

HOUSE OF HAWKES

THEY'RE FANS OF A FEATURE WALL AT HOUSE OF HAWKES



South African interior stylist and mum-of-two Kathryn Hawkes has turned many a rented flat

into a desirable home in the UAE

THE TREND SET TO BE HUGE

Thanks to the strong Scandi influence that's dominating today's interiors, light flooring is making a huge impact on the décor scene. Gone are the days when white floors were just for luxury boutiques – white or very light flooring is fast becoming the norm in stylish homes across the globe.

THE TREND ON THE WAY OUT

The use of antlers, or any form of faux taxidermy, has been enormously popular for the past few years, but I suspect that this trend is on the decline – particularly for grown up spaces. But I think it still has some mileage in the realm of kids' décor. It will be a tough one for me to let go of.

FAVOURITE PLACES FOR HOMEWARE IN THE UAE

A few years ago this would have been a pretty short list, but the region is now teeming with exciting new options for interiors shopping. Some personal favourites for interesting and unique pieces are the Bowery Company, Tribe, and D.taies. Indigo Living, West Elm and Crate & Barrel never disappoint, and I can't forget my go-to – IKEA.

INSPIRATION COMES FROM...

I've spent many years trawling my way through interior design blogs, and these days there's no denying the level of inspiration drawn from Instagram and Pinterest. That said, there's nothing I love more than some quiet time with a good interiors magazine.

TOP TIPS FOR TRANSFORMING A RENTED SPACE ON A BUDGET

First: dress the walls. I never hesitate to paint a rented home. I just can't help myself. It's one of the easiest ways to mark your territory, so to speak. And you needn't paint a whole room – a feature wall will do. If you really can't paint the walls, consider removable wallpaper on one wall. Hang artwork and pictures that personalise your space. Three dimensional objects like woven flat baskets or juju hats pack a visual punch. And remember that a well-placed mirror will always enhance a room, making it look bigger and more stylish.

Second: change the light fittings. Lighting is often overlooked in a rental space, yet it can change the entire mood of a home. Replacing a boring bulb or outdated fitting with a statement pendant light will instantly add style and a sense of luxury.

Third: invest in rugs. Unless you've struck gold with the flooring of your dreams, no rented home should be without a few rugs. Perfect for disguising those less-than-charming chipped tiles, rugs add texture, personality and colour.

PAINT OR WALLPAPER?

That's a tough one. I love seeing a wall transformation in any form. It's amazing though what can be done with paint effects these days – I have a linen wall in my office that looks like wallpaper, but is actually an effect applied with paint. This one is really down to budget and personal choice.

MINIMALISM OR SHABBY CHIC?

Minimalism. Minimalism. Minimalism.

SOOTHING NEUTRALS OR BRIGHT COLOURS?

Soothing neutrals.

DREAM HOME?

Definitely a bush home in South Africa. Think high ceilings and huge windows with light, airy neutrals and lots of earthy, natural textures.

houseofhawkes.net

ONLINE INSPIRATION

The Instagram accounts giving us our daily dose of interiors inspo

@THEBOWERYCOMPANY

Christiane Nasr's curated online concept store the Bowery Company specialises in the sort of things we didn't realise we desperately needed: marble-effect MacBook covers, inflatable flamingo cup-holders, festoon lighting, brass pineapples and baby cacti. We could live happily ever after in the online world she's created. thebowerycompany.com

@THEPEOPLEOFSAND

Audrey Soler's aesthetic appeals to our inner bohemian. She flits between Barcelona and Dubai, posting a mixture of travel snaps, curiosities that have caught her eye, and items stocked in her online store – the authentic Moroccan leather pouffes have gone straight to the top of our wishlist. thepeopleofsand.com

@APARTMENTTHERAPY

Are you struggling to find ways to inject some personality into a tiny, rented space? Apartment Therapy is here to help. AT's Instagram account features inspiring interior solutions from all over the world. You'll find everything from ingenious ways with shelving to the coolest garden makeovers, plus sneak peeks into the homes of stylish creatives in LA, New York, Berlin or Morocco. Yes, our goal is to appear on their feed. apartmenttherapy.com

ASPIRATIONAL ACCESSORIES AT THE BOWERY COMPANY

