

BEST EVER BATHROOM DESIGN IDEAS FROM **THE BLOCK** P133

# real**living**

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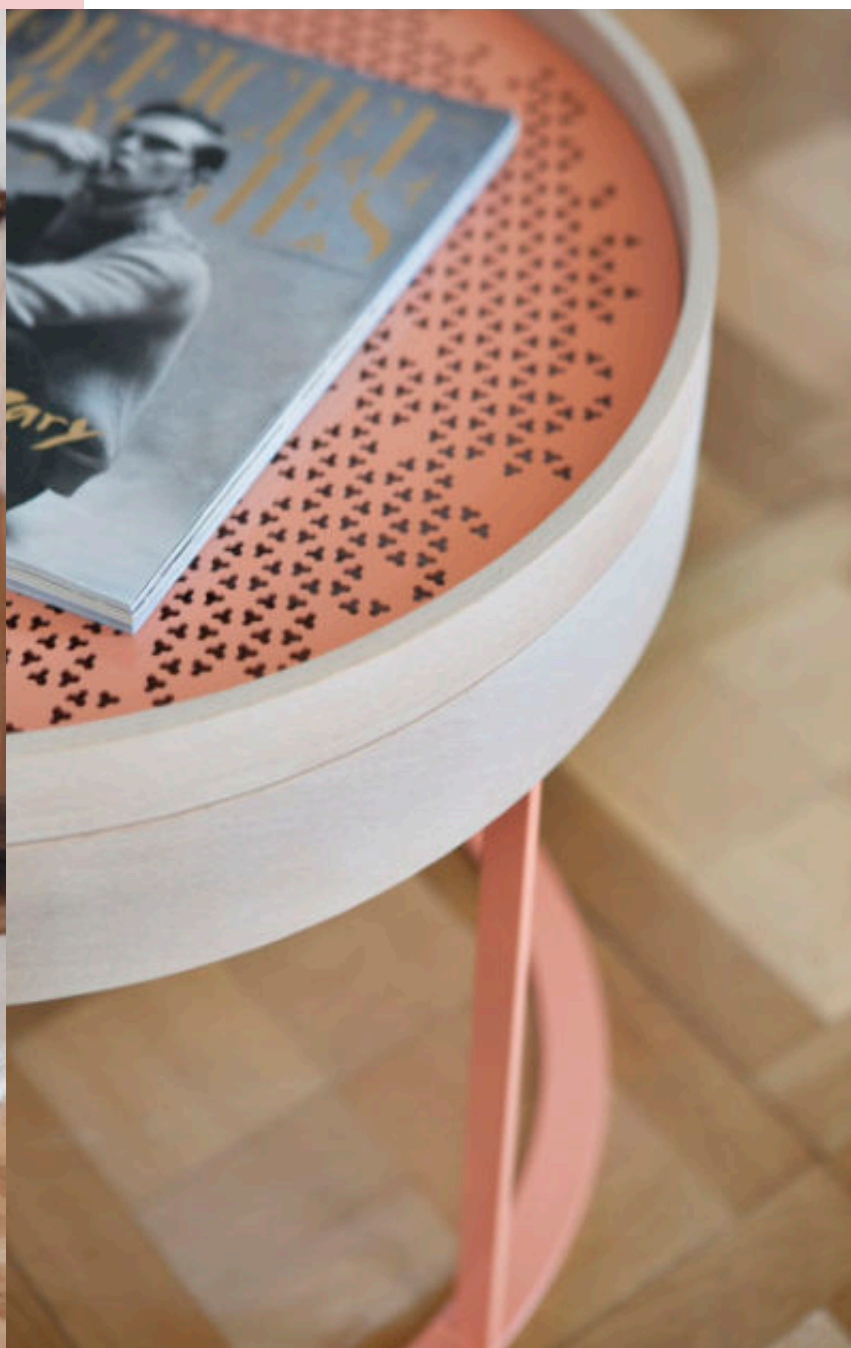
**30 CRAZY THINGS WE LEARNED BEHIND THE SCENES AT IKEA HQ**

## NATURAL BEAUTY

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WHO LIVES HERE?  
AUSTRIAN ARCHITECT, PRODUCT DESIGNER  
AND FOUNDER OF NINA MAIR ARCHITECTURE  
+ DESIGN NINA MAIR, AND HER PARTNER,  
DESIGNER KARSTEN FEY. NINAMAIR.AT

**Design classics** Nina made the walnut-topped dining table as a present for her partner Karsten. Colourful Eames armchairs surround it. The Granny pendant lamp is by Nina's former design studio Pudelskern.  
**Skirt around** Nina loves vintage style, which is evident in her home – and her wardrobe (opposite). **Like an Egyptian** Nina designed the Cooper side table in Coral (opposite), inspired by sieves used for cooking in Cairo. →



# LIGHT TOUCH

REFINED FEMININITY RULES IN THIS AUSTRIAN APARTMENT, WHERE A HINT OF PINK COMPLEMENTS WARM WOODS

THE PERFECT LIFESTYLE for Nina Mair is one that is simple, practical and in touch with nature – and she's struck lucky with her home in the Austrian city of Innsbruck, situated in the heart of alpine country. "To be surrounded by nature is the best thing about living here," she says.

**GRAND DAME** Nina and her partner Karsten moved into the apartment – on the third floor of an elegant 19th century building – early last year, and love everything about the 150 sq m space. High ceilings, large windows, copious amounts of natural light, timber floors throughout and balcony all received the thumbs up from the couple.

**LESS IS MORE** While Nina is an architect and designer, she wanted the original interior to shine so she furnished the home simply with a few 20th-century designs and key pieces from her architecture and design studio. The mostly neutral palette was enlivened with delicate pink accents. "I think my style is plain and sober – I like very clear lines for the furniture – with a passion for details," she explains, adding: "I also love to have fresh flowers around."

**READING ROOM** Nina's favourite room is the living area, with its sofa for lounging and reading niche, while the most sociable space is the dining room. "We love to have huge dinners with a lot of food," she says. "I use my grandmother's vintage tableware and combine it with modern glasses and vases." Nina's especially proud of the dining table, which seats 12, that she made for Karsten. "I built the table in my workshop by welding the structure and planing the wood by hand," she says. The kitchen is used for entertaining as well and, while small, has been given character with a soft, two-tone wall and dark brown floor. "It is the reception room for friends, too. We like to take our aperitivo at the freestanding bar I built," Nina says. It's a home of small pleasures. ●

**In the frame** A metal and wood bookcase houses Nina's collection of art and design books. A light touch opens the drawers on the Mrs Robinson cabinet from Pudelskern, revealing brightly patterned containers inside. →



A TWO-TONE WALL IS A GREAT WAY TO ADD COLOUR AND HEIGHTEN THE CEILING



**Morning ritual** Nina sits at the breakfast bar she built. "I love having breakfast here," she says. "Ever since I studied in Florence I never start the day without a cappuccino." The Tilda barstool, another of Nina's designs, is made from steel and leather. **Home spa** Plants in the bathroom create a spa-like feel. "I like to take baths with some nice oils and candlelight at the end of an exhausting day." Her double Shell basin, a seamless bowl carved from walnut, sits on a concrete table with its integrated towel rail and walnut drawer.



**Hidden gem** Nina's Mashrabeya cabinet evokes mystery. The name is derived from the Arabic "Maschrabiyya", which refers to decorative wooden frames that were used in houses and palaces. →


text marzia nicolini/living inside; diana prichard | photography alessandra ianniello



**Breakfast in bed** Nina has hung a few of her Cypris mirrors throughout the home. They also make handy places to display small items. The Cooper side table (in the photograph) can be removed to become a tray – perfect for lazy mornings. **Reading nook** The large, light living area is Nina's favourite room. She nestles on the Pudelskern "Ziller" sofa, with its embroidered elements, and reads. The Twiggy floor lamp is by Marc Sadler for Foscarini. **Coral chamber** The spacious bedroom (opposite) contains more of Nina's creations: the Tilda side table and Fat Sheep wool rug. The wardrobe is vintage like most of the clothes inside.

#### NINA SHARES HER AUSTRIAN STYLE RULES

- 1 AVOID CLUTTER** "It's very important to not have too many things in one room – I don't like it crowded."
- 2 THINK SMALL** "Take care of the little details – they make the difference."
- 3 EMBRACE FLORALS** "Buy fresh flowers – they add a colour accent to the room they're in."
- 4 BUY PRELOVED** "Include some vintage furniture – you can get beautiful things at flea markets."
- 5 CREATE A NARRATIVE** "Choose things that have stories behind them, and whenever you have the chance to buy furniture directly from a workshop or a designer, do it. It'll be worth it."
- 6 COLOUR ME HAPPY** "Choose the same hues for wall surfaces and large furniture, and add colour with small pieces like cushions or flowers. You can alter a room's look by changing the little things."
- 7 SET THE MOOD** "Use one colour accent in each room to create a different mood in every space."
- 8 TRY NEW MATERIALS** "Exceptional materials, like wood for the bath, turn the bathroom into a spa." →



**Take the floor** Iconic Saarinen Tulip chairs greet visitors at the home's entrance. Nina drops her keys and sunglasses in the shallow dish on the deep floating drawer. The beautiful timber parquet floor is the hero feature of the home – it's laid in opposite directions to differentiate zones.