

Dining area in The Nest show villa

# THE NEST AT AL BARARI

*The decidedly wondrous spread of 55 four-bedroom villas is nestled in lush greenery and a grandly amenitised residential community that offers respite to families from the city's bustle*

*Words by* AYESHA SHAIKH



Formal sitting area in The Nest show villa

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**E**nter Al Barari, the luxury villa enclave in Dubailand, and you'll be immediately cooled off by the acres of greenery all around – thick, towering trees and plants swaying back and forth as if welcoming you to the verdant oasis. A two-minute ride later and you'll reach The Nest, one of the residential community's latest projects, an exquisite collection of 55 four-bedroom villas available in two layouts. “The Nest was conceived as a response to the market. Many people wanted to live in Al Barari but wanted a more contemporary, smaller home with the wonderful green spaces that are only found here,” says Lesley Zaal, founder of the interior design company Etcetera Living behind The Nest show villa, and wife of Al Barari chairman, Zaal Mohamed Zaal.

Designed by Al Barari's in-house architectural company Sustainable Builders with Fransisco Pasaribu as lead architect, The Nest villas have all-white façades while the insides feature high ceilings and expansive windows that seamlessly blend the bright and airy spaces with the outdoors. The idea was to be conscious of a family's needs with sufficient wardrobe space, a contemporary kitchen, and bathrooms that are functional and have natural light.

The Nest show villa is a visual sanctuary, uncluttered and harmonious with evident nods to Feng Shui principles. The furnishings come in sophisticated black and white hues and refreshing tones of green and blue that add depth and exude a sense of healing. Spiritual considerations such as a Buddha statue rest behind the dining table, a pared-down marble top contrasting against luscious velvet high back chairs that are both cosy and charming.

The villas are enveloped in a botanical garden with jasmine, pink poui and flame trees designed by Green Works, who have planted over 500 tree species conducive to Dubai weather with high tolerance to salt, disease and pest attacks. To ensure sustainability, The Nest villas include features such as solar panels for water heating and skylights that maximise the use of natural light. Also in place is a Treated Sewage Effluent water system with polishing plants that clean and recycle water to avoid wastage. “As with all our green areas, the waterways all use recycled grey water and this attracts wildlife all year round,” shares Zaal.

The Nest villas boast handpicked finishes including porcelain tiles and white quartz stone tops in the kitchen, cabinets by Italian brand Colombini Casa, and built-in appliances by Italian brand Zanussi. Although The Nest villas on sale are unfurnished, Etcetera Living offers design services suited to the buyer's style at an added cost. Zaal urges clients to decorate their home based on personal taste: “Some clients want us to ‘copy and paste’ a previous project but we steer them away from that as it's important that the house reflects the family living there.”

What to consider when designing your own The Nest villa? “Think about how you'll use each space and the family's requirements. Don't buy on impulse. If you have favourite pieces that you don't want to part with, consider re-upholstering, and remember that comfort is a priority,” Zaal suggests.

The Nest offers a highly amenitised way of living with an infinity-edge swimming pool, a landscaped garden, and facilities such as its Body Language gym and tennis courts. To further whet your appetite, The Farm restaurant and a wellness spa called Heart & Soul fine-tune the residential experience.

*The Nest villa prices start from Dhs11m. Albarari.com*