

F I N D

T H A T

G L O W

This vibrant Kazakhstan apartment flaunts an impressive colour palette that's carefully curated to complement and shine bright



Star of the show "The dining area is the focal point," explains interior designer Elina Mussakulova. "We used different shades of wood to help make the interior layered, versatile and expressive." Larch wood parquet flooring from Leroy Merlin is a calm base for some bold colours. The PH 5 pendant light from Louis Poulsen was a must, with Elina and the homeowners fans of its Danish designer, Poul Henningsen. Evelina Kroon artworks are a bright backdrop behind Gubi 'C-Chair' dining chairs, a custom-made table and Hako bar from 101 Copenhagen. Matin lamp in Yellow, Hay. ->



meet the designer

Interior designer Elina Mussakulova, founder of Sdelaemremont.kz interior studio based in Almaty, Kazakhstan sdelaemremont.kz | [@sdelaemremont.kz](https://www.instagram.com/sdelaemremont.kz)

A NEARBY RIVER AND MOUNTAIN ranges provide a tranquil soundtrack and picturesque backdrop to this vibrant apartment in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Elina Mussakulova of local interior design studio Sdelaemremont.kz and her team worked on the design project from February to December 2021.

BLANK CANVAS "There were no interior walls, so we could be somewhat flexible as to how we could lay everything out," explains Elina. But with the existing apartment housing several large structural columns and windows down only one side of the building, Elina was "puzzled over the layout for several weeks". In the end, she went for an enfilade style, allowing light to flow through the whole apartment for a breezy feel.

MIRROR, MIRROR Elina would usually cover structural columns with walls. However, with one in the centre of this space, she decided to decorate it – with mirrors. "At first, the homeowner agreed, but later she decided no because she did not want it to look like a typical Kazakh restaurant," says Elina. "It took me quite a lot of time to convince her. However, when she saw it, she was very grateful that I was insistent on it." Elina believes mirrors are the best way to merge large objects into a space. Rather than just lay them side-by-side on the column, she applied them in layers. "When you enter the living room, you don't immediately notice the column – but once you do, you cannot take your eyes off it!" she says. "It's an unusual reflection. Different layers of mirror stripes make it almost an art object."

COLOUR QUEEN In most of her projects, Elina 'finds' her palette through fixtures or works by artists such as Wassily Kandinsky or Henri Matisse. Not this time. "My husband's look became a source of inspiration," says Elina with a laugh. "I saw how good he looked in our beige car, wearing pale green jeans and a sky-coloured cotton shirt. So, green, blue and beige became a main colour scheme for this project." Elina says that creating a space for her clients to settle down in after they have travelled for most of their lives made this a special project. ●

Clear choice "Whenever we could incorporate large, high double doors, we went for it," says Elina. "When the doors are open, you have that 'open space' feeling – large and airy." The doors are painted in a custom-made shade by Italian paint company Milesi. Elina also went with a Pedrera glass coffee table from Gubi, to keep the attention on the pink Acacia wool rug from Linie Design. *Sif* sculptures by Icelandic sculptor Örn Þorsteinsson via Gardeco. Shiny Ceramic candleholders, Zara Home. →

FROM LEFT **Light touch** Elina hasn't gone overboard with artworks, but has expertly utilised sculptural light fittings to provide visual appeal as well as vital illumination during long Northern Hemisphere winters. **Open and shut** Consistency in door patterns helps to unify the spaces. Artwork by unknown artist.

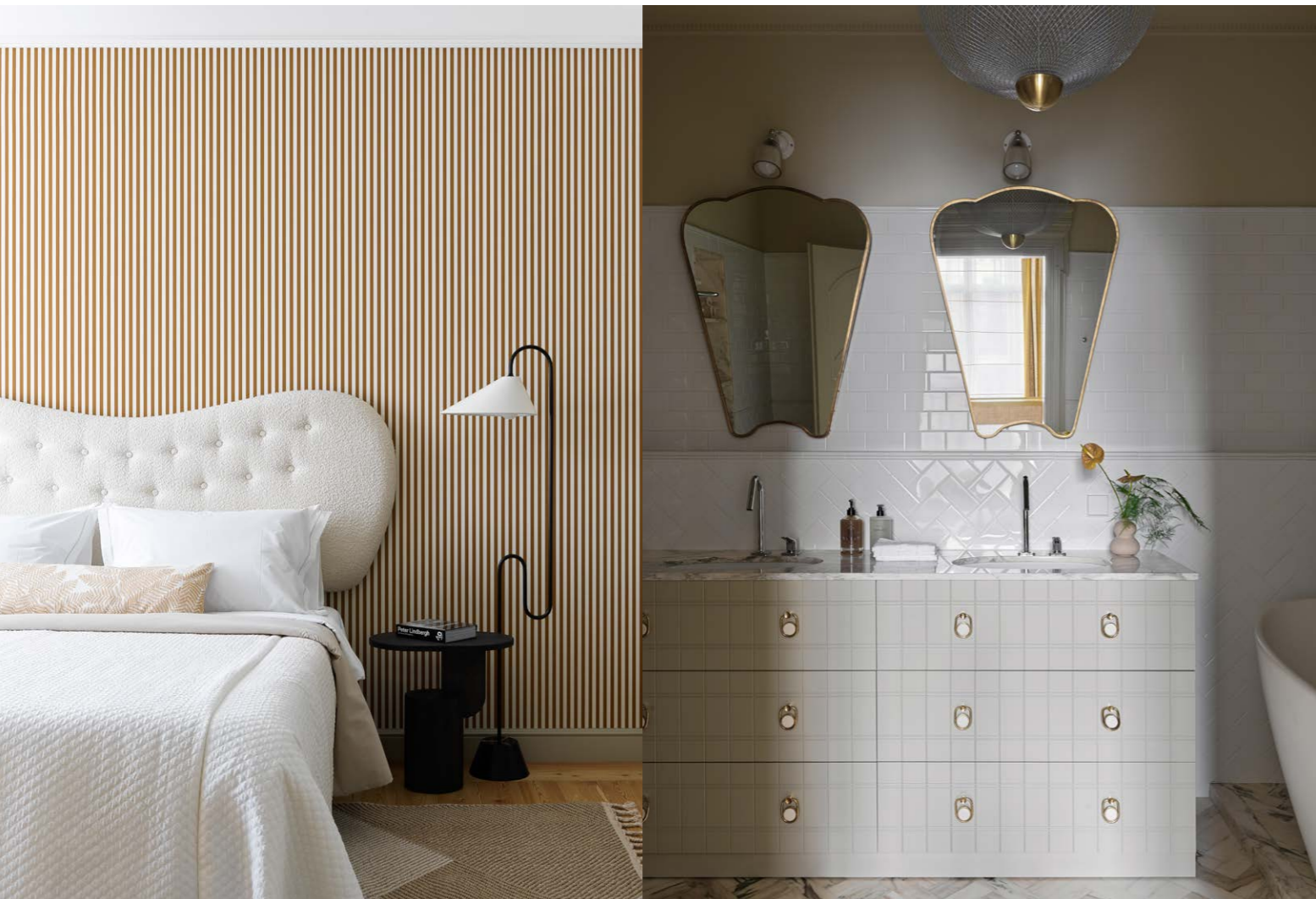


Elina's tips on incorporating colour into your space

- 1 "Take your favourite painting, or use any free website to extract a colour palette from. It's easy, fun and always unique!"
- 2 "When using bold colours, try light wood floors. It will help to balance the vibrant shades and keep the space uncluttered."
- 3 "Cold colours can also have warm tones. So don't get hung up on the orientation of your room when choosing your colour palette." →



FROM LEFT **Bold move** Elina admits that even with the striking Ferm Living 'Thin Lines' wallpaper in Mustard/Offwhite, the main bedroom still looks tranquil with her choice of neutral colours in the Loro Piana and Casadeco bedlinen and the By Thornam headboard. Eileen Gray 'Roattino' lamp, ClassiCon. Insert side table, Ferm Living. **Dreamy hues** "The star of the bathroom is the Spanish volakas marble used for the flooring and the countertop," says Elina. Gragnano wall tiles, Kerama Marazzi. **In place** A Bell table lamp from Ferm Living sits on custom-made drawers in the bedroom. ->



"Like the mathematical puzzle of creating a floor plan, you can also use colour in the same manner to help reinforce the sense of flow. When colours talk to each other, they set the rhythm, and the interior looks logical and harmonious."



Yes chef! Elina and her team used a combination of frosty white quartz and warm wood for the kitchen island (opposite), which she says "sets two different moods". Surrounding the island are 18 barstools from Ton. Tora ceramic pendant lights, Miniforms. Artworks by unknown artists. **Take a seat** The lounge is a custom-made piece from local manufacturer Atticus and features Loro Piana 'La Fenice' fabric in Biancofre from Toniato Interiors. The ottoman is the homeowners' which Elina upholstered using material from Mebelliery. The walls are in Harmony matte paint by Scandinavian company Tikkurila, with Sherwin-Williams paint in Niebla Azul at the top. Artwork in background by unknown artist. →





Cosy corner A Fritz Hansen 'Fred' chair from Danish Design Store is an inviting spot for a cup of tea and a flip-through of a magazine or two. Fritz Hansen 'Kaiser Idell' floor lamp, ANDlight.

shop it! Elevate your palette with these bright pieces



- 1** ClassiCon 'Roattino' floor lamp, POA, Anibou. **2** Årstider acrylic-on-board artwork by Evelina Kroon (50x70cm), \$91.20*, Wall of Art. **3** Miniforms 'Tora' suspension lamp in White, \$394.08*, Mohd. **4** Marnie natural and bleached bordered jute rug (120x180cm), \$245, Miss Amara. **5** Gubi 'F.A.33' mirror in Polished Brass (54x80cm), \$1762, Cult. **6** Emporio Sirenuse 'Aria' wine glasses in Green, \$355 for two, Matches Fashion. **7** Kaluuya ceramic pot in Terracotta, \$129, Domayne. **8** Song linen 4-seater sofa in Amazonite (320cm), \$17,895, Maker & Son. **9** Vincent Sheppard 'Titus' indoor dining chair, \$865, Classic with a Twist. **10** Ferm Living 'Calm' cushion in Camel/Black (50x50cm), \$129.90, Designstuff. **11** Fritz Hansen 'FH' basket in Ash Lacquer Veneer, \$380, Cult. **12** Gubi 'Pedrera' steel and glass coffee table (86x106cm), \$1999, Surrounding. **13** Matin table lamp in Yellow, \$410, Hay. **14** Benjamin Ripple round dining table in Natural Ash (150cm), \$4100, GlobeWest. **15** Diptyque 'Figuier' room spray, \$91 for 150ml, Mecca.

still-life styling andrea healy
*Currency conversions correct at time of publishing



Colours and finishes
FROM LEFT Sandberg 'Familj II Estelle' wallpaper in Mustard, \$204 for 10m roll, Wallpaper Direct. Empira White quartz surface, from \$1200 per m², Caesarstone. Wash&Wear interior paint in Sea Breeze Quarter, \$91.90 for 4L, Dulux. Eggshell Acrylic interior paint in Serene, \$144.40 for 4L, Porter's Paints.