



# Fantasy FLORAL

With a passion for creativity, stylish Parisian *Virginie Dolz* runs a highly successful floral design business. Here she shares her flower secrets and tips on how to create a home filled with colour

photography by mosh lafuenta

Virginie Dolz's home is a testament to her love of all things floral. "Flowers are important to me all year round. I don't see my working space or my house without them. They bring in air, freshness, colour and life to any space."

And it is her enthusiasm and zest for life which has spread into all areas of Virginie's world. After coming to Dubai with her husband, Olivier, to attend a wedding four years ago, the couple loved the Emirates so much they found a way to come back and make it a home for their family. "We love the mix of cultures, the good weather... this city is so full of energy and enthusiasm. It's inspiring."

The 31-year-old lives in Jumeirah with Olivier and their three children, Margaux five, Charlotte, four, and two-year-old Alexandre, in a beautiful, spacious flower-filled home. In between looking after their family, the couple also run three creative design companies together—Space and Flower, which supplies floral design to all their projects, Olivier Dolz—dedicated to large-scale extraordinary events—and OD Events, which is targeted at the corporate market. Their skill is to design and create "incredible events from A to Z", and if this portfolio weren't enough they also have two wedding showrooms at The Address Dubai Mall and Al Quoz.

As she talks about the style of her home, Virginie could be describing the Dolz philosophy on decoration and design: "Basically it is quite zen and minimalistic with mostly whites, blacks and splashes of colour. We don't like it full or busy and we like it to breathe and be surrounded by flowers. We enjoy eclectic art pieces and sculptures which we bought in Paris and we've added some fun elements like a fluorescent pink puddle,



just so we don't take our house interior too seriously. Also we adore changing and restyling our interior—which is actually what we do on a daily basis for others when we're working. I love the idea of having an ephemeral interior."

Flowers for Virginie represent beauty and freshness, elegance and balance. They invigorate a space and allow us to change the look of a room. "If there was only one place to have flowers, it would be the living room," she suggests. "Have a bouquet of fresh or artificial flowers →



## COLOUR CONTROL

When choosing your floral colours, avoid mixing too many together—less is definitely more. Stick to the same colour palette and mix only one or two shapes or varieties in one display. When using a low fishbowl-style vase, cut the stems short enough so that the buds of the flower are just higher than the rim of the vase.



**BE BOLD**

Amaryllis and orchids are in season right now. Make a statement with individual blooms placed in dramatic vases.



**TABLE DECOR**

Some flowers (such as the Cala Lily) don't require much water so they can be placed on napkin rings and will last the whole dinner party. Or mix petals with floating candles in a transparent vase for an elegant centerpiece.

on the dining table, it's always a nice touch and makes you feel instantly at home. I think orchids are a great choice as they quite low maintenance and very long-lasting. If you are buying fresh flowers, to make them last as long as possible, cut the stems again at an angle when you get them home—they will absorb more water like this and revive more quickly. Remove the lowest leaves so that they don't make contact with the water as this creates bacteria and put them in really cold water which should be changed every day."

While Space and Flower source their blooms from all over the world—Holland and South Africa have the best quality and variety—Virginie laughingly says that you will find the best fresh flowers in the UAE at Space and Flower. And with so many floral trends to choose from, the most in demand styles are "black, beige and Tiffany blue. They are really popular colour schemes as our style is definitely dramatic when it comes to floral design." ■

**HOW TO STYLE**

When arranging flowers, remove the lowest leaves and any thorns. Make sure they have clean stems and cut them at an angle. Tie them together with a ribbon in the middle to keep them upright and if the vase is high, keep lots of stem and use very cold water. A drop of Clorox (or gentle bleach) in the water keeps it from clouding.

