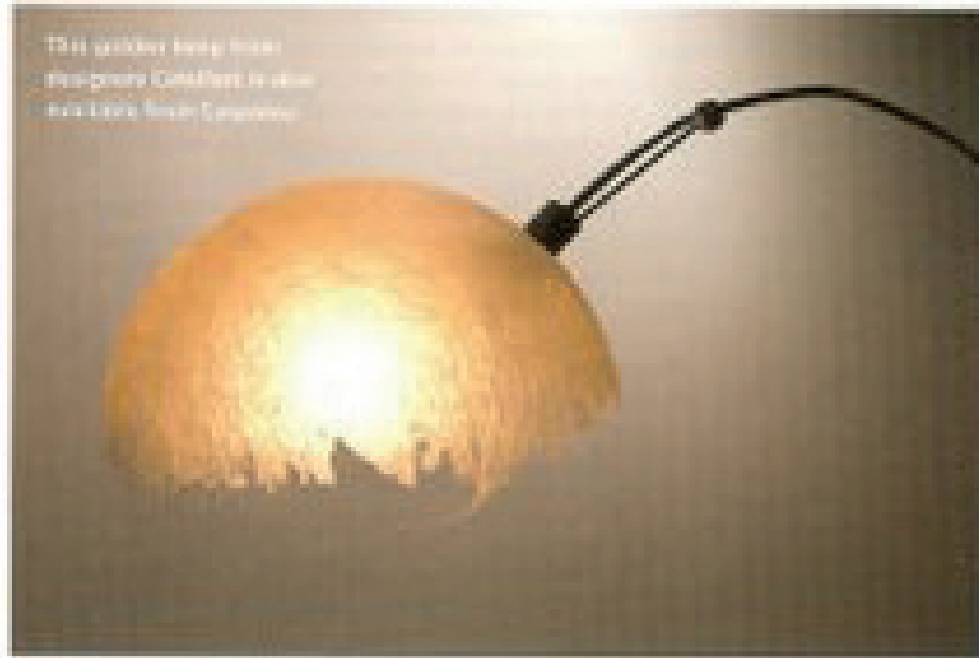


**Previous page:** As senior vice president of Corporate Strategy and Marketing at Du, Schmitt is a busy man so looked for an apartment to counter-balance his high-paced lifestyle.

**This page:** Up and coming designer Kevin Kelly created the styling, keeping light which guests can't help but comment on.

## APARTMENT OF THE YEAR

The golden lamp from  
Newport Colford is also  
on sale from Casanova



all things into Sherif Safwat's beautiful two-bedroom apartment in Blue Iris, a luxury residential tower in the Marina, it is hard to miss the home's most stunning feature: an awe-inspiring 270-degree waterfront aspect. Taking its inspiration, again, from views of the Persian Gulf, Dubai Marina and Jumeirah Palm, a sense of watery calmness seeps into the light-filled home. Safwat proudly explains, "Besides creating a contemporary yet calm and homey apartment, I was hoping to make the best of the stunning views."

The apartment's convenient location is also suited the homeowner, who has been a Beach Club member of the nearby Ritz-Carlton for five years. "The apartment is an easy five minute drive to my office in Dubai Media City and I just need to cross the street to be in the Grosvenor House hotel," he contentedly explains.

Having purchased a suitable location, Safwat then set to work on creating his ideal interior. Luckily for him, there is a well-confirmed (per his friend) he came across interior designers Caspina through a happy coincidence, while shopping in their Sheikh Zayed road showrooms. In fact, he goes as far as describing the discovery of their distinct brand of style as 'Love at First Sight'. He recalls with enthusiasm, "I happened to walk into their shop which was full of inspiration for contemporary luxurious homes and their team quickly showed that they understood the needs and individual tastes of their clients." He further confides, "It is so hard to restrain myself from purchasing everything in the shop, every time I go in there!"

Stocking an array of renowned European designers, Caspina have an artistic approach to decorating the home which is not lost on Safwat, who is an art enthusiast. During our meeting he throws into conversation, "One of my favorite quotes is from Robert Rauschenberg, an American abstract expressionist painter who said: 'Art is much less important than life, but what a piece of life without it.'" On hearing this, the quote also seems to give away something of the character of his own art himself, when clearly he has a cheerful sense of joie de vivre.

With some great ideas and a beautiful view, the home is

## APARTMENT OF THE YEAR

clear that both designer and Salfout had a great deal of fun in working on this. With the end-goal of creating a calm feeling in the home, aluminium-grey window frames were repainted in a natural shade, fixed-ceiling lamps were removed and electricity points changed. Each room was painted in different muted colours, save for the study which was painted in pure white, Salfout explains. "This variety was to give a sense of individuality to each room."

Lighting and art also played a large part in creating the relaxed yet individualised feel to the home. With help from designer Linda Page at Casparou, Salfout selected various stand-out pieces for his home, most notably a beautifully handcrafted hanging light from American artist Kevin Kelly, which now takes pride of place over the dining room table. Another beautiful piece is by artist Sam Knoffman, (whom Casparou also represents) and is called 'White Hacks' and stands eye-catchingly above the white sofa.

Described as 'charming and social' by friends, on being introduced to Salfout you are

This beautiful light from  
Kempster is made with  
Swarovski crystals



Casparou's showroom was a treasure trove of ideas from which Salfout selected details such as this desk from Wild Type



*"This variety of colour was to give a sense of individuality to each room."*



### THE BRIEF FOR CASPAROU

- Creating a feeling of calm while painting the walls of the home is interesting shades of neutral tones
- A welcoming and relaxed feel to be created through beautiful lighting
- An efficient use of space through building custom made wardrobes and shelving
- To create a minimalist but subtle atmosphere through art and accessories

### CONTACTS

- Casparou, [www.casparou.com](http://www.casparou.com)
- Kevin Kelly, [www.kevinkellylighting.com](http://www.kevinkellylighting.com)
- Sam Knoffman, <http://www.samknoffman.com>
- Kempster, [www.kempster.com](http://www.kempster.com)

## HOME TRUTHS

What's your **dad** or **favorite tunes**? I have my own style but I do with a strong  
quantity of old dad songs where I have installed my favourite tunes from Ozone  
and put out there. **Where did you last go on holiday?** I spent ten days in Chateau  
International Health Resort, the world's best destination spa located in the Royal City of  
Kuala Lumpur in Thailand. **Best and worst purchases?** My best purchase is my  
new entertainment system I acquired from Archimedes. It has one remote control  
and controls everything in the house including the lighting. The worst is the fact that I  
have to pay for a storage space in the building. **Best way to spend a holiday?** In the hills  
of California for brunch on the terrace of the Splendid restaurant with friends or in  
London for a good drink and then relaxing on the beach on a sun. **Who do you  
most admire?** I admire Michael J. Fox. I believe his achievements and  
how he managed to live in the world. **Favorite owners of lots of people?** Dogs. **When  
do you like to escape?** My favorite escape is the weekend in Malibu. It's a great  
time to relax. **How do you define luxury?** For me, a certain amount of luxury is a  
luxury that is anything from a lunch invitation to a culinary dinner to watching a  
beautiful sunset on the balcony. Luxury is having time every month and being able to  
enjoy the day I desire in that city or town.

...the way to  
...to the top of  
...images of it is  
...and it really  
...of them.





The perfect space in which to socialise and unwind. The apartment's sitting room is decorated with an intimate feel, paid by artist Leon Soper.

*"A sense of watery-calm emanates through the light-filled home."*

likely to be met by a broad smile and a warm, welcoming manner that sets people immediately at their ease, so it is hardly surprising that he is a big entertainer (he has been known to throw parties for up to 200 people in his previous homes). He explains, "In this home I wanted to still be able to host around fifty people for cocktail parties or have a small, intimate seated dinner party with eight people in the home." It was therefore important for the designers to make creating this entertaining space of a comfortable 'U' shaped sofa, occasional wooden stools and a large spherical ottoman were installed in the living room, a large dining room table that seats 8 has been placed in the dining area and the balcony is now to be decorated in designer outdoor furniture.

So, having only moved into the home in October of this year, how does it feel to be finally settled in to the restricted space? He replies, "Having mainly lived in the before, I initially thought it will be challenging to live in a flat with less space and no garden." Then he smiles and adds, "Fortunately with the designers we were able to make really good use of the space and I am now really pleased with the outcome." And, no doubt a Christmas party or two has been planned.



Peace was provided the master bedroom, where Sebastian selected one of Casper's beautiful lamps from designer Anna.