

MALAYSIA

# Home & DECOR

STYLISH LIVING MADE EASY

28+

PAGES OF COOL  
DECOR IDEAS  
YOU NEVER  
THOUGHT OF

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50 HOME  
GIFTS THAT  
MAKE  
YOU SMILE

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## GET ECO- INSPIRED!

- \* CREATIVE GREEN DESIGNS
- \* EARTH-FRIENDLY STYLES
- \* SUSTAINABLE LIVING IDEAS

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Natural elements of Funchal, Madeira Island was incorporated into the design of the Vine Hotel.



portrait COURTESY OF HAUS LIVING CONCEPTS

**who** NINI ANDRADE SILVA  
**why** SHE IS THE WINNER OF 2010 BEST INTERIOR DESIGN FROM EUROPE (EUROPEAN & AFRICA PROPERTY AWARDS)  
**she loves** LOVES MAKING OTHER PEOPLE HAPPY  
**she hates** PEOPLE WHO ARE INDIFFERENT TO THE PLIGHT OF THE LESS-PRIVILEGED

It's true when they say do what you love and you'll never have to work a single day in your life. "I don't have a job," says Nini Andrade Silva. "I have a career." Creating art has always been effortless for the award-winning Portuguese designer. "When you create, it comes from within," she says. "Believe in yourself and listen to your heart."

Silva's distinctive style has been dubbed as "Ninimalism". "I don't follow trends. I seek to create them. And I think that it's very important that designs should always be ahead of time," she says. "Design comes from the soul – what I feel about the place at that moment. My emotions – they will be translated into designs. So no two projects are similar for what I feel for each place is different."

A graduate from the Institute of Visual Arts, Design and Marketing in Lisbon, Silva initially pursued her academic and professional experience in New York, London and Paris, and it wasn't long before she ventured into Asia, having projects in China, Japan and India. "I love Asia!" she exclaims. "I landed in China by pure chance. And now the Chinese have become among my biggest clients, which is why I believe that everything happens for a reason." And now she is ready to take on South East



The Teatro Hotel was developed around a theatrical concept, featuring cascading curtains in one of its spaces.

Asia. Via Haus Living Concepts, Silva's furniture collection will soon hit Malaysian shores.

Silva's recent work includes the iconic Teatro Hotel. Located in the historical downtown of Oporto, the hotel was developed around a theatrical concept directly related to its previous function as the legendary Teatro Baquet. The interior architecture and design project integrates all its history and respect for the space's soul.

But designing the Vine Hotel was the project which was closest to Silva's heart. Located in Funchal, Madeira Island where Silva grew up, the hotel was created on the concept implied by the name. Rooms from each of the four floors are colour-coded to give the sensation of changing seasons and reflect the ripeness stage of grapes. And it was during this project when the Garota do Calhau collection was conceived.

"The Garota do Calhau collection is inspired by rolling pebbles of Madeira Island and in memory of a history," shares Silva. "Not only my own history but also of the young kids from the island who walked barefoot on the pebble beach covered in salt and spray." The collection's aim is to help the poor and disfavoured children. Part of the profit of these pieces goes to a foundation of the same name. "Making other people happy is one of my greatest joys. I love being the children's guardian angel," she continues.

Now internationally recognised, Silva has put the name of Portugal alongside the biggest and best designers in the world. She was recently appointed as Cultural Ambassador by Guimarães 2012. "I'm proud to bring Portugal into the international stage," says Silva. "Not only am I incorporating a part of myself in my designs, I'm also incorporating a part of my country." But fame has not changed her. Deep down, Silva will always be the girl by the beach of Madeira. "I will always be the girl of the pebble." ♦

Nini Andrade Silva's furniture collection will be available soon at Haus Living Concepts. View more of Silva's work at [www.niniandradesilva.com](http://www.niniandradesilva.com).



The Garota do Calhau collection is inspired by rolling pebbles on the beaches of Madeira Island.