



On the Cover

Balance and flow were the watchwords for designer Hilit Karsh in this stylish and well-considered interior project

Photographer: Itay Sikolski

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The Language of Design

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DIALOGUE between the designer and their customer is usually the secret of any successful project. It was certainly central to the story of this house located in the Haifa area in Israel. In this case the customer was Tova Et Zila Architects and the interior designer Hilit Kaesh from Hilit Interior Design.

Hilit entered the process right from the start at the architectural conceptual sketch stage, through the entire work process including functional design, planning and plastering, carpentry, and lighting design, right through to the selection of interior and exterior finishing materials and styling. In fact, his involvement continued pretty much until the new tenant moved in to the property.

The house stood on the plot of 700 sq m, with the property itself stretching over 230 sq m on one floor plus a basement. The concept was a tailor-made home for a young family: a couple and their three daughters.

Hilit's toolbox contains an interesting variety of instruments from many sources: "My design is modern by nature and uses the function, structure and materials in

a direct way, and yet tries to be original, clean and especially personal," Hilit explains.

"It was important for me to create a dialogue between parts of the house and, in doing so, create a harmony and language for the house as a whole."

The architectural design of the house is built around a central patio which somehow seems to strengthen the connection and continuity between the interior and exterior. Basalt stone was selected by Hilit to cover the front entrance and the patio wall space, and it continues into the house through the patio windows.

The patio is in front of the door and from one side is in the public space, the living room and dining kitchen area. On the other side of the patio is the private area, a bedroom and a bathroom. To highlight the central axis of the patio, Hilit created a mirror image, a plaster element which casts light over the kitchen slot located just above the kitchen island, and which is a feature that appears as an echo on the other side of the house above the dining room to create a dialogue between the left and right side of the house. →





This element is decorative plaster, and yet it is also highly functional as a space to house the air conditioning mechanism.

The lighting design comes in plaster-built elements to highlight the architecture of the house, with the lights themselves concealed wherever possible. This enables important architectural features to remain as uninterrupted focal points – such as the window of light that the architects created over the patio – even at night once the daylight has gone.

The very spacious living area is designed around the fireplace. All furniture and carpentry elements selected for the space was chosen to best create a natural flow and emphasis for the room which has a ceiling height of 3.7m.

Hill's choices of material and colour are based on natural substances that contribute a feeling of space. The walls were painted light grey, floor tiles also in various grey shades, fixed furniture such as kitchen, dining room, living room sideboard and bedroom with white. Flashes of colour do however make an appearance - touches of purple can be found in the textiles, wallpapers and in a photograph taken by Hill which is hung above the living room sofa.

The combination of wallpapers is designed to emphasize certain walls to create a greater awareness of the space.





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between the private and the public areas. In the hallway, which Hilit chose to put dark wallpaper with circles for added depth. The circles are like a carpet in the lobby. The same wallpaper was incorporated into the design of the hallway, again to create a continuous flow between the corridors and the living area of the house.

In the washroom, Hilit chose to separate the living space and the storage space with a wall. The bedroom side is used for hanging the TV while a mirror helps to reflect the other side. Built around the wall is the storage space.

A recessed element in the ceiling above the washroom and the bedroom stretches

behind the bed and makes up part of the back of the bed.

The washrooms have been designed in a spacious way inkeeping with the rest of the house, albeit with a lot more visual drama. The master bathroom design is characterized by black wall tiles which provide a dramatic backdrop for the fuchsia pink closet. The children's bathroom is has a grey and white foundation, set off with contrasting green elements. **designer**

Hilit
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