

# INTERIOR DESIGN YEARBOOK 2022



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**Natalia Miyar**  
Founder, Natalia Miyar

# COLOUR & TEXTURE IN DESIGN

**BY NATALIA MIYAR**

Founder, Natalia Miyar

*Natalia Miyar began her professional career as an architect working with notable architectural firms in Miami. During eight years of study and six years in practice she developed a true love of materiality, space and proportion, which led naturally into design of the interiors. Several years on, her eponymous interior atelier, launched in the Spring 2016, showing a capacity for original, exciting design with the professional skill of leading practice. There are several factors at play within Natalia's designs. Born in Mexico to Cuban American parents then relocating to Miami at the age of seven, travel and culture have always been central to her life. Her cultural identity is laden with inspirations that fuel a love of texture, colour and the contrasts of the visual world.*

When it comes to putting colour combinations together, I am very intuitive and I go by what works for me and what I think will work best in the space. I am always inspired by nature in my design schemes and colour combinations, and in the natural world, there are no rules. I believe in timeless inspiration as opposed to trends. I believe that concepts and design schemes should work individually for each client and project.

The secret to a successful palette is having balance, interest and variety. Even in a monochrome scheme, there are neutrals, colours and textures that will bring interest but not feel boring. For me innovation comes from creating something truly individual.

Blue is always a very popular choice with clients and at the moment we get a real variety of requests from clients wanting something new and unique for their homes. People are being more adventurous with



## NATALIA MIYAR

colours. People want individuality in their projects, certainly no two projects of mine ever look the same as my clients have different requests and taste.

A really good colour palette brings life to a space. Flatness and monotony are boring, the eye is drawn to contrast whether it be a collection of wonderful textures or fabulously contrasting colours bringing vibrancy and life into a space. Pops of unexpected colour will completely change the mood: if the room is to be used for work, it will help to inspire, if the room is to be an entertaining space, it will uplift and create a sense of celebration and vitality.

Before beginning a design brief I find it useful to learn about how my clients live and in particular which rooms they will use most. I want to know where they entertain, where they like to eat, where they will spend the most time and generally how they live day-to-day. I think it is always important to know which rooms will be more for utilitarian use and which might be more 'on show'. For example, some clients may never host a dinner in their kitchen and would only like it to be for family use, while their dining room should be sophisticated. I also like to know if they like spending time all together as a family or if they prefer to have separate 'living' spaces for the parents and the children; every client is different. I like adding colour everywhere. I love adding colour in a sitting room where I like to hang beautiful works of art, find interesting lighting and pad sofas and chairs with cushions in interesting colours and textures. I also love adding colour to bedrooms in spaces which benefit from colour; particularly on a headboard which is only a small amount of fabric but can bring

enormous impact. I believe using colour brings vibrancy and fun. I like interiors to be joyful and welcoming, when you add colour you add warmth, and a home should be warm and inviting. I really enjoy travelling and am always inspired by every country I go to. I was recently in Morocco and was inspired by my surroundings. The colours are so wonderful and I found some really beautiful glazed tiles which inspired me. I am spending a lot of my time in Miami at the moment and was in fact there throughout lockdown working on a personal project - my own home. Every day I felt inspired by the bright blue sky, the rolling sea and the lush greenery of the gardens, it was a real contrast to London, where I spend the other half of my time - although there is still a lot of inspiration to be found in London of course.

At the moment I am finding that client expectations haven't changed, despite the changes over the past

few months and unfortunately a lot of suppliers are still struggling. It can be really frustrating when suppliers are not able to help and I think that the most responsive suppliers are the ones who will be successful over the coming months. There are of course challenges for so many industries at the moment. People more than ever want their homes to address all their needs and due to spending so much time at home, they are keen to have projects completed quickly which can present challenges for designers trying to connect the dots from designing to sourcing to installation.

I have been seeing a lot of red lately and think that it could be a really big new colour wave in the industry. It is bold and daring and I think people will be keen to make statements in their homes and experiment with different shades.

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*Above: Natalia Miyar Atelier Textured*



*Above: Natalia Miyar Battersea Apartment*