



LAID-BACK LIVING

For a relaxed style, combine monochrome colours and low-level living (this page). Leather chaise longue, €4700. Picasso rug, €613. Glass/chrome side tables, €750 each. Mirrored boxes, €49 each. Mongolian cushions, €150 each. Swivel chairs, €998 each. Lucia Sobre lamp with shade, €437. White vase, €250

COLLECTORS' CORNER

Don't hide away your collectables (opposite), put them on display, sitting ceramics, glassware and sculptures side by side. Keep the colour palette simple for a cohesive look. Lorenzo painting, €860. Laca Negra table, €1203. Glass vase, €88. Wire figure, €67. Bronze cat, €655. Wood sculpture, €89. Ceramic bottle, €103.30. Glass vase, €99. Lamp base, €440. Black shade, €57

designer in focus

The world of Charo Hallin

BEAUTIFUL LIVING ESPAÑA VISITS THE DESIGN COMPANY'S MARBELLA SHOWROOM TO FIND OUT HOW THEY CREATE CONTEMPORARY INTERIORS WITH A SPANISH TWIST

WORDS MARY CARROLL PHOTOGRAPHS STEVE DALTON

Charo Hallin is a company that exudes professionalism and taste. Over several decades, the message has spread by word of mouth, and the company, now run by Marion Hallin, enjoys a reputation for being one of the best interior design consultancies on the coast. Like all established companies in and around Marbella/Sotogrande, it works mostly for clients hoping to settle locally, although their design work now takes them all over the world.

Marian, you run the company. How did Charo Hallin start?

Charo Hallin dates back to 1984 when my mother Charo opened the first shop in San Pedro de Alcántara. I took over the business from her. Recently, I moved our showroom to these new premises to give us more space. We're now able to show the full range of looks we offer. We have an excellent team of designers: Christina White is from Norway, Marie Louise Kaul from Switzerland

Here at Charo Hallin, we like to describe our style as clean, contemporary and enhanced with warmth and comfort



PERFECT BLEND

A restricted colour palette (left) offers the more subtle option of developing rich variations in tone. A combination of different ethnic styles creates an interesting, multi-layered eclectic look. Sillon Victoria buttoned leather armchair, €900. Suede sofa, €1800. Alfombra Antigua rug, €4500. Antique oriental bench, €700. Negra craquelada console table, €827. Oleo (PB17) painting €859. Lamps (with shade) €406 each. Painted wooden box €139. Iron sculpture, from €595. Throws and cushions from a selection

and Eva Sonnenschein from Germany. We have international experience of what clients require from a personal interior design service.

Tell us more about this exciting showroom.

It is on a smart industrial estate, which is fast becoming the place for design companies to put down roots. It's easy to get to – just off the main road, close to San Pedro – and the parking is good. In the peace and quiet of this beautiful showroom clients have time to wander round and really think about what they want. The looks are presented on two floors linked by a mezzanine staircase. We have a comprehensive fabrics, furniture and accessories library and can

source anything from around the world; however, this showroom demonstrates ideas that we believe make a beautiful home here in Spain.

Following the move, the extra space has given us room for a dedicated storage area, so reducing delivery times in some instances.

Every sofa and armchair in the showroom is so comfortable. Is this very important to you?

Yes, indeed. Where else is this more important than in a home? Regardless of a person's personal situation – married, single, with children, young or mature, nationality, social status, etc – the home can be functional, high-tech, rustic, oriental, classical, or all these elements in one, but what

makes a home harmonious is comfort. If it is comfortable, inevitably, you'll feel good and you will cherish it. If you seat your guest in a stunningly designed chair that is uncomfortable, the chair is not worth anything. Your guest will dine and leave without dessert...

What sort of clients do you have?

We attract a varied international set of clients, but in the main they're British and Scandinavian, so northern European. Our clients require dedicated attention to detail, from the initial concepts to plumping up the last cushion before they move in. It is our professional approach that has gained us a reputation. Clients feel confident and



APPROACH TO COLOUR A favourite painting can dictate the colour palette of a room. Here (left), for example, a simple black and white scheme has been given a contemporary twist with orange as an accent colour. Coadro Thaniam 3 painting, €998. Cream Romeo sofa (222cm long), €2962, and cream Romeo footstool, €1085. Oriental-style crackle side tables, €807 each. Black gloss lamps with shades €218 each. Black wood and glass tables, €240 each. Black suede cushions, €48 each. Black stained wooden bureau, €2100. Orange glass vessels, from a selection

DESIGN TEAM
Marian (below left) and designer Christina discuss a project in progress



DISCOVER THE WORLD OF CHARO HALLIN
Visit the showroom in Poligono Comercial Nueva Campana, Local 16 y 17, Nueva Andalucia, 29660 Marbella (952 929 757, info@charohallin.net, www.charohallin.net)

comfortable leaving their home in our hands. We look after their every request and finalise all work to their satisfaction. It's about taking the strain away from working in an area that clients aren't familiar with. Many are unable to come over to Spain when the decorating takes place, so we are on hand at each stage to see it through.

What should clients bring with them to help with the design process?

We start the process by spending lots of time with our clients, talking, exchanging views and suggesting ideas, so we get a full picture of their lifestyle. It's all about finding out what they expect from their new life here in Spain. We can

share our experience in interiors, and, of course, our local knowledge base is an asset for anyone wanting to create a home in this area.

How long does an average project take to complete?

Approximately eight weeks, although it depends on the size of the project and what is required.

Where do you buy from?

I like to promote the best Spain has to offer, although we also visit many international exhibitions. Excellent design ideas from France, Italy and so on are all part of the look that is Charo Hallin. We are constantly changing the

showroom and introducing new items, so even if a home is established, there are lots of beautiful ideas to pick up from a visit. We like to describe our style as clean and contemporary, enhanced with the personal touch of warmth and comfort.

What would you say are the most important considerations when creating a home in Spain?

Of course, climate and location play a big part, but it's so important to listen to clients to find out what they want from their personal space. In that way, we can find solutions to fit in with their likes and dislikes, and their lifestyle. And then it's about making it happen, by combining the best project management with style and comfort. □