



Pick Of The Month

Eklego

By Julia West



How many times have you been to Beano's in Zamalek and not known, that just next door, is EKLEGO? And what, have you been missing?

EKLEGO is just what it says: an eclectic range of styles and designs carefully combined to make a unique whole. The shop has been going for a year, though young owners Hedi Islam, and Dina El Khachab, (just 32 and 29) have a six-year pedigree in interior design. EKLEGO reflects their experience. These women have turned a run-down apartment into a show home. From dining room to bathroom; from lounge to bedroom, you can wander and peruse their A-Z range, and the quality of their furnishings.

The mood is light and tranquil with russets, deep brown, taupe and cream as the main colours in this year's collection. You'll find raw silk, velvet, corduroy, and faux suede; mahogany, oak, glass and stainless steel. "We enjoy discovering new materials all the time; this is a burlap lamp shade," Hedi tells me.

EKLEGO specialises in the redesign of whole apartments, but the complete range is also available on a piece-by-piece basis. Sofas, dining tables and chairs, lighting, rugs, curtains, place mats, quilt cover sets, throw cushions, bean bags, mugs, photo frames, candlesticks; the list goes on. Hedi and Dina are all

the time refining their designs, with 'functionality' as key.

"Our first dining table was a cube, which became a rectangle. This buffet unit, here, has flush stainless steel handles, around which the whole cupboard was designed. Durability is important; you have to consider what works in the weather here, also cleaning; everything must be accessible from all angles. For a piece that's floating, you need to calculate the distance between the base of the unit and the floor, to see if you can get a mop underneath!"

"It's always trying to make something better that makes you design something else. Past experiences are unique to you and these inform you, and result in a new whole."

Hedi and Dina also showcase other designers as part of their range. This includes several funky items from Argentina; original art by Adel Essiny also hangs, for sale, on their walls. They have also exported their own light fittings, across the Mediterranean, to adorn the Four Seasons Hotel in Istanbul.

"Dina and I live and breathe design. And we build on each other."

See a vision of their ideal home at EKLEGO:
8 Sheikh El-Marssafy St., Zamalek
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