

An Alluring Apartment

For Biljana Lazović, interior designer and owner of DreamHouse textile&wallpaper agency and Unlocked Interior Art&Design, the light and airy waterfront apartment in Prague's Old Town was an ideal assignment. An art and antiques connoisseur, the client enjoys experimentation and a touch of the provocative. Lazović decided that the apartment should reflect his vibrant personality. Time and money were of no concern, which allowed her to employ a great deal of decorative alchemy – designing the interior to both her and the owner's delight.

text: Adéla Lipár Kudrnová
photos: Jean-Claude Etegnot





Previous page: A beige sofa by Edra dominates the living room. Works by contemporary Czech artists (*Waterproof*, Maxim Velčovský; *Hände Hoch!*, Jakub Berdych, both from Qubus) provide a daring contrast to the antique chest of drawers.

Above: Even the bathroom deserves a statement light fixture – in this case, a *Smoke* chandelier from Moooi. The curtains are by Pierre Frey.

Right: Dark timber panelling is one of the apartment's defining features. Art is everywhere – even next to the bathroom entrance. The chair is from Le Patio.





Left: A large desk, custom-designed by Lazović, is the centrepiece of the owner's home-office. The ubiquitous panelling is complemented by Ralph Lauren wallpaper in light tones.

For every interior designer, a dream client is one who trusts you, has good taste, is not afraid of creative solutions, and has sufficient funds for you to work with. When designing the vast waterfront apartment for her client, Biljana Lazović had all this and more: over the course of the yearlong refurbishment, she and the owner became good friends. "I need to get to know my client, sort of tune in to them, so that I can design the interior to express their personality," explains Lazović, whose professional motto is "Art in your home and art your life".

The client, an avid collector of antiques and artwork, bought this 180-square-metre apartment for his occasional stays in Prague. The layout includes a large living area, master bedroom, bathroom with walk-in wardrobe, home-office, and guest room. By the time the designer stepped in, the refurbishment was complete, including the timber panelling, floors, kitchen, bathroom, and built-in wardrobes – all of which are distinctly modern in style, despite the historical context. Lazović felt that the apartment lacked character.

"I asked the client to choose pieces from his art collection that he'd like to have here," explains the designer. "After that, we visited various antique shops and found a few key pieces that would help to define the interior. Each of these exudes positive emotions. I was very flattered by the trust the client had placed in me: I was able to select some of the art and furniture without his input." With an almost childlike joy, Lazović threw herself into creating a space filled with artworks that doesn't feel like a museum of dead things. Many of her solutions are downright playful, including skirting boards made of old picture frames, wall paintings, and patterned fabrics.

Prominent space has been given to contemporary Czech art, especially the works of Jakub Berdych: Lazović chose these for their rebellious style, sometimes bordering on the provocative. Combined with the numerous antiques, Berdych's daring pieces lend the apartment a distinct dynamic. "This has been one of my favourite projects," Lazović enthuses, "also because I decided to work a little differently than usual. Sometimes I felt like an alchemist in her lab, choosing the best ingredients to concoct an ideal interior. I'm especially happy that we managed to bring in the antique column and the angel statue, considering they both weigh some 400 kilos," she adds with a smile. ■





Left: The guest room features a large sofa, also custom-designed by Lazović, and a white dresser by Roche Bobois. An original wall-painting decorates the corner of the room.

Above: The chaise longue in the living room is yet another of Lazović's creations. Along with the bench, its timeless, angular shape provides an interesting counterpoint to the angel statue in the corner and to the rounded form of the Elements 007 Side Table by Jaime Hayon for Moooi.





The timber panelling covering many of the walls provides the perfect backdrop for a private picture gallery. An antique settee has been reupholstered in fabric from the Designers Guild's Royal Collection. The side table next to the Edra sofa is from Le Patio. Lazović chose to wrap the black cables of the Designheure chandelier in white fabric.

The bedroom features an antique stone column and an original wall-painting. The settee is upholstered in fabric by Élitis.

