

INTERIORS

# HOW TO EMBRACE MAXIMALISM IN A SMALL SPACE

The textile designer Nathalie Farman-Farma draws from the history of Persia for her vibrant house



The sofa is covered in Décors Barbares fabric: 'I measure the success of my fabrics by how well they blend in with old pieces'

MIGUEL FLORES-VIANNA

Nathalie Farman-Farma

Sunday August 23 2020, 12.01 am, The Sunday Times

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**M**y London house is full of charm and short on space. The decor is deliberately old-fashioned and cosy, with upholstered walls and knick-knacks just about everywhere. I love carved and painted wood,

icons, Caucasian rugs, 19th-century furniture from Sweden and Russia, French lamps, antique frames and, of course, lots of cushions.



In the living room, an antique Russian birch armchair sits close to a bust of a sailor. The walls are painted pale blue 'to make it airier'

MIGUEL FLORES-VIANNA

My taste initially was very disciplined and French, but once I met my husband, Amir, who is from Iran, I began experimenting. The more I explored the East, the more I lost the fear of things not going together. I delved into things such as the Silk Road and the Ballets Russes. What was immediately clear was that there are no compass points when it comes to style. Fabrics, porcelain, rugs, costume, fashion, jewellery — they all attest to the continuous cycle of mutual influence in design.





The studio  
MIGUEL FLORES-VIANNA

Since home is a personal space, it should be filled with photographs and objects of sentimental value. I tend to group items that are alike, which creates a sense of narrative and consistency. At the same time I try to retain an element of surprise, even incongruity.





The bedroom is decorated with Madeleine Castaing fabric on the walls  
MIGUEL FLORES-VIANNA

At certain times of the year, the house gets dressed up. Tablecloths change with the seasons. Painted eggs and flowers are displayed for Easter and Nowruz, the Persian New Year, and wintergreens and tinsel for the lead-up to Christmas. My house is both a laboratory of decorating ideas and a self-portrait.

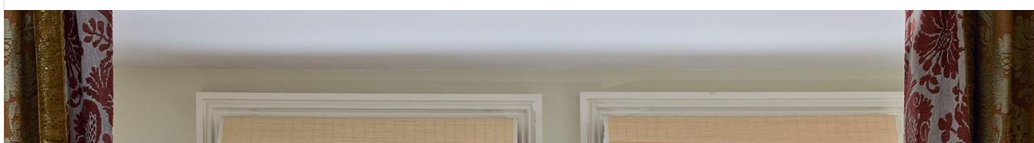
[@nathaliefarmanfarma](#)

*Extracted from *Décors Barbares: The Enchanting Interiors of Nathalie Farman-Farma*, published on September 17 (Vendome Press £50)*

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A pair of Iranian candlesticks on the Farrow & Ball-painted mantelpiece  
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Vintage textiles on a day bed  
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A Persian Qajar painted panel above a 19th-century Danish desk  
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The bedroom

MIGUEL FLORES-VIANNA



### Get the look

- Bamboo ladder, £50; [designvintage.co.uk](https://designvintage.co.uk)
- Lamp, £90, and shade, £42; [pooky.com](https://pooky.com)
- Mirror, £154; [maisonsdumonde.com](https://maisonsdumonde.com)
- Dressing stool, £195; [perchandparrow.com](https://perchandparrow.com)
- Cushion, £115, Edit 58; [libertylondon.com](https://libertylondon.com)
- Candlestick, £17, Talking Tables; [trouva.com](https://trouva.com)

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