

# Style, décor and art in Sotogrande

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Sotogrande, in particular, is an inspiring place for luxury, design and style. Interior design and looking after details are essential in the Sotogrande lifestyle and what seems casual and relaxed will certainly have a large dose of attention and artistic implementation. Alongside Stephanie Noll, from Noll & Partners (a leading property agency in Sotogrande), we discovered Giuliana Bonini's "Art and Décor" gallery located in Plaza de las Palmeras in Sotogrande Marina.

It is an exciting place for viewing and purchasing a wide variety of furniture (wardrobes, sideboards, sofas, chests of drawers, etc.) as well as ideal items for décor and accessories such as: mats, lamps, paintings and photo frames. In this conversation between Noll and Bonini we learned a little more about the art of décor and style in Sotogrande.



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## **How do you describe the evolution of trends since the 70's (what did people ask back then in comparison with today)?**

It was especially in the 70's when an innovative modern decoration made its first appearance. The previous years (30's to 60's) were characterized by functional essential and small volumes. In the 70's the new concept of modern style in decoration was made of more luxurious models with bigger volumes and richer materials (lacquer, brass, stainless steel and marble). In the 80's, 90's and mid 2000 the trend in decoration was mix of classical, ethnical, shabby chic and industrial. From 2005 till 2014 Modern design trend, still with big volumes, came back again. And

now the trend is modern/Nordic 50's style mixed with everything and the opposite of everything as in fashion!!

## **What are the craziest/defiant works you were requested to do in terms of difficulty or strange requests from clients?**

The craziest and most challenging decoration I was asked to do was for a Russian friend. She loved 18th century original French pieces, wall tapestries, Aubusson carpets, impressive and huge Murano lamps and a very original crystal floor placed in the upper living room. In the home cinema room she wanted a beautiful bar made with refined designed glass.



**Why did you choose Sotogrande as your main workplace?**

Because from my point of view Sotogrande is an exclusive and unique area and -at the time I started my business- it was not too exploited. I also considered that the spirit of my decoration , elegant and timeless suited perfectly the place.

**Which Architecture suits your interior design best?**

I would describe an architecture that is a combination of modern style with big volumes and touches of local culture especially in the exteriors.

**Designs of houses you decorated you love best and why?**

Every time the client and I had an affinity of taste and vision and when I was given complete trust. That gave me the possibility to give my best and do my work as it was for myself. Those were the decorations I loved best!

**Top 3 Interior Designers you get/got inspiration from?**

The Spanish interior designer I admire the most is Luis Bustamante. I love his perfect symmetry and distribution of space as well as his very refined taste. Joaquín Torres is another of my favourites as modern architect and interior designer as well as furniture designer. Among the foreigners I love the well-known Axel Vervoort. He has an essential as well as elegant international taste.

**Top 3 architects you like to work with and why?**

Two locals are without no doubt Antonio Casado and Valentin Madariaga. They make modern houses but at the same time their design respects local culture and also the





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type of area where we are - in the case of Sotogrande - a Mediterranean Sea resort. An Italian architect that inspired me a lot was Paolo Portoghesi.

**What do you think about Sotogrande's ID in general, and what would you change ?**

I think that Sotogrande is an awesome exclusive residential development and holiday resort. It reminds me very much of California with its beautiful, wide and well kept boulevards, amazing houses as well as its impressive and well known Golf courses or Polo fields. What I would change is that-

even if Sotogrande is meant to be an exclusive resort for people with high purchasing power that are quite jealous of their privacy -it would be good if the resort could offer better services and amenities and more at hand.

**In which development in Sotogrande would you like to do the interior design?**

La Reserva and Sotoalto are my favourite but I really like many others urbanizations

**Would you stage properties for the selling purpose?**

Yes I would love to do that.

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It is worth highlighting the figure of Giuliana Bonini, who arrived in Sotogrande, from Rome, at the end of the 20th century, following a successful period working with Willy Rizzo in the 70's and 80's. She had experience and a track record in major European capitals before arriving in Sotogrande, where she states that she enjoys her varied clientele (Spanish, British and Dutch, among others).

We wish to remind you that Giuliana B Art and Décor is located in **Plaza de Las Palmeras** in Sotogrande Port. You can contact it via the phone numbers:

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