

back at home

Adam Tihany returns to residential design with a stunner of a Dubai villa

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photography: *eric laignel*





The house's 20,000 square feet form a C around a 60-foot swimming pool.



Top: The second living room's Massimo Castagna tables have tops in glass with concave brass circles suitable for holding flowers. **Bottom:** A stainless-steel balustrade runs alongside walnut steps.

Opposite top, from left: An Eero Saarinen chair in the master bedroom. The master bathroom's hand-carved limestone vanity. Hayon Studio stools at the kitchen's honed-marble island. **Opposite bottom:** Chairs by Roberto Lazzeroni ring the custom dining table.



cook, versus the full industrial kitchen for staff; a study; four guest rooms; and a master suite taking over the upstairs of one wing, above a gym. He describes the subterranean level's leather-lined screening room as "a cockpit"—complete with matching leather-upholstered chairs that he named Stanley after his favorite film director, Kubrick. Down the hall, the *majlis* is a room that gives a nod to Arab tradition. Typically a place for receiving male guests, it's conceived here as a contemporary den. It can be reached either from inside the house or via the adjacent patio, connected to the ground level by an outdoor spiral staircase.

Everywhere, glass doors slide open to the outdoors, an update on the traditional Arabian courtyard house. "From November through March, the weather is spectacular," Tihany assures us skeptics who assume Dubai is always an oven. "It's like Southern California."

Glass is a major component of a surprisingly simple materials palette. On the facade, a band of Italian travertine runs across the white stucco. The travertine then "seeps into the interiors," he says, referring to its appearances as a window seat, cladding walls, and paving the floor on the ground level. A wall of ruby-red back-painted glass sets the tone in the "show" kitchen, dominated by a honed-marble island. A long wall stretching through the ground level of one wing is walnut-paneled, cleverly concealing built-ins along the way. Upstairs, the wide floor planks are walnut. It's back to stone in the den, anchored by black marble. Wool-silk rugs are everywhere.

In keeping with the ceiling heights, less than 9 feet, he kept furniture low. He also indulged his passion for Italian design with many of the pieces he chose. Achille and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni's inimitable



Arco lamp illuminates one of the living rooms, while the other features a pair of Massimo Castagna's Golden Moon low tables in brass and glass. And, of course, there are custom designs. A chandelier with blue-tinted glass diffusers made in Venice hangs above a dining table with an elongated oval glass top resting on a base in walnut and stainless steel. In the master suite, the red-and-gold fabric of the bedroom's headboard contrasts with the sitting room's cheerful sunny-yellow crescent sofa.

For continuity, outdoor furniture is likewise low-slung. Massive, bright red seating rules the courtyard. On the den's patio, an undulating chaise longue in cherry-red channel-tufted leather shares space with slim blue-upholstered settees.

Throughout, Tihany drew on his hospitality experience—even if it's invisible. Comfort is top-priority. Luxury and efficiency follow. So, we can't help asking, could this be a precursor to more residential projects? Perhaps. 🍷

PROJECT TEAM

ALESSIA GENOVA: TIHANY DESIGN. **JVL STUDIO:** LIGHTING CONSULTANT. **MATTEO GENNARI:** KITCHEN CONSULTANT. **DUBAI AUDIO CENTER:** AUDIOVISUAL CONSULTANT. **BILT MIDDLE EAST:** MEP. **AATI CONTRACTS:** WOODWORK. **EXTRAVEGA:** GLASSWORK, METALWORK. **FRAYLAND:** GENERAL CONTRACTOR.

PRODUCT SOURCES

FROM FRONT TUCCI: UMBRELLA (COURTYARD). **PAOLA LENTI:** SOFA, CHAIRS, OTTOMANS, TABLES. **RODA:** CHAISES (COURTYARD), SOFAS (PATIO). **SÉ:** SIDE TABLES (SECOND LIVING ROOM, ENTRY, BEDROOM), STOOLS (KITCHEN). **FLOS:** FLOOR LAMPS (LIVING ROOMS). **ARTEMIDE:** LAMP (ENTRY). **TAYLOR LLORENTE:** CHAIRS. **DE LA ESPADA:** SIDE CHAIR (MAIN LIVING ROOM). **SANCAL DISEÑO:** ARMCHAIRS. **VIBIEFFE:** SOFA. **CASTEL:** SOFA FABRIC. **HOLLY HUNT ENTERPRISES:** ROUND TABLE. **HERVÉ VAN DER STRAETEN:** TABLE LAMP. **REDAELLI DI PIERO REDAELLI & C.:** SOFA, CHAIR (SECOND LIVING ROOM). **GALLOTTI & RADICE:** LOW TABLES. **MARSET ILUMINACIÓN:** TABLE LAMP. **KNOLL:** CHAIR, FOOTSTOOL (BEDROOM). **GIORGETTI:** LAMP, VALET. **ALEXANDER LAMONT:** LAMP (DINING ROOM). **POLTRONA FRAU:** CHAIRS (DINING ROOM), CUSTOM SEATING (SCREENING ROOM). **VIBIA:** LAMP (SITTING ROOM). **DEDAR:** SOFA FABRIC. **BAKER FURNITURE:** LAMPS (BEDROOM). **CASAMANCE:** HEADBOARD FABRIC. **MOORE & GILES:** HEADBOARD UPHOLSTERY. **HERMÈS:** THROW. **VIS-A-VIS:** BED LINENS. **THROUGH ASIAN ART IMPORTS:** SIDE TABLE (PATIO). **THROUGHOUT COLBER:** CUSTOM FURNITURE. **LOLOEY:** CUSTOM RUGS.



Top: In the master suite's sitting room, linen-viscose upholsters the custom sofa. **Center:** Leather covers the walls of the screening room and its custom seating. **Bottom:** Red-gum paneling backs the master bedroom's custom headboard, combining polyester-viscose and leather.

Opposite: Stucco-wrapped concrete steps descend to a patio furnished with a custom chaise longue in chrome and leather and Gordon Guillaumier's settees.

