

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES

YOUR FIRST WEEKS AT HOME IN BARCELONA

7 decisions that help a new property start feeling like your family's home.

Christina Rius Homes TM

Warm Homes for International Families

01

START WITH YOUR LIFE, NOT WITH THE ROOMS.

When you first get the keys, it is easy to start thinking room by room: sofa, dining table, beds, lighting.

Before deciding what each room needs, ask a different question:

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN HERE?

Think about real life.

Morning routines. School and work. Meals. Sports. Storage. Time together. Time apart. Guests. Coming home at the end of the day. Two families can live in exactly the same property and need completely different homes.

Start with how your family lives.

Then let the rooms respond.

02

DECIDE WHAT NEEDS TO WORK FROM DAY ONE — AND WHAT CAN WAIT.

Getting the keys creates urgency. But not every decision deserves the same urgency.

DAY ONE

What does your family need for everyday life to work?

SOON

What matters, but can wait until you understand the home better?

LATER

What may benefit from living in the space before deciding?

A home does not need to be finished before you start living in it.

03

SEPARATE URGENT CHOICES FROM DECISIONS THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO UNDO.

A temporary furniture choice and a change to layout, built-in joinery, lighting or other permanent elements should not be approached in the same way.

Before deciding, ask:

HOW DIFFICULT WOULD THIS BE TO CHANGE LATER?

The more permanent the decision, the more understanding and validation it deserves.

Urgency and importance are not the same thing.

04

UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE BEFORE DECIDING WHAT TO ADD.

A new home does not always require starting again.

Look at what you already own — and what the property already gives you.

KEEP · ADAPT · INTEGRATE · REPLACE · WAIT

A piece of furniture, artwork or personal collection may deserve a place in the new home.

An existing architectural element may deserve to become part of the new
direction rather than disappear.

New is not automatically better.

Start by understanding what already belongs.

05

GIVE EACH PERSON SOMETHING IN THE HOME THAT GENUINELY WORKS FOR THEM.

A family home is shared, but the people living in it do not all need the same things.

Someone may need a place to work.

A child may need somewhere to study.

Another person may need storage for sport, music or a collection.

Someone may simply need privacy or quiet.

COHERENCE DOESN'T MEAN REPETITION.

A coherent home can respond differently to different people — and still feel like one home.

06

SOLVE EVERYDAY FRICTION BEFORE STYLING THE MOST VISIBLE SPACES.

The spaces that attract our attention first are not always the ones that most affect everyday life.

Before focusing only on what looks unfinished, ask:

WHERE DOES DAILY LIFE GET UNNECESSARILY DIFFICULT?

Where do things accumulate?

What happens when everyone leaves in the morning?

Is storage where it is actually needed?

Does circulation work?

Where does work happen? What about guests?

How does the kitchen really function?

A small problem repeated every day may deserve attention before a much more visible decorative choice.

THE MOST IMPORTANT SQUARE METRES AREN'T ALWAYS THE MOST PHOTOGENIC.

07

CREATE ONE DIRECTION BEFORE MAKING DOZENS OF INDIVIDUAL CHOICES.

A new home can quickly become a stream of separate decisions.

A sofa from one place.

Lighting from another.

A supplier asking for an answer.

A room that suddenly needs solving.

A clear direction does not mean deciding everything immediately.

It means having enough clarity to ask:

DOES IT BELONG?

DOES IT WORK?

IS IT A PRIORITY?

IS IT COHERENT WITH THE REST?

When individual choices respond to the same direction, they begin to form a home rather than a collection of separate decisions.

YOUR FIRST-WEEKS DECISION MAP

FIRST

Understand how your family needs to live.



THEN

Decide what must work immediately — and what can wait.



PROTECT

Give more thought to the choices that will be difficult to undo.



LOOK AGAIN

What should stay?
What does each person actually need?



SOLVE

Find the points of everyday friction.



ONLY THEN

Build the wider design direction.

LIFE → PRIORITIES → PROPERTY → PEOPLE → FUNCTION → DIRECTION → HOME

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A HOME DOESN'T NEED TO BE FINISHED IMMEDIATELY.

It needs to start making sense for the people who live there.

Creating a home is not about making every decision at once.

It is about understanding your family, reading the property carefully and giving each choice a clear reason.

That is how a new property can gradually become somewhere personal, functional and genuinely yours.

Christina Rius Homes

Warm Homes for International Families

Residential interior design for international families creating a home in Barcelona.

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