

St. Some Times

THE FIRST DECORATED APARTMENT EDITION



V205

JULY 2018

Hey, where are the pictures of your apartment? We want to see some.

Time flies when you are working. Last summer when I went home, I realized there were very few pictures of my apartment to show family or friends. This issue is for them, for you. It has been a year since I moved in to my permanent island apartment and two since I moved to Saudi.

The first year in Saudi I lived in a transitional housing - like living in a fraternity room. When I finally moved into this apartment, I enlisted the help of no

less than eight different women to help decorate and make the apartment feel like a home.

Finally, the aquarium is running and my saxophone stand is holding both the alto and tenor. One cord needs to be mounted. The guitar is waiting to be placed on the wall. The drapes will never be the correct length. The biggest decoration hurdle left is the porch area. I still need to arrange an overhanging tarp and add more furniture. Home it is. Home it is.

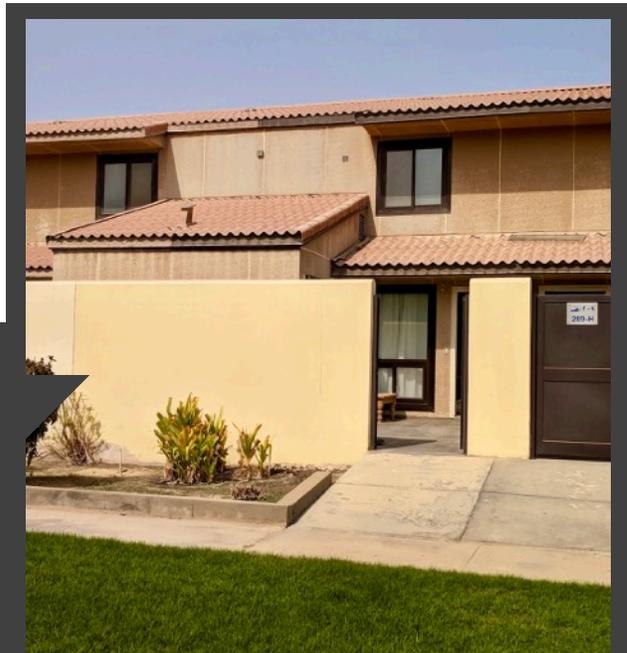


FUNNY... SIGNAGE

There is no letter "i" in Arabic. The squiggly dash over the "l" after the weird "s" with two subscript dots is the phonetic version instead.

MY LITTLE SLICE OF HEAVEN?

This is my apartment from the outside. This picture was taken from the center of the quad grass. The apartments are all the same, with each adjoining pair mirroring each other.



THE WASHER

This washer runs on 110v. I rent it from the company because if it breaks down, they just bring a new one.

\$15mnth

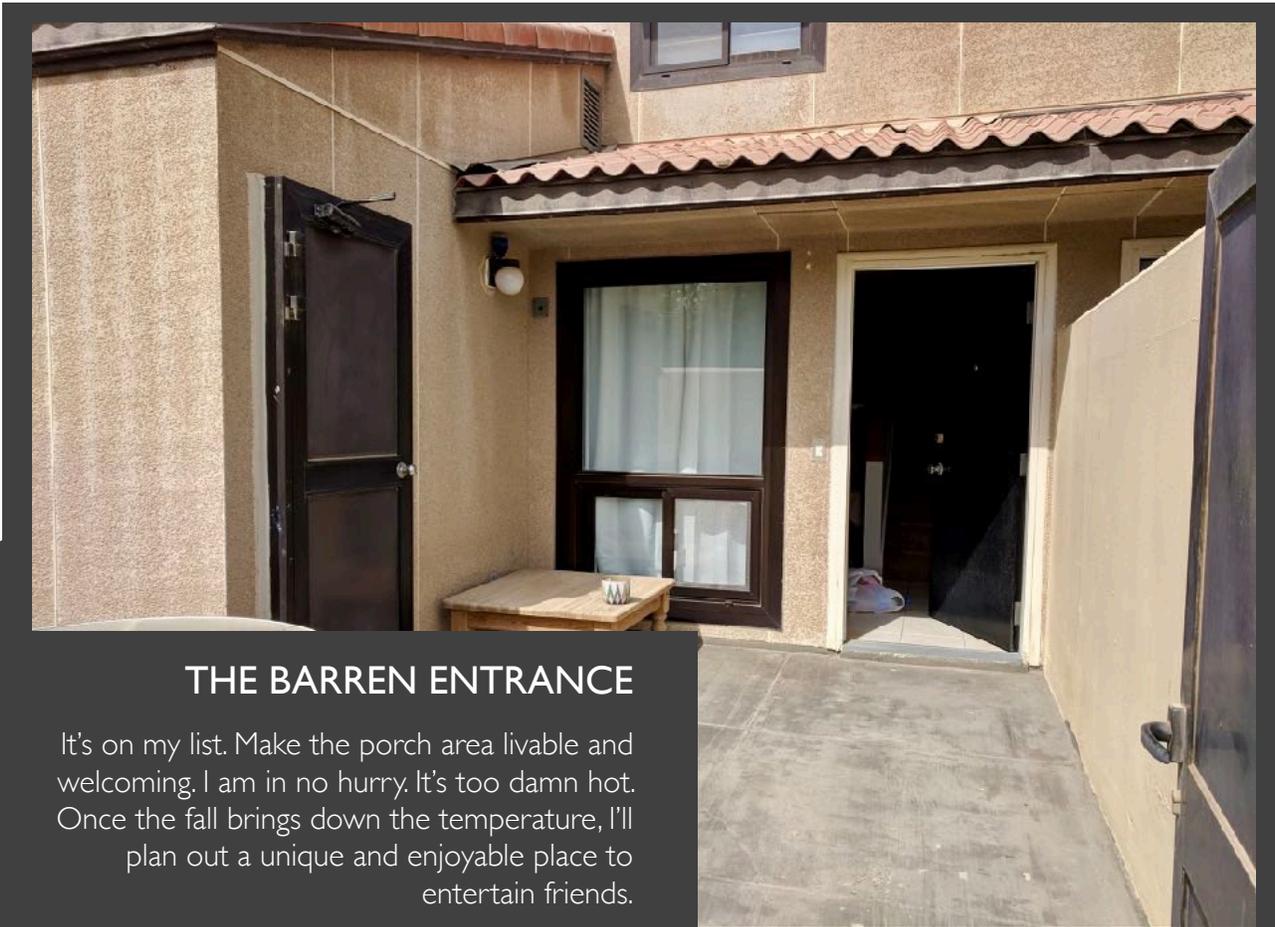


THE DRYER

From what I understand, it costs a LOT of money and time to find a mechanic to fix one that you own.

\$15mnth





THE BARREN ENTRANCE

It's on my list. Make the porch area livable and welcoming. I am in no hurry. It's too damn hot. Once the fall brings down the temperature, I'll plan out a unique and enjoyable place to entertain friends.



NOT ONCE IN FIVE YEARS

Mike Olsen is leaving so he donated the grill. It actually has American plugs on the 2 LP tanks. The problem is, Mike never used it in the five years he had it. Do I dare even turn it on? Will a tank explode and plaster my body against the far wall? I need to find someone else to test it?



SMALL KITCHEN, FULL SIZED APPLIANCES

Will I ever own my own dream kitchen with the huge island in the middle? a place to congregate and maybe cook? I doubt it. At least, not for a while yet.

This kitchen is just fine. I don't use it much. I don't cook. Ever! Sure, I have most of the basic pots, pans, and dinnerware. I even purchased a spectacular 8 person set of cutlery. Who am I kidding?

There are restaurants calling my name. God invented

them so I don't have to cook. Why would I need more than this?

There are no less than five sockets for 110v kitchen appliances. There is only one that is 220v. I can either mule a griddle to Saudi or buy one here. I already have extension cords on the 220v outlet to serve six different 220v items. I'd like a griddle. They don't sell decent ones here. What to do? So goes the electrical game for an overseas teacher.



WHY SO BARE? EVEN THE FRIDGE IS BLANK.

Go figure. It's just me. This kitchen lacks the personality that the rest of my apartment has. Who cares. I don't spend any time in here. It's too small.

This is the first apartment, since I left the states in 2001, that has a dishwasher with a company name or logo. The rest have all had names given to them at birth by their parents!

It's possible to arrange for a maid here, but the process is much more complicated than other places I have lived. At some point, it involves sponsoring a visa. Either that or else you employ someone else's maid and work it all out with the sponsor. But in the end, the process is more than I have wanted to bother with.

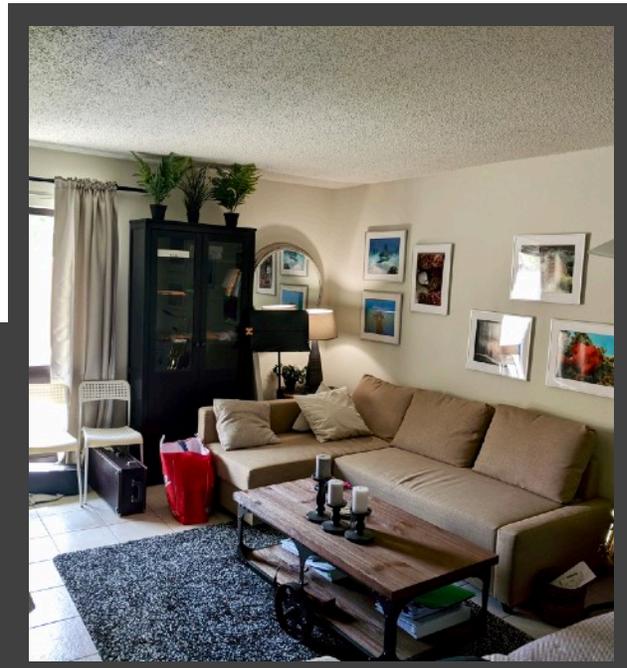
Living without a maid has been a new experience for me. Laundry is almost "fun" again. Well, I take my sheets and all of my work shirts to the dry cleaners halfway between here and school. Dollar and a half a shirt!





UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

It was Maria, a colleague and friend, who came up with the idea of enlarging my best under water photos. I love having my photos up. I've never done this before.

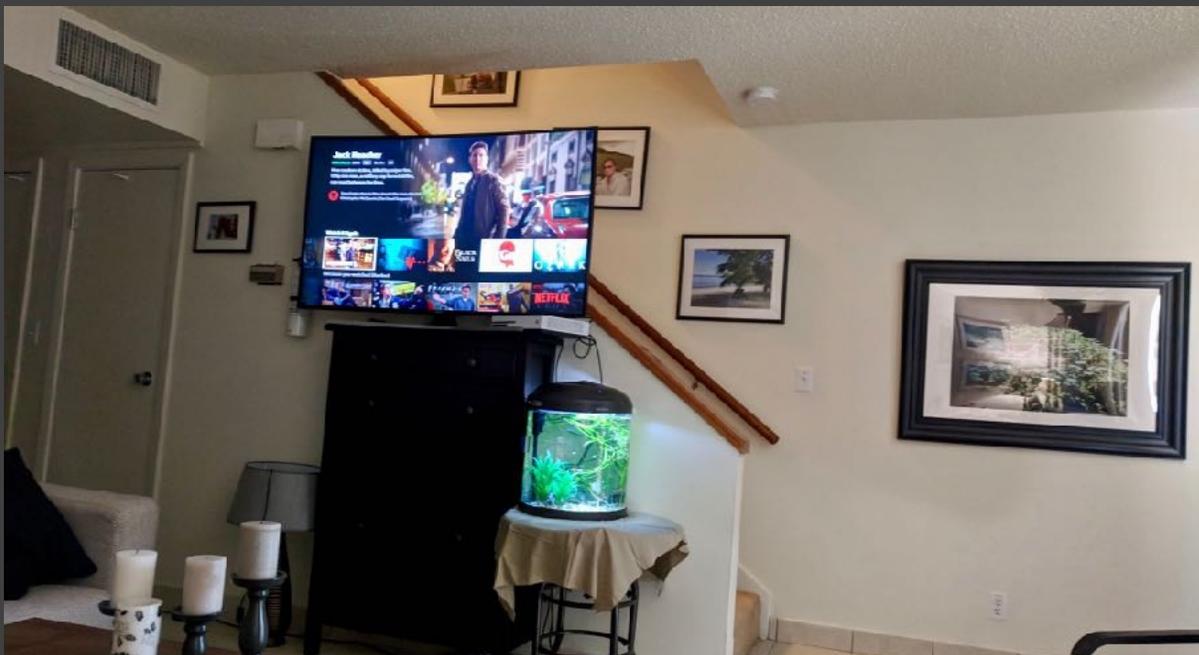


NO STEREO BOX. NO SPOOL.

Either I actually grew up a little, or someone else decorated. Hah! It's the latter of the two. Thank you , Sara Wachtel. Every time I look at my walls, I thank you for placing the pictures so balanced. And a big THANKYOU to all the ladies for decorating my living room.

MY MONSTER... TELEVISION SET

It's been 20 years since I had a TV. The projector and white, blank wall just didn't fit the feng shui of the living room. Yes, the critics all say the TV is set up too high. It's perfectly fine for me. It's worked well for movie nights and a room full of people. Perhaps I'll move it down in a few years when I feel like changing the room around. For now, screw you critics!



upstairs

go...

you...

then...



WHERE I BOUGHT EVERYTHING

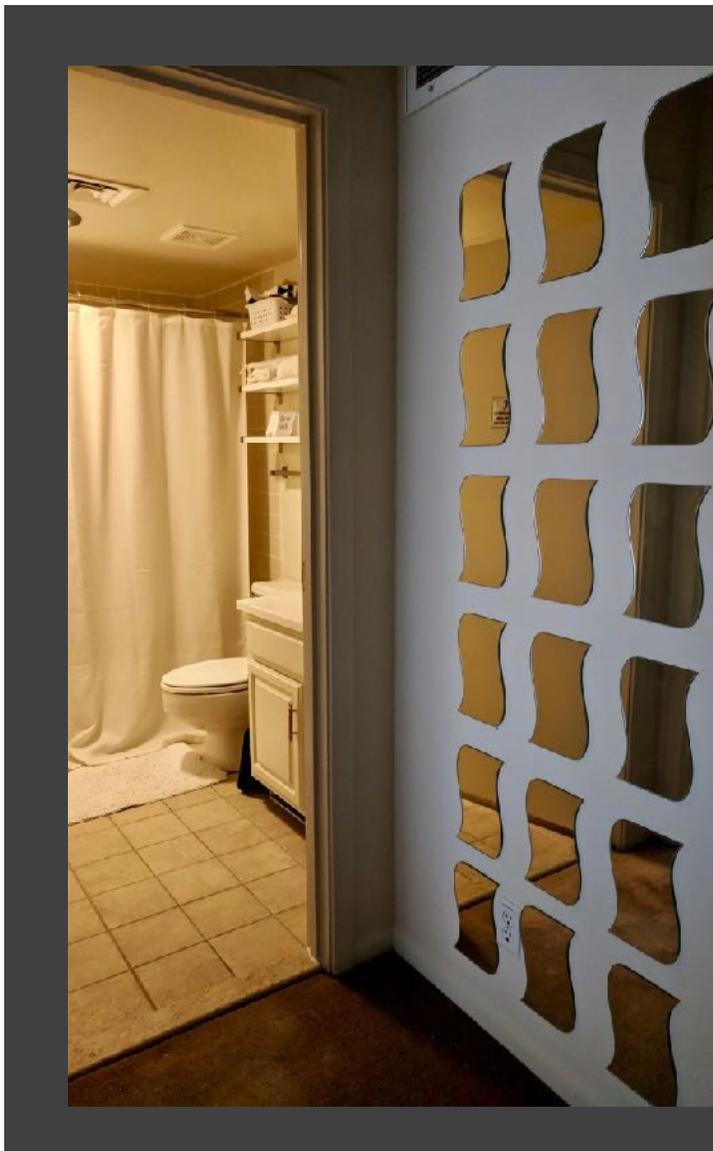
Guess. IKEA. We have one located just outside of the island. I can even take a company bus there on Saturday mornings. Easy.

I have become quite the IKEA furniture builder. The hide-a-way couch was the most difficult challenge so far.

There are, certainly, more furniture stores to fill my apartment, but after one morning outing, I had had it. Why not just shop all in one

place? They even sell schwarmas at IKEA. What made it even easier was the fact that the photo store, where I got all of my underwater photos enlarged, used to be located right next to IKEA. Damn. That photo store closed.

IKEA has everything a bachelor needs to furnish an apartment.



ALL WHITE NO BRAINER

I don't need any color in a bathroom. I went for simple.

When I first moved in, the problem was the hot water. It was scalding hot. I watched a few YouTube videos and set about fixing the problem. No go. I ended up calling a plumber.

Besides the white everything, there is one impressive item that I have never placed in a bathroom before: a plant. It's a fake plant from IKEA. But it's a plant. Not bad for a bachelor that is happy enough sleeping on the floor for three months.

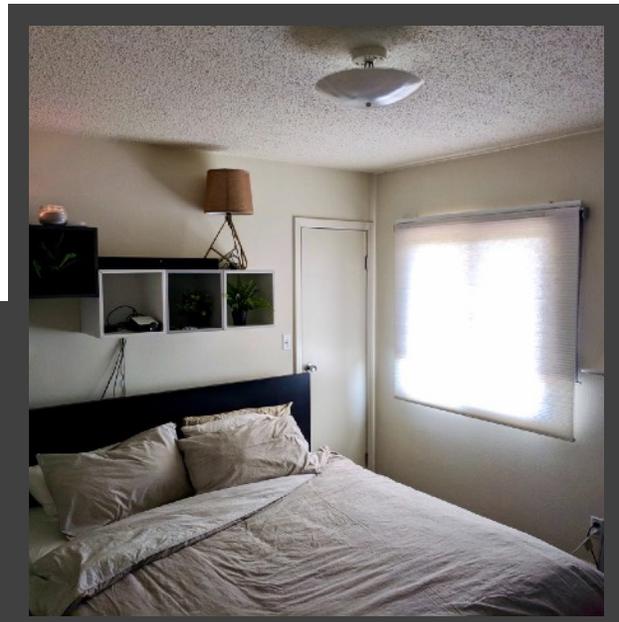
TEAR DROP MIRRORS... WHAT A PAIN !

It took me about three hours to set the tear drop mirrors. It was easier to transport the little box of mirrors on my moped, as opposed to a full length mirror. Little did I know the pain it would be to line them up. I require symmetry.



THREE MONTH WAIT

It took me three months after I moved in before I bought a bed. I just didn't like any of the beds I had seen and the bed is the most important part of my home.



IT'S A 200CM BED, NOT A QUEEN

No, it's not the top of the line. And where are the King sized beds? Do Saudi's import them? For my first bed that I have ever personally bought, I wanted a KING. Nope. None to be had. However, this is a supreme comfort bed. Works for me just fine.

MOVIES ON THE WALL, AS USUAL

It just isn't my apartment without a movie wall and a projector. This is my bag. I cannot live without it. This is the first apartment where I have placed it in my actual bedroom. The TV downstairs is for socializing. The projector is for relaxation and movie marathons and Netflix binges. Why settle for small screens when you can project a movie?





GREEN? IN THE DESERT?

Those bushes are a lot deader than they appear in the picture. Yet, there is still a lot of green around here. Everything is on auto, timed watering.



THE QUAD

We need to host a party this year. I only know three of my many neighbors. Yes, we work for the same company, but its a big company. Let's party in the quad. Bring it on. Let's grill out. Who are my neighbors? Come out. Let's party.



YOU CAN'T SEE THE HEAT!

July and August are the worst of the worst high temperatures. 50C = 122F. If it wasn't so hot, I'd set up a volleyball net or a croquet set. Maybe we'll do that in the winter?



THIRD ON THE RIGHT

Come visit! Just kidding. I'm in the apartment on the right, if you are looking from the road. In this picture, I am the open door to the left.

The two apartments to my left are empty. The domicile on the right (H) will be empty as of August 14th. It will probably remain empty for a year or two while it is "cleaned". Don't ask me how it all works. Company stuff.

The plants are watered by an intricate, company-wide timer system. There is a team of workers that

cut the quad grass at mystifying intervals. Sometimes they cut the grass so short it bakes in the sun to a crispy yellow. Someone just needs to follow up on the team. They figure: if we cut it really short, we can wait longer before being required to cut it again.

Right, Way to think it. Come visit. I keep the apartment a crisp 68F at all times. Constantly running the air con takes less energy than turning it on and off again. So I've heard. Who cares. I need it cold inside.



IT'S COME A LONG WAY...

This was a fun issue to put together, but don't expect to see another like it. Perhaps if I actually BUY a place of my own, there will be another such issue. But I don't see that happening.

Did I satisfy your interest? Those of you that were asking about my apartment?

This was the apartment issue! DONE.