



The living area of Rasheda Khatun's flat. Jeffrey E Biteng / The National

## House of the Week: Tranquil escape

Melanie Hunt

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Rasheda Khatun has drawn on her knowledge of colour theory and its application to literally set the tone of her Dubai Marina home. As we move through her apartment, different feelings are subtly evoked as the colour emphasis changes from room to room, reflecting the varying functions and requirements of each space.

Khatun describes herself as a wealth and wellness adviser and believes that effective wealth management is a foundation for all aspects of life and well-being. She runs her own company, Rasheda Khatun – Live the Life You Love, and has lived in a two-bed corner unit of Ariyana Tower, Dubai Marina, for a little over four years.

"Previously, this apartment had a lot of orange in it, which is fast moving and I was constantly on the go," she says. "But then, I realised that what I needed in my life was a bit of tranquillity and space to slow down, because I believe that when you give yourself that time to breathe, you get more clarity and, ironically, you get more accomplished overall."

Khatun selected a gorgeous shade of teal for the living room and has noticed that her guests revel in her new environment and appear more relaxed. "I think they even speak more quietly and more slowly," she laughs. "What I noticed was when I looked at teal, it was immediately calming and that my breathing changed."

So, the refurbishment was a journey in colour? "Yes, you start with that, and then you introduce other complementary elements. If you keep it too Zen, people will come round and do Ohm sounds. I don't want that, which is why I needed the jazzy carpet!"

To complement the striking black-and-white rugs bought at Ikea, Khatun sourced zigzag navy-and-white cotton twill online for sofa cushions. A happy accident over the intended dimensions resulted in some of the cushions being a little smaller than anticipated, but the variance in cushion sizes and fabric on the sofa adds interest and texture, and help to draw the other elements of the room together. "I love a shabby chic/modern look and because I wanted something homey and grounding, I also brought in earth, green and neutral colours and introduced natural elements with wood furnishings."