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## Kuwaiti Designer Rydhima Brar Is One To Watch

LA-based and with Indian heritage, the upbeat decorator is combining global influences to head-turning effect

by *Saiqa Ajmal*



**B**orn and raised in **Kuwait**, Rydhima Brar grew up surrounded by Middle Eastern opulence and an appreciation for architecture. "My father was in the construction industry," says the Los Angeles-based designer who has Indian heritage, "so I was immersed in design from an early age. I spent hours studying the building material samples in his office."



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The family bought a condo in 2015 and Brar was keen to make her first home special, revelling in the design of each space.



Brar pictured at home.

"I was inspired by current trends but also elements that I grew up with in Kuwait, like heavy velvet drapes, Iranian and Turkish rugs and rich colours and pillows from the Kuwaiti Souq, which I incorporated into the interiors," she explains. "That was the start of my design journey."

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she participated in The Kaleidoscope Project Showcase house, gaining acclaim from numerous American design publications, including [Architectural Digest](#). Here, she talks about her distinctive style signature, design heroes and future plans.



Brar's bedroom concept for The Kaleidoscope Project Showcase. Photo: Frank Frances

### **What sets your work apart from other designers?**

My global upbringing influences my design work extensively. I integrate those diverse cultural elements with the relaxed sensibility of the Middle East and the US West Coast. My work is more about telling a story and creating a very specific feeling than following a trend.

### **How would you describe your signature style?**

Eclectic, contemporary luxe that's both 'editorial' and comfortable. I love



An Edwardian-inspired office by Rydhima Brar

### **How has your work evolved over time?**

When I started, I was focusing more on the clients' likes and dislikes with a hint of my own aesthetic. But as the projects evolved, I started to get bolder with my recommendations and choices in sourcing and presenting those ideas to my clients. I love to think outside the box and present pieces that are unique. I want every room to be a statement room, even if it is just a hallway. I love to bring the drama.

### **Who's your design hero?**

Zaha Hadid. What I love about her is that in her earlier days she was known as a 'paper architect' because her designs were too avant-garde to move beyond the sketch phase and actually be built. This impression of her was heightened when her beautifully rendered designs — often in the form of exquisitely detailed coloured paintings — were exhibited as works



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commitment to pushing boundaries is what inspires me most.



A modern 'beach house' by Rydhima Brar



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the project so special. There are details that we highlighted and details that we wanted to camouflage. The use of rich textures, unique lighting, and strong art selections brings this space to life with a fun yet chic vibe.

### Your future plans?

I am in conversation with vendors and brands on developing a capsule furniture collection and a rug collection. We also have a concierge service where we import exotic stones and slabs into the US for commercial and large scale residential projects. The plans involve developing those stones into unique furniture pieces, too. [rteriorstudio.com](https://rteriorstudio.com)



The dining area of the beach house project

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