



Portuguese Perfection

Interior designer Kris Turnbull has sprinkled his distinctive brand of luxury over this home renovation and refurbishment in the sunny Algarve.



The owners of this villa in Portugal's sunny Algarve purchased it 25 years ago. They fell in love with the area when they travelled here to holiday with their children for the first time 33 years ago and decided to buy an apartment. 'When we outgrew the apartment we bought this villa from new, and while we loved it, there were always aspects that we wanted to change to make more of the outdoor/indoor connection and improve the layout of the kitchen. Now that both of these aspects have been addressed, alongside many more, we couldn't be happier.'

However, the renovation of this villa actually began with a new dressing table for their master bedroom! Having worked with Kris Turnbull Studios before, the homeowners sought Kris' advice when it came to getting the right fit.



‘When we travelled to take a closer look at the villa just before lockdown, what started as a new dressing table, spiralled into a makeover of the master bedroom and in turn the whole villa. In fairness there were many aspects the homeowners had been wanting to address so this simply opened the floodgates,’ says Kris.

‘The villa was designed in the traditional Portuguese style with tall ceilings but short, small windows to keep out the sun’s heat. But in this day and age, technologies have advanced so much that this is no longer necessary and we knew there was so much more we could do to allow a

natural transition between the interior and exterior and also take greater advantage of the fabulous views out across the adjoining golf course, particularly from the master bedroom,’ explains Kris.

Throughout the house Kris has used a neutral, natural scheme. ‘The homeowner wanted a better connection between the outdoor and indoor living spaces, so we made structural changes in order to do this and also strengthened this connection with the choice of materials and furnishings used throughout.’

Both the kitchen and living room were updated with large

sliding glass doors leading out on to the exterior terrace. From the kitchen an outdoor dining area is perfectly placed to allow for al fresco dining, just as the outdoor lounge area perfectly complements the indoor living space.

‘The house needs to work whether it’s hot or cold outside. Working with technological advances such as electronic mosquito screens and light reflective glass, we were able to improve on the existing relationship between indoor and outdoor living at the property, making it much more seamless with the new sliding glass doors,’ adds Kris.

Within the large open-plan living room, Kris has zoned the

area to allow for seating around the gas fire, which is essential for heating the space on cooler days. As the fireplace is offset from the main lounge area, Kris has created a focal point in here in the form of a bespoke entertainment unit. As well as housing the TV and offering display for treasured ornaments, this unit has backlit onyx panels which offers a striking feature when the sun goes down.

In fact, Kris paid a lot of attention to the lighting plan both inside and out. ‘A lot of entertaining is done in the evening, so the villa has to look as good at night as it does during the day,’ says Kris. ‘Therefore I have layered lighting creating a warm,



welcoming atmosphere both inside and out in the form of recessed lighting, backlit panels, pendant lights and table lamps.’

Kris designed a few of the bespoke light fittings, including the delicate floral light sculpture in the ensuite off the master bedroom, and the matching pendants hanging in the entrance hall and above the Christopher Guy dining table.

‘We refer to these matching light fittings as big brother and baby brother. The one in the hall is bigger and both are made from 24 carat gold dust blown into Murano glass. They are designed to work together and can be seen in the distance from one another,’ adds Kris. ‘I worked in conjunction with

a Parisian artist for the light fitting in the ensuite, which is a delicate addition and just another little nod to that indoor/outdoor connection.’

The flooring throughout downstairs is 6mm onyx porcelain 1.6m² tiles and Kris has layered and zoned areas throughout this large open-plan space with rugs from his own bespoke collection. These rugs look like and feel like silk, but are in fact made from eucalyptus tree bark, which is not only more sustainable, but it also repels any dust mites that might be tempted to live in it!

In the kitchen Kris has used stained and smoked sycamore timber for the cabinetry which has an elephant grey, slightly

dove tone to it. ‘The movement of the veneers are showcased by a wax finish, which paired with the leather insets, such as the iguana printed leather in the bulkhead frame, and the brass highlights throughout, combine to give a very sophisticated finish,’ adds Kris, who has also addressed the functionality of the kitchen with a composite worktop capable of withstanding any damage from wine and lemon citrus!

The counter height breakfast bar offers a casual, easy going vibe, which was the aim throughout the whole design, to offer a relaxed luxe aesthetic.

The covered outdoor dining area, conveniently accessed through the sliding glass doors in the kitchen, sits directly

underneath the balcony of the master bedroom.

‘The master bedroom has been extended and reorientated in order that the homeowners can take full advantage of the views out over the neighbouring golf course. In fact it now looks like they have a 200-acre back garden!’ exclaims Kris.

Kris has used recessed lighting to great effect in here on the ceiling and behind the bed. A beautiful central pendant and Donghia Murano table lamps either side of the bespoke Fendi Casa bed complete the lighting scheme in this room.

There are five bedrooms in total, and as well as a main bathroom and ensuite, there is a guest bathroom which makes quite an impact and leaves a lasting impression with



its textured banana leaf wallcovering from Phillip Jeffries and natural stone vanity and splashback. The sanitaryware Kris has used in here, and throughout the house, is from luxury Italian bathroom brand Gessi.

Outside is just as impressive as inside and Kris has zoned various living areas, including the outdoor dining leading off from the kitchen and the outdoor lounge from the main living area. 'We also created the back corner seating area to provide a sheltered spot on a hot afternoon. The addition of the gas fire ensures it is a useful seating space even when the temperatures drop in the autumn when the golf is good!' adds Kris, who was able to design the exterior pool and gardens

using CGI and show the owners how it should look when finished. He then worked with a local Portuguese landscape designer to bring it to life.

'We refurbished the pool, replacing the tiles with new mosaics and elevating the terrace to give it the impression of an infinity pool. We worked with Minotti to design all of the outdoor seating, the fabrics of which are all sun and water resistant.

'The whole team at Kris Turnbull Studios worked on this renovation for seven months to get it to completion. I had designed it during lockdown and it was great to see it come to fruition for our clients,' adds Kris.

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The homeowners were understandably delighted with the end result. ‘We were blown away by everything. While you can visualise it all from the plans, actually seeing it brought to life really took our breath away. Even with this makeover, the villa still feels like our home away from home, and along with our children and grandchildren, we look forward to spending time in our favourite vacation destination for many more years to come.’ 🏠

*If you have any questions or queries relating to this reader’s home please contact Heather Withers.
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