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WARM UP
winter.
patios

3 GORGEOUS
HOMES FILLED WITH
INSPIRING IDEAS

PLANT A POTTED
KITCHEN GARDEN
IN A WEEKEND

BUMPER **15** *Kitchen* PAGE **SPECIAL**

- Trendy islands and accessories
- The latest kitchen styles and how to get them
- A colourful makeover

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plus

- EXPERT INFO ON SHRUB PRUNING
- ADD ELEGANCE WITH JAPANESE MAPLES

A man with short, light brown hair and blue eyes is standing in a modern kitchen. He is wearing a light blue V-neck t-shirt and blue jeans. He is holding a black frying pan with his left hand and is using his right hand to stir something inside it. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The kitchen has white cabinets, a stainless steel range hood, and a gas stove. There are some white bottles and a green plant on the counter in the background.

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Jean de Villiers, Easylife Kitchens Brand Ambassador, at home.

Jean de Villiers



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02



01

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02

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03

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04

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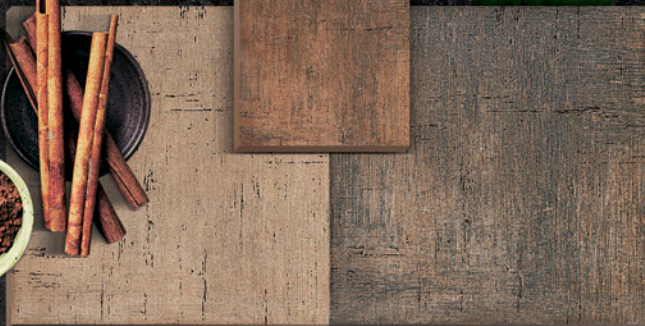
03



Made in Italy



04



Sizes: 502x502mm / 330x330mm / 160x160mm



Size: 200x200mm
14 different pieces



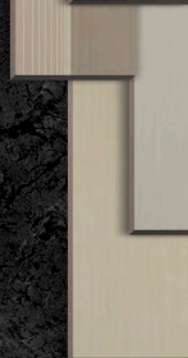
05



06



Sizes: 900x300mm / 336x336mm



05

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06

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Chryss Joannou - Anagram Architects, anagramarch.com

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"International Style" was actually a major architectural design movement that developed in the 1920s. Sophistication was found in simplicity of form with wide-open interior spaces stripped of ornamentation and decoration. Today, almost a hundred years later, we're seeing the same preference for structural ease but with design accents of worldly nuance. Multinational, commercial spaces reflect a national heritage of, say, the confident calm of Scandinavia, or the sensorial appeal of an emerging India. Well-to-do homes are personal expressions of international experience, from European urbanity to trans-African chic. Your home isn't just your castle any longer. It's your world.

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① **

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③

Tivoli Catania Thin Showerhead

④

Tivoli Catania Round Showerhead

Tivoli Catania Showerhead with Cascade

⑤

Tivoli Armeno Tall Basin Mixer

Tivoli Armeno Basin Mixer

⑥

Tivoli Orta Basin Mixer

Piet Billekens
Carlos Primero Designer

Classic in a modern skin

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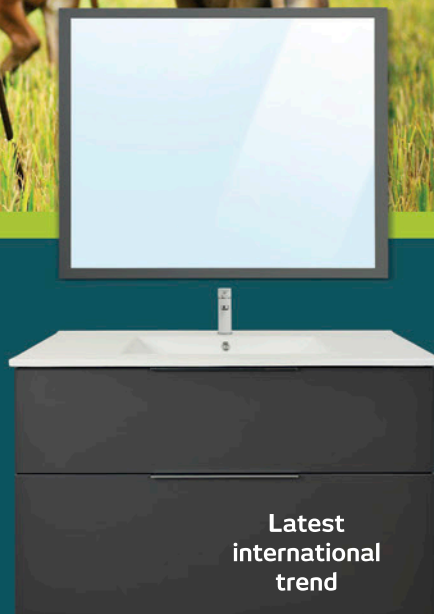
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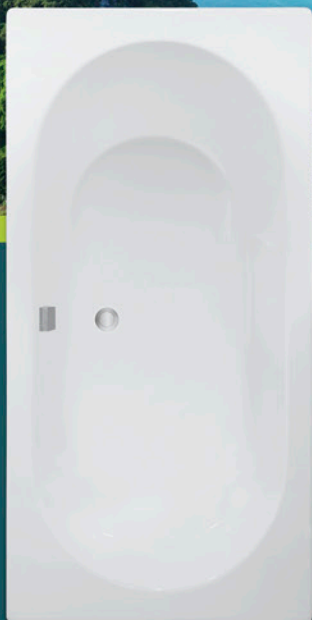
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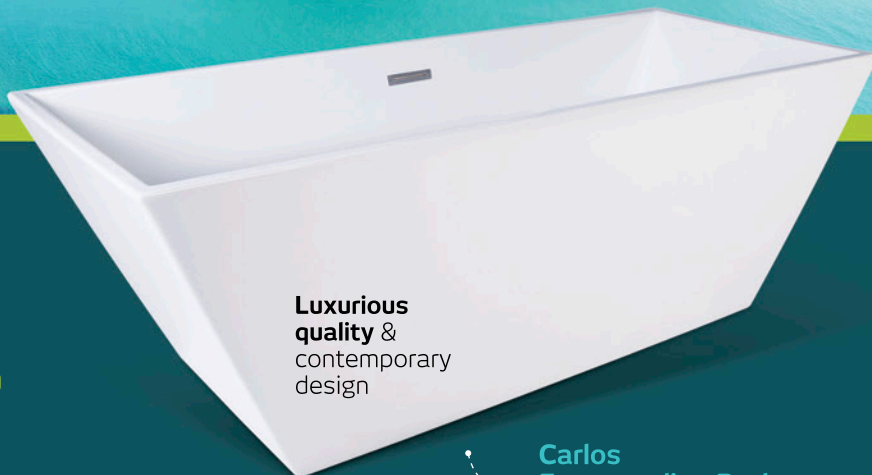


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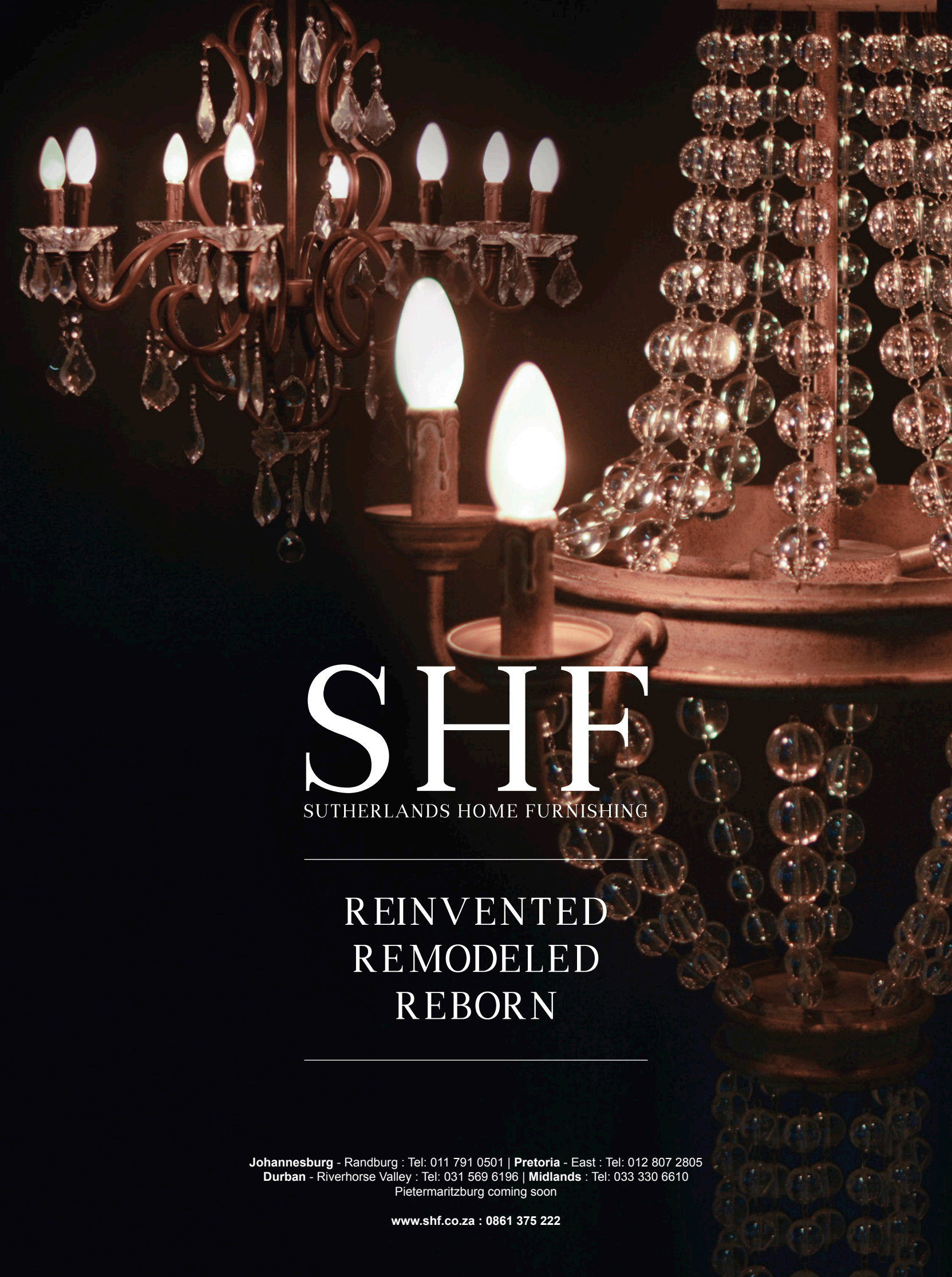
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Style counsel, pg 56
Photograph Christoph Hoffmann

ON THE COVER



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In the spotlight

don't think it's coincidental that in this issue homeowners René van der Westhuyzen and Lisa Lange both revealed that their families tend to congregate in the kitchen. Kitchens have definitely become the centre of family living and, in addition to cooking, they're now used for relaxing, entertaining, watching TV, homework and even doing the odd bit of admin. I know someone who seldom cooks but has the most beautiful live-in kitchen purely for its comfortable atmosphere.

Now that open-plan living has become the norm, the decor of a kitchen is just as important as the way it functions. If you're planning a kitchen update or renovation or just dreaming about one,

to help you find the right style and layout for your home we've got three stunning examples on page 56 to provide you with plenty of inspiration, plus some expert tips to consider. They're also packed with clever ideas and innovations – my favourite is the fridge discreetly hidden in a beautiful armoire.

"NOW THAT OPEN-PLAN LIVING HAS BECOME THE NORM, THE DECOR OF A KITCHEN HAS BECOME JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE WAY IT FUNCTIONS"

It's also no coincidence that each one features an island. Now that kitchens have bigger windows and fewer walls, islands have stepped up to provide essential work surfaces, space for hobs and ovens as well as storage and dining areas. Better than a counter which tends to cut the kitchen off, islands encourage an easy flow, allow

two people to cook at the same time, plus, as there's usually space for a bar stool or two, they've become the natural spot for socialising. On page 62 we've rounded up some hard-working examples and found just the right accessories (see page 66) to make yours the star of the show.

Of course every kitchen needs a productive kitchen garden. Fortunately you don't have to have a large garden says Jane Warburton of Potager, who specialises in creating vegetable and herb gardens in urban settings. "By using containers you can establish one anywhere, even on a small balcony or a tiny courtyard." Follow her instructions on page 102 to create your own. Best of all you can do it in a weekend.

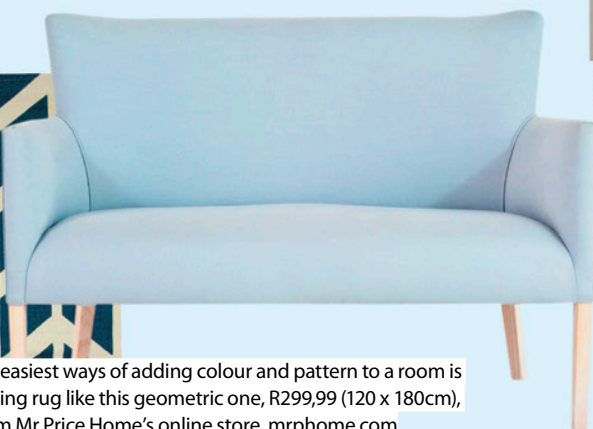
To all the fathers out there, the GH team wishes you a happy Father's Day.

Lisa Lange



I like the versatility of this cabinet on castors, from R4 800, from Milestone Kitchens, which comes in a choice of finishes. Visit milestone.co.za

This month I loved:



I've fallen in love with small sofas like this one, R8 060, from Woodbender. They're perfect for a hallway, in a bedroom and even at the end of a large dining room table. Visit woodbender.co.za

One of the easiest ways of adding colour and pattern to a room is with a striking rug like this geometric one, R299,99 (120 x 180cm), from Mr Price Home's online store, mrphome.com



Orchids look divine in these AcryLuso box vases, from R600 each, from Laser Edge. Visit laseredge.co.za

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winning letter

REAL INSPIRATION

We're busy building a new house so I've scoured many different magazines for ideas on how to create the perfect interiors and garden for our contemporary home, but I wasn't able to find anything I liked. I then picked up *Garden and Home* and it gave me great ideas of what I wanted my garden and house to look like. Not only is your mag filled with gorgeous, inspiring photographs of real gardens and homes, it also showed me that I don't need to spend a fortune to get the look I want. All it takes is a bit of creativity.

Matome Kubu, via e-mail



AB FAB

Your glamorous May issue was inspiring, useful and beautiful, and included tons of ideas guaranteed to chase away winter blues and make life at home stylish, fabulous and fun. I also love that you include local homes and gardens as well as other snippets with a South African flavour.

Marie du Plooy, via e-mail

WRITE IN AND WIN!

Matome has won a six-bottle case of magnums (1,5l bottles) of Groote Post's The Old Man's Blend Red 2013 worth R900. Soft and smooth, it has a touch of white pepper and spice on the nose and rich berry and plum flavours. During the winemaking and eight months of wood maturation, the cultivars are kept apart and 'The Old Man', owner Peter Pentz, participates in tasting sessions to decide on the perfect blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and Cabernet Franc. Visit grootepost.com or call 022 492 2825.



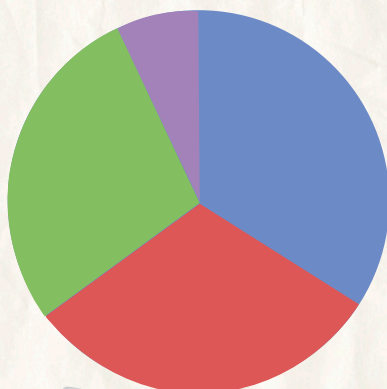
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WE ASKED ON ONLINE...

What's on your kitchen appliance wish list?

HERE'S WHAT OUR WEBSITE VISITORS HAD TO SAY:

- A free-standing gas stove
- An energy-efficient fridge
- A coffee machine
- An extractor fan



Crystal clear

In your April issue there was a particular tip on the Treasure Chest page from antiques specialist Justine Ferrigno on how to remove cloudy stains from glassware. I did as she advised and placed denture cleaning tablets dissolved in warm water in the glassware, and it worked like a dream! Thank you for such an interesting, informative magazine.

Pamela Morrish, via e-mail

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Home FRONT

Our pick of this month's highlights, from things to do and seasonal shopping to decor news and the best places to visit



CREATIVE GLOW

We love these glass pendants for their mix of nostalgia and quirky cool. Repurposed measuring cup pendant, R395, and retro cookie jar, R450, from Weylandts. Visit weylandts.co.za

Into the woods

Wood-look ceramic and porcelain planks deliver a natural appearance with impressive durability which means they can now go where wood hasn't gone before – wet spaces. From R119,99/m² at Tile Africa. Visit tileafrica.co.za



ORCHID AFFAIR

Add some fluid, gentle curves with the Orchid Chair, R14 157, from Robert Thomson. Clad in custom-made local fabric, it's a take on Arne Jacobsen's iconic Egg chair designed in 1958 – just a tad more flowery. Visit robert-thomson.com



WINNING STREAKS

Whether your look is French country or breezy beach house, the Clifton range of curtaining fabric offers the perfect solution. Understated stripes in linen and linen mixes provide a subtle finish that's somehow casual, yet sophisticated. See the collection at Hertex. Visit hertex.co.za



FABULOUS FLORALS

We love how Biggie Best's put a contemporary twist on their signature florals. These gorgeous new fabrics are from the Geometric Gems collection. Visit biggiebestwebshop.co.za



bright delight

Suda West's colourful showroom in Ballito is full of stylish interior treasures like this ottoman. They also stock cushions, lampshades, rugs and artwork, custom-make items and offer a full interior design and decorating service. 5 Lozi Park, behind Lifestyle Centre. Call 032 946 0968 or visit sudawest.co.za ▷



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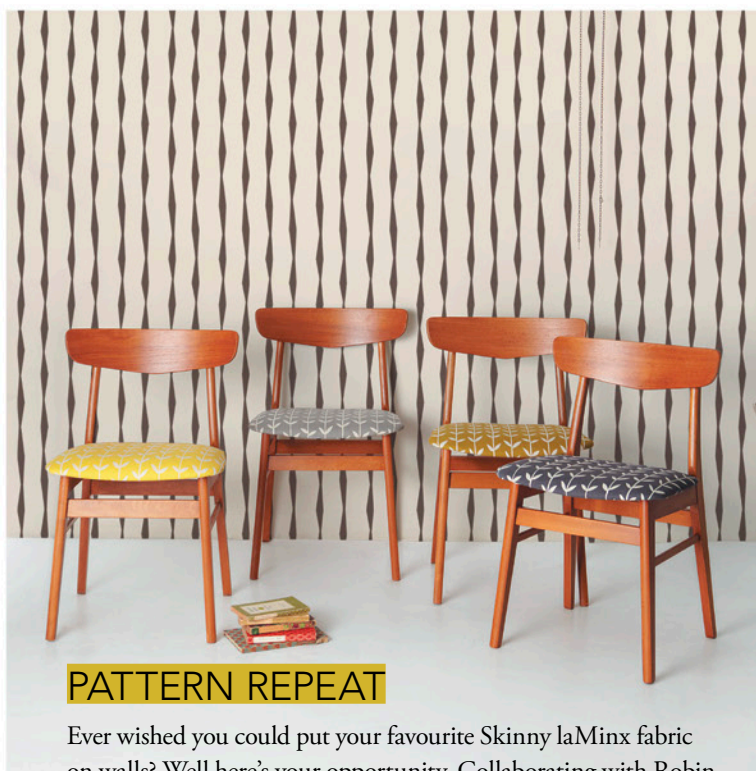
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PATTERN REPEAT

Ever wished you could put your favourite Skinny laMinx fabric on walls? Well here's your opportunity. Collaborating with Robin Sprong Wallpaper, their well-known designs are now printed on pre-gummed wallpaper that's 100 percent recyclable. The versatile papers are made to order at R450/m², from Robin Sprong Wallpaper. Visit robinsprong.com

Bargain buys

Art Director Hema Nana's best homeware buys under R300



1



2



3

1. Black and blue crane **scatter**, R190, Mesaw, mesawstudio.co.za

2. Ceramic coke **bottle**, R100, The Pickled Fish, thepickledfish.co.za

3. Coloured **spoons**, R79 – R99 each, Meekel, meekel.co.za

Local Heritage

Just right for contemporary bathrooms, the new Heritage Collection from Cobra is a range of minimalist, clean-cut, single-lever mixers. Design names include Karoo, Baobab and Tugela, and the sleek shapes are made from chrome-finished brass. A percentage of net profits made will be donated to the Wildlands Conservation Trust. Visit cobra.co.za



TRIBAL'S TRENDING

Carriacou is just one of the stunning designs from Pierre Frey's latest Aloha collection. Taking inspiration from global ethnic patterns, the fabrics range from mask motifs and abstract paintings to chic stripes and plains. See the range at Mavromac. Visit mavromac.co.za



Chic Mix

If you're looking for something unusual for your home, visit For the Birds to see their custom-made products including wooden boards, cushions, lampshades and pendant lights. They also make bespoke wallpaper and from just R400/m it's an affordable way to add a unique touch to your home. Burndale Centre, Umhlali, Dolphin Coast. Call 073 737 8632 or visit 4thebirds.co.za >



KEEP YOUR COOL

Coricraft has launched two new upholstery fabrics by local firm Da Gama Textiles. Perfect for patios and sun rooms (even in winter), Bondi Fabrics (pictured) and Summertime Linen are simple and subtle. The natural, muted tones range from fern green and stone to charcoal and navy blue. Visit coricraft.co.za

WHAT'S ON

11 MAY – 17 AUGUST

Juliet Armstrong Retrospective

On at the Tatham Art Gallery in Pietermaritzburg, the exhibition is a tribute to the late ceramicist Juliet Armstrong with a display of some 70 pieces of her work. Visit tatham.org.za

2 JUNE – 31 AUGUST 12 Rooms Exhibition with Leon at CCXIX

Part of the programme for World Design Capital Cape Town 2014, 12 of South Africa's top decorators and designers will each decorate a room in the Leon at CCXIX showroom. 219 Albert Road, Woodstock, CT. Visit facebook.com/12roomsexhibition

13 – 22 JUNE East Coast Radio House & Garden Show

For lovers of decor and gardening, don't miss this inspirational one-stop show on at the Durban Exhibition Centre. Colour-coded zones will lead you to your favourite spots, whether it's DIY or the Robertsons Herbs & Spices Celebrity Kitchen. Tickets are R75 per adult. Visit housegardenshow.co.za

TOUCHY FEELY

We love the Anthology 01 wallpaper range from Harlequin – a stunning collection focusing on natural textures such as grass, coral, parchment and bamboo. The end result is modern, yet timeless with a subdued, organic palette of raffia, slate, sulphur and mineral. See the range at Black Fabrics. Visit blackfabrics.co.za



HOW TO DECORATE WITH ABSTRACT RUGS

Contemporary rugs with painterly or non-figurative designs make wonderful decor statements. Charles Gonsenhauser of Gonsenhausers Fine Rugs shares his top tips:

- Abstract designs can be calming, or very strong and busy. If you opt for the latter, a simple and serene interior will allow the rug to stand out. Make sure you leave enough space when arranging your furniture so that you see the design. Using glass coffee tables and tall furniture with clean lines will help to keep the focus on the rug.
- Non-traditional rugs work beautifully in highly modern, pared-down environments, as well as in older homes where the intention is more eclectic. In this instance though, the furnishings will determine the success of the look, so where possible start with the rug.
- Beautiful rug designs are often lost under beds, so choose smaller rugs to use on either side or in front of the bed to maximise the visual impact.
- Flat weave rugs are better for high traffic zones, while long pile rugs add luxury and comfort to areas such as living rooms and bedrooms.

Visit finerugs.co.za



PHOTOGRAPH YVONNE KRAMER INTERIORS



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everyday INSPIRATION



What are you enjoying most about this project? I am fascinated and overwhelmed by how many people follow the Paintings in the Post blog, send messages of encouragement (even in foreign languages) and buy my works from all over the world.

Do you paint from life, photographs or memory? First prize is always to paint from life. My daily paintings are always painted from life, but for larger works I often use photographic references. Commissioned work is occasionally from other people's photographs. I am fussy about the quality of the image I work from – it must have sufficient contrast in tones and values.

What are your favourite subjects? I find beauty in the seemingly banal and everyday objects that surround us and often go unnoticed. I also love to paint portraits. People are fascinating and being able to really capture the essence of a person is magical.

What medium do you work in and why? While I love to explore by working with a range of materials and techniques, I'm constantly drawn back to the luscious and rich quality of oils. There is a sensory quality and experience that oil painting provides and nothing delights me more than freshly squeezed oils on my palette.

Are there any artists you particularly admire or whose work has influenced you? The artist who has had the greatest influence on me is Melanie Wilson. She's a local Durban artist, a close friend and a colleague. We meet regularly to mentor one another. She was also my high school art teacher and probably had the greatest impact on my work. Never underestimate the power of a teacher! **GEH**

Durban artist Heidi Shedlock's daily artworks project started as a challenge for her art students

Have you always wanted to be an artist?

For as long as I can remember I have loved to draw, paint and be involved in creative projects. As an only child I spent hours with my crayons! I also wanted to be a teacher, so I am fortunate to have followed both of my passions.

What did you study? I did a B.Ed. degree and art was my teaching subject. After giving up full-time classroom teaching a few years ago, I began a Visual Arts degree through UNISA to gain more knowledge of contemporary art practices.

You've started giving private art lessons. What do you enjoy about teaching others to paint? I often hear the phrase 'I can't draw a stick figure'. It's a perception that starts at school and by

the time an adult makes the decision to learn to draw or paint, the hardest part is overcoming the fear of trying. Nothing gives me more pleasure than nurturing someone's desire to create.

You recently started a series of works called 'Paintings in the Post'. What prompted this? One day I encouraged my students to finish a painting in one lesson. I then challenged myself to complete a full week of painting these daily artworks that are roughly the size of a postcard. It was just what I needed after creating work for an exhibition as it forced me to not think too much and just paint. It's almost a year down the line and I haven't missed a day.

SOURCE Heidi Shedlock paintingsinthe-post.blogspot.com or paintingsinthe-post.tictail.com

23 - 25 May 2014, Coca Cola Dome

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EASTERN INFLUENCE



Applying the principles of Japanese design to this site at Zimbali on the KZN North Coast resulted in a contemporary home that blends in with its environment and makes the most of magnificent views

In their brief to Metropole Architects, Shaun and Tricia Pollock asked for a modern, 21st century-style home incorporating natural wood and lots of glass to bring the outdoors in. Another of their requests was to make the most of the views which extend over Zimbali's golf course and indigenous forest to the sea.

AT A GLANCE

THE ARCHITECTS:

Design architect Nigel Tarboton (left) and project architect Tyrone Reardon (right) of Metropole Architects.

THE CLIENTS: Shaun and Tricia Pollock.

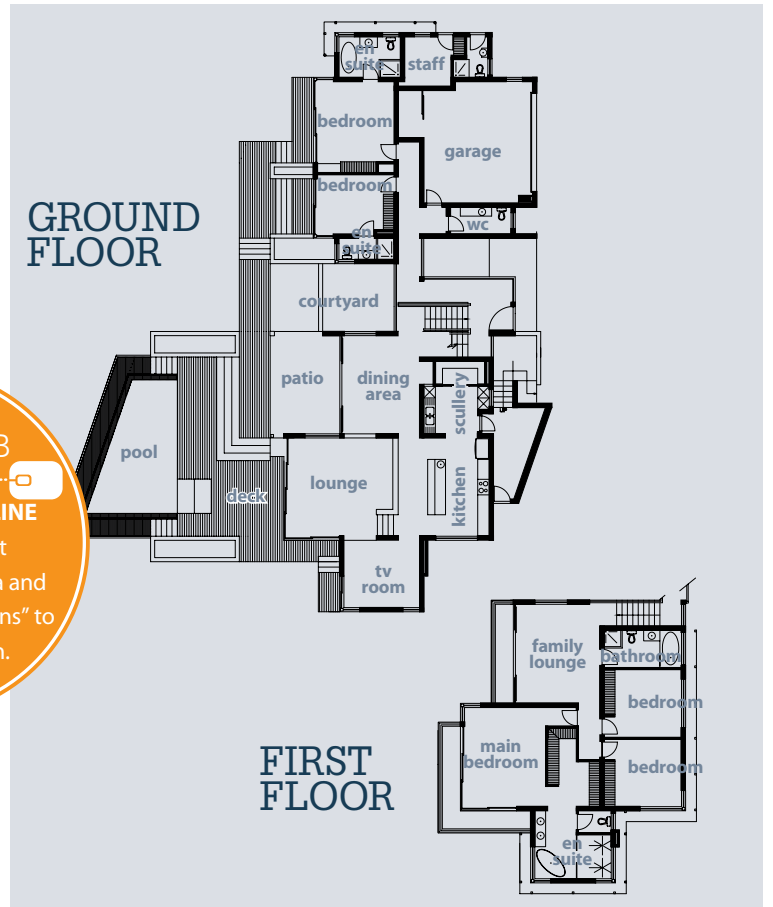
THE CLIENTS' BRIEF: A modern home that embraces the beautiful natural surroundings of the estate.

THE HOUSE: A 500m² double-storey home. On the lower level is an open-plan living area incorporating the kitchen, dining room, formal lounge and TV lounge which opens onto a deck and swimming pool and a guest area with two en suite guest bedrooms. Upstairs is the master suite, two bedrooms, a bathroom and family lounge. The house also has a double garage and staff quarters.



While the steeply sloping site presented several challenges to project architect Tyrone Reardon and design architect Nigel Tarboton, it also inspired their interesting multi-level, open-plan design that projects out of the hillside. "We drew on the simplicity of Japanese style and introduced large roof overhangs, big openings and horizontal elements," explains Tyrone.

Forming the hub of the house is a large open-plan living area which includes a kitchen, dining area, TV room and a sunken living room that extends out onto a deck and swimming pool. A major feature of the design, glass sliding doors capture the views and ensure a seamless transition between indoors and out. Bamboo flooring used in some of the living areas is another nod to the Japanese influence.



ON THE WEB

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The architects solved the problem of the south-facing orientation by introducing an atrium which draws natural light into the centre of the house. "It also separates the owners' area from the guest area," explains Tyrone. This guest area consists of two spacious en suite bedrooms, each with its own balcony.

The interiors of the house also adhere to the simple, clean aesthetic of Japanese style with lots of natural textures, wood and a predominantly green and stone palette. "The palette, like the architecture, enhances and complements the outdoors and the overall serenity of the home," says Tricia. **G&H**

SOURCE Metropole Architects metropolearchitects.com

TRENDING NOW: MARBLED PATTERNS

"Marble's made a huge comeback as the ultimate luxury finish for floors and countertops," says designer Sam Lurie of Sprout Design. "The random patterns found in this natural material translate well into abstract prints that can be used on everything from fabrics to homeware"



1. Splash rug, POR, Mae Artisan Rugs. 2. Molten glass coasters, R95 each, Sprout Design. 3. Lisa Firer blue and white fluidity bowl, R1 300, OKHA Interiors. 4. Pollock tripod lamp, R4 450, Sobeit Studio. 5. Menu marble wall clock by Norm Architects, POR, Entrepo. 6. Marbled coaster, R95, Sprout Design. 7. Romo Black Edition Jessica Zoob cushion, R1 970, Romo South Africa. 8. Plissé file divider from HAY, R950, Crema Design. 9. Fabric, That is Splat, colour Multicool, R290/m, U&G Fabrics. 10. Lisa Firer coloured fluidity vessel, R3 000, OKHA Interiors. 11. Wallpaper, Designers Guild, Belles Rives Bain De Minuit, R2 200/roll, Home Fabrics. GH

SOURCES Crema Design cremadesign.co.za Entrepo entrepo.co.za Home Fabrics homefabrics.co.za Lisa Firer Ceramics lisafirer.co.za Mae Artisan Rugs maerugs.com OKHA Interiors saota.com Romo South Africa romosouthafrica.com Sobeit Studio sobeitstudio.com Sprout Design 082 967 9652 U&G Fabrics 031 275 3126

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PRODUCTS AND PRICES WERE CHECKED AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT. SEE PAGE 10



COFFEE TABLE TIPS

"Your coffee table is key to creating a comfortable relaxing space for socialising," says Bruce Theron, regional manager of Sofaworx, who shares these pointers:

- The standard height for a coffee table is around 45cm from the ground, but the height you'll need will be determined by the height of the seating around it.
- Place the coffee table close to the sofa so it doesn't look as if it's floating in the centre of the room. Drinks and books should be within easy reach. But leave at least 40cm between the two for ease of movement.
- It's fashionable these days to add a contrasting coffee table such as a modern style with a traditional sofa and vice versa.
- The big trend currently is for natural wood to be used either for the whole table or for the surface. Look out for reclaimed and salvaged woods.



Arrange cheeses or artisan breads on a rustic wooden **Napa board**, R846,95, from Vendange.

Bring design down to ground level with this **Geometry rug**, R4 100, from Hertex.



For sitting on or leaning against, cushions like this Tweedle weave **scatter** (left), R79,99, from Mr Price Home, and antique ikat **scatter** (right), R395, from Weylandts, provide extra comfort.



Create a focal point with the Kholetti **couch** in kiaat, from R14 400 (excl. fabric), from Homewood.

Set the mood with an adjustable table lamp like this vintage **desk lamp**, R1 195, from Weylandts.



Wrap up warm in **throws** like these, R695 – R1 595 each, from La Grange Interiors.

Chunky Muuto **salad servers**, R599,95, from Entrepo, will add a natural, organic feel.



This **coffee table** with steel crossed legs and a mango wood top, R4 495, from Sofaworx, fits in with most decor styles.

Add to the warm glow with these Amber drinking **glasses**, R99 each, from La Grange Interiors.



Serve warming soups in these **ceramic bowls** by Staub, R35 for a 12cm, and R45 for a 17cm, from Kitchen Passion. **CH**



SOURCES Entrepo entrepo.co.za Hertex hertex.co.za Homewood homewood.co.za Kitchen Passion kitchenpassion.co.za La Grange Interiors lagrangeinteriors.co.za Mr Price Home mrphome.com Sofaworx sofaworx.co.za Vendange vendange.co.za Weylandts weylandts.co.za

renovated jo'burg home

A taste of France

What Lisa and Justin Lange saw as a modest renovation turned into a full-scale rebuild once they recognised the full potential of this old Bedfordview property

Who lives here

Lisa and Justin Lange and their two children, Luke (13) and Jenna-Lee (11) together with dogs, Summer, Steffi, Max and Milo and the miniature tortoise, Torti.

The house

A 1970s house on a generous property transformed into a French-style villa with open-plan living areas and three bedrooms.



Interior decorator Joanne Roelofs freshened up the Langes' existing **patio** furniture with scatter cushions in fabrics from The Silk and Cotton Company. On mild winter evenings the Jetmaster allows the Langes to entertain out here. The wall light and pendant are from The Light Shed and the mirror is from Living, Changing and Arranging.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The **façade** is painted in Plascon's Dundas and the shutters are in Teal Tower. The exterior wall lights are from The Light Shed and the wooden planters were custom-made by Laughing Pig. ▷



After several years of commuting between their home on an estate in Glenvista south of Johannesburg and their children's schools in the east, Lisa and Justin Lange realised that their children were spending more time in the car than at home. They started looking at homes closer to the schools and came across an old house in Bedfordview that hadn't been lived in for a while.

"Although our previous home had quite a spacious interior, the outdoor living areas and the garden were small," recalls Lisa. "While this property was quite rundown, what appealed to us was the size of the house and especially the garden. We could see that it could fulfil our love for the outdoors and with some minor renovations, make a comfortable, relaxing escape from busy Jo'burg life."

However, this was not the easy renovation they envisaged. Once they'd lived in the house for a couple of months and had a clearer idea of their wants and needs, they ended up almost demolishing the house keeping just one wall and the original garages. But it gave them the opportunity to build the house they'd always dreamed of, incorporating all the appealing elements of rustic homes they'd seen and loved while on holiday in the south of France.

Their new home designed by Pernille Martin is a single-storey structure featuring terracotta roof tiles, pale blue-green shutters and areas of stonework. A Romanesque influence can be seen in the small circular windows under the apex of the different sections of the roof, especially in the arched window that makes a statement in the double-volume entrance. The house consists of two wings connected by a passage with the living areas in one wing and the bedrooms and bathrooms in the other. The old kidney-shaped pool was filled in and was replaced with a more contemporary rectangular pool off the covered patio.

Working with the Langes right from demolition stage was a friend, interior decorator Joanne Roelofs who helped them choose finishes and materials. "Joanne has the knack of transforming old discarded items into charming features," says Lisa. "I knew I'd found just the right person to help me create the comfortable country chic interiors I had in mind."

"I adore scouring junkyards and second-hand shops for old things to breathe new life into," says Joanne indicating the green antique doors she turned into mirrors in the formal living area. "My mother collected antiques and I suppose ▷

THIS PAGE, BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT: ● In the **formal lounge**, Joanne had the ottomans recovered in Canvas Broadstripe from The Silk and Cotton Company. The armchairs are in Mavromac's Classics Leaf Cloud and the faux fur throw is from Loads of Living. ● A double-sided Morso **fireplace** was installed to heat both the kitchen and living area. The chandelier is from hellooow handmade and the dining furniture is from Block & Chisel Interiors. Joanne made up the curtains in Hertex's Beguille Linen.

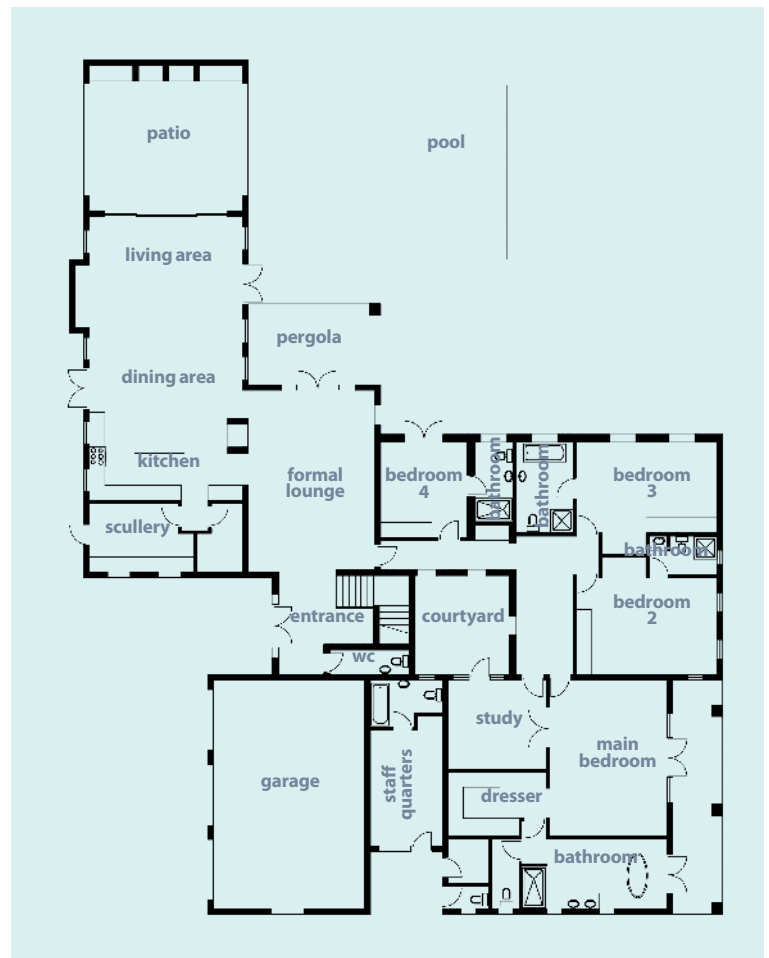




Lisa in the **kitchen** where Joanne paint-techniqued the kitchen island and cupboards using Plascon's Dundas and Teal Tower. The dining table, chairs and armchairs are from Block & Chisel Interiors.

I've taken her influence one step further." Her favourite part of the project was designing the kitchen and refurbishing many of the Langes' existing pieces of furniture such as their sofas and armchairs and some of the free-standing bedroom cupboards. "It's such a joy to have clients who trust you to help them from the start and are willing to take risks to make their home novel and striking."

The new layout of the house with its large open-plan kitchen and living area has worked extremely well for the Lange family. "We tend to congregate in this area most of the time especially during the chilly months when it's kept snug by the fire in the double-sided fireplace." >





OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ● In Jenna-Lee's bedroom, the four-poster bed is from Weylandts. Joanne made the ottoman from a reclaimed chest and gave it a deep-buttoned seat in a floral from Fabric Library's Bella Rose collection. The curtains were made up in a silk fabric from The Silk and Cotton Company and the pelmet is in a floral from Eijffinger's Bindi range from Dreamweaver Studios. The wooden flooring is from Forest Flooring. ● Jenna-Lee's hanging chair is from Living, Changing and Arranging, as are many of the hearts and angels in her collection. **ABOVE:** Luke's bed is dressed with a throw and scatter cushions from Living, Changing and Arranging. The headboard and service sign were made by Joanne and the corrugated iron-lookalike wallpaper is Osborne & Little's Teatro from Home Fabrics.



HOT AND HAPPENING

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THIS PAGE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ● In the **main bedroom**, Joanne updated Lisa and Justin's mahogany sleigh bed with a cream paint effect to complement the wallpaper, Hertex's Wall Street Interieur. The faux fur throw is from Loads of Living and the scatter cushions are a selection from Living, Changing and Arranging, @home and Loads of Living. ● The **main bathroom** features fittings from San Marco Tile Centre. **GH**



Large **glass dome**, R49,99, Mr Price Home.

Angelique **dining chair**, R2 695, Loft Living.

Get the look

The show-stopping room in this home is the kitchen

"This is where we spend most of our time whether we're entertaining or simply getting dinner ready while the kids do their homework at the dining room table."

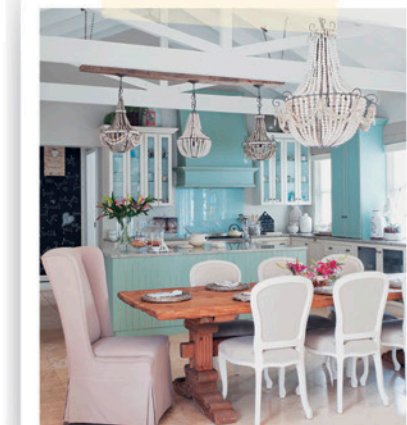
Kitchen Craft Le'Xpress Athena stovetop whistling **kettle**, R569, Yuppiefchef.

Ivory mud **chandelier**, from R10 500, Mud Studio.

Paint swatch, Pale Linen Y1-C2-3, Plascon.

Paint swatch, Baby Mint G3-A2-3, Plascon.

Chester grey **dining table**, R22 995, Block & Chisel Interiors.



SOURCES @home home.co.za **Block & Chisel Interiors** blockandchisel.co.za **Dreamweaver Studios** 082 452 0726 **Fabric Library** fabriclibrary.co.za **Forest Flooring** forestflooring.co.za **hellooow handmade** hellooow.co.za **Hertex** hertex.co.za **Home Fabrics** homefabrics.co.za **Jetmaster** jetmaster.co.za **Joanne Roelofs** 082 342 7379 **Laughing Pig** 082 342 7379 **Living, Changing and Arranging** 011 025 7564 **Loads of Living** loadsofliving.co.za **Loft Living** loftliving.co.za **Mavromac** mavromac.co.za **Morso** morso.co.za **Mr Price Home** mrphome.com **Mud Studio** mudstudio.net **Pernille Martin** 082 450 0958 **Plascon** plascon.co.za **San Marco Tile Centre** 011 918 5627 **The Light Shed** lightshed.co.za **The Silk and Cotton Company** silkco.co.za **Weylandts** weylandts.co.za **Yuppiefchef** yuppiefchef.com

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contemporary cape home

Home is where **THE ART IS**

Showcasing the owner's collectables was top of mind when decorating this contemporary Cape home

Who lives here

A retired forex trader; he's an avid collector of art and books and loves to travel and entertain.

The house

Approximately 400m², this five-bedroom home in Somerset West has a contemporary open-plan design and offers views of the mountains and False Bay.



Cape Town is renowned for charming tourists with its unique combination of sea and mountain views so much so that some visitors, like the owner of this modern home, never want to leave. Originally from Switzerland, he'd worked in Jo'burg for many years, but when it came time for him to retire he decided to relocate to Somerset West.

"I'd always dreamt of a home with big rooms and high ceilings that would allow me to create various zones >

LEFT: As the owner enjoys entertaining, the **dining area** was designed to accommodate a crowd. It's furnished with a 10-seater table from Weylandts paired with linen-upholstered chairs. Note how two rugs, also from Weylandts, have been used to create an interesting layered effect that's bang on trend. **ABOVE:** This occasional chair has been strategically positioned to provide a spot to take time out and enjoy the mountain view.



An oversized wood and glass **cabinet** filled with some of the owner's books forms the backdrop to the dining area.



THIS PAGE, FROM ABOVE: ● A tall, open shelving unit from Weylandts acts as a room divider, helping to designate this **formal seating area** within the large open-plan living space. The modular couch is from Sofaworx and the coffee table and floor lamp are from Weylandts. ● Wood adds warmth to the clean-lined **kitchen** which features accents of glass and stainless steel. “Guests can pull up a seat at the counter making it ideal for entertaining,” says Evi.

for different activities within one large space,” he says, explaining why he chose to buy this property that was designed and built by Crous Construction.

The fact that the house opens up to a central courtyard added to its appeal; this gives it an easy indoor-outdoor flow that’s ideal for entertaining, which is something the owner enjoys.

While the layout was perfect, the house didn’t feel very much like a home, and so Evi Elsner of Home Concept Solutions was called in to help with the decor. “I like beautiful things and am an avid collector of books, sculptures and paintings. I wanted to be able to display my collectables and the furniture had to be classic, masculine and very comfortable,” says the owner.

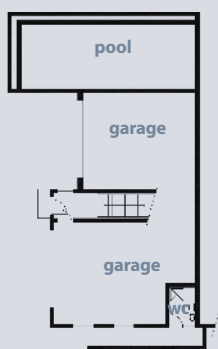
“The only piece of the owner’s existing furniture that was used was the leather sofa in the casual seating area,” says Evi, who devised a colour palette of predominately neutral and grey ▷



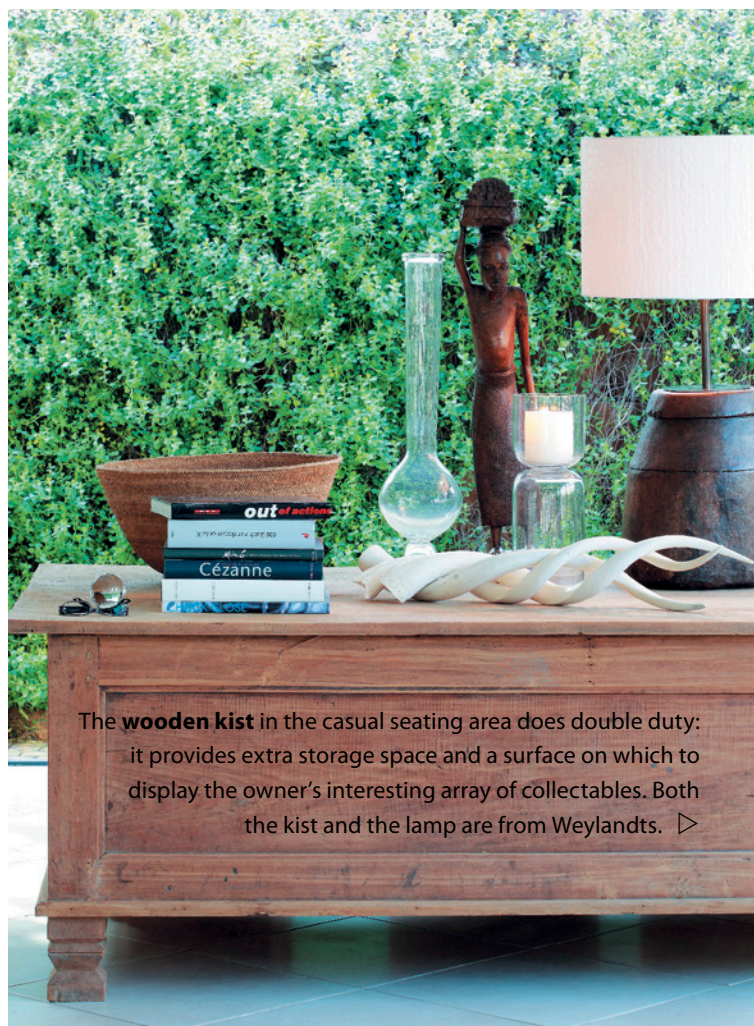
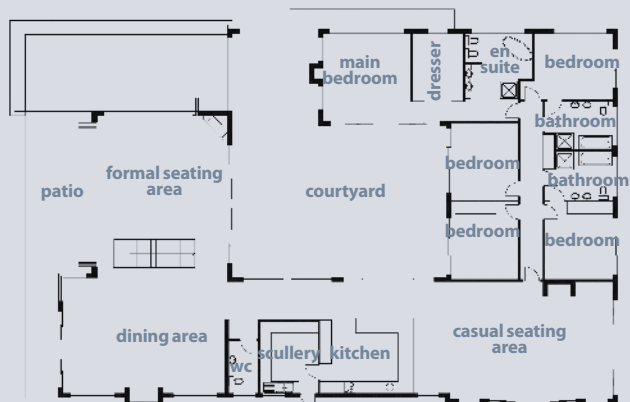


The owner's existing leather sofa takes centre stage in the **casual seating area** where he likes to unwind and listen to music. Note how a console table has been positioned behind it to provide another surface on which to display his books and collectables. The coffee table is from Weylands.

GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



The **wooden kist** in the casual seating area does double duty: it provides extra storage space and a surface on which to display the owner's interesting array of collectables. Both the kist and the lamp are from Weylands. ▷



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This modern **four-poster bed** has been dressed with throws from LIM and scatters from Hertex. The rug is also from Hertex and the wicker chair and wooden bench are from Weylandts.

tones to create the manly feel he was after. She then strategically painted certain walls in a bold dark hue, Plascon's Aniseed, to define different zones within the spacious open-plan living area. "This colour gives a warm feel and really makes the various artworks stand out," she says.

Other ways Evi upped the snug factor were by introducing a wealth of wooden furnishings, layering different textures like wicker, linen and leather, and adding rugs to take the cold, hard edge off the tiled floors.

She also paid particular attention to lighting to create an inviting ambience, selecting floor and table lamps with a sculptural quality that complement the owner's varied collectables. These have been curated into tablescape and displayed on open shelves and in cabinets, giving the house a welcoming, personal feel that, as the owner puts it, makes it a cosy place to listen to music while sipping a good glass of wine. **CH**

GET THE LOOK

Key to recreating this home's style are wooden furnishings which add an earthy warmth to the interiors



Europe **dining bench**, R2 000, Mr Price Home.

Chinese **ladder**, R1 495, Weylandts.

Petrified wooden **stool**, R6 495, Weylandts.

Country farmhouse **table**, R12 995, Trade Secret.

Country Breton **sideboard**, R44 860, Pierre Cronje.

Indian wooden **pot**, R995, Weylandts.

Decorative **bird on stand**, R295, Weylandts.

Denver **glass cabinet**, R22 995, Block & Chisel Interiors.

SOURCES Block & Chisel Interiors blockandchisel.co.za

Crous Construction 021 853 0011 Hertex hertex.co.za

Home Concept Solutions info@home-concept.co.za LIM lim.co.za

Mr Price Home mrphome.com Pierre Cronje pierrechronje.co.za

Plascon plascon.co.za Sofaworx sofaworx.co.za Trade

Secret trade-secret.co.za Weylandts weylandts.co.za

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Chivonne Mini - From: R4995 (fabric), R9995 (leather)
On Display - 3 seater in Hertex Dakota Flame: R8065

St Tropez cnr



From: R12,995 (fabric)
R24,995 (leather)

Luke cnr



From: R11,995 (fabric)
R21,995 (leather)

Georgia cnr



From: R11,995 (fabric)
R22,995 (leather)

Caribbean cnr



From: R10,595 (fabric)

Tina



From: R4795 (fabric)
R9995 (leather)

Bellini



From: R4995 (fabric)
R9995 (leather)

Caribbean



From: R4995 (fabric)

Dutchess



From: R4995 (fabric)

Bentley



Price: R1995

Wishbone



Price: R1595

Albany Dining



From: R9995
Size: 240 x 100 x 75
(Solid Oak)

Pammy



From: R1995
chair and slip cover

Crossback



Price: R895

La Petite Daybed



From: R4295

St Tropez Daybed



From: R5995

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revamped holiday home

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A lick of paint, new flooring and up-to-date furniture transformed this house into a relaxing home away from home

The double-volume **entrance hall and lounge** were given a lighter, more airy feel by painting the rafters, staircase and balustrades white.



The **library** is Ginny and Michael's favourite space. The built-in unit, which doubles as a bookshelf and drinks cabinet, was custom-made by Creative Wood Designs. The round ottoman, covered in U&G Fabrics' Patina 04, is a bespoke piece by Reggie Authar.

Who lives here

Michael and Ginny Vacy-Lyle and their six-month-old triplets, Jack, Sebastien and Olivia who spend holidays and long weekends here.

The house

A double-storey house in Simbithi Eco-Estate on the KZN North Coast with a double-volume entrance hall, living room, kitchen, scullery, dining room, study, library, guest bathroom and TV room on the ground floor. Upstairs are a main en suite bedroom, three additional bedrooms and a bathroom. ▷



For Michael and Ginny Vacy-Lyle, Simbithi Eco-Estate on the KZN North Coast was the ideal spot for a holiday home. “Michael grew up in Durban and loves to surf and the North Coast is perfect for this all year round,” explains Ginny. “Simbithi provides an incredibly secure outdoor lifestyle in a beautiful, natural environment. I love going for runs through the estate and really appreciate the indigenous flora and wildlife. Since we’ve had our triplets we value this lifestyle even more.”

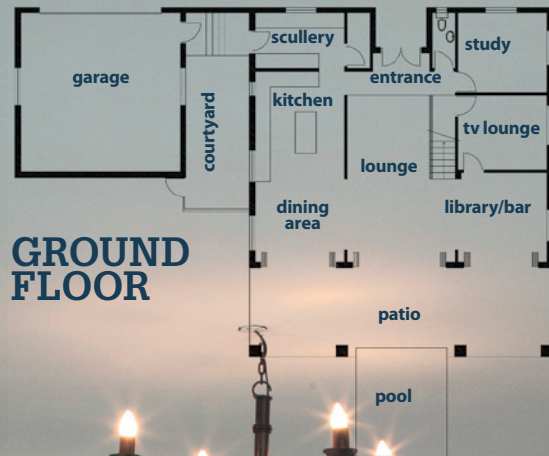
They fell in love with this double-storey ‘farmhouse’ designed by Pellegrini Associate Architects, but the interiors needed some work. “We wanted to retain the farmhouse feel but freshen it up with minimalist, classic furnishings in light, muted colours,” says Ginny. As they

live in Johannesburg, the couple asked Durban interior designer Lee Moon to assist them with the revamp. “Lee shared our vision entirely, so we knew we were in great hands,” Ginny says.

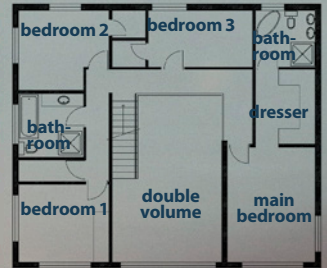
“Ginny and Michael wanted a comfortable, home-away-from-home feel but were also clear that they like clean lines, minimal clutter and didn’t want anything too dark,” says Lee. The first step was to tone down the dramatic ▷



THIS PAGE, FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: ● A corner suite makes the **TV lounge** a comfortable spot for relaxing. Michael’s love of the sea and surfing is reflected in the pale blue and stone palette. The occasional chair is upholstered in Interlace in Vapour and the rug is Trellis in Duck Egg, both from Hertex. ● In the **dining area**, the lattice chairs are from Cécile & Boyd and the fully upholstered benches are Leisure Lounge’s Everton ottomans adapted into a bench and covered in Whatnot Natural Fabrics’ Shell Mosaic in Charcoal. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** As she loves to cook, Ginny wanted a farm-style **kitchen** that was open-plan and practical. The kitchen units, island and cabinet were custom-made by Creative Wood Designs.



FIRST FLOOR





dark wood rafters and battleship grey balustrades and replace the terracotta tiled floors. “We agreed that a fresh, neutral canvas was essential,” says Ginny. “We chose light grey Cemcrete Cretecote for the floors and had the walls painted in Plascon Liberia and the staircase, balustrades and exposed beams in white.”

Ginny adds that opting for shutters by American Shutters rather than curtains helped to create the minimalist look they were aiming for. “Against this clean backdrop, the furnishings are offset beautifully and decor and art are accentuated,” she says.

Lee used the couple’s collection of paintings and large-scale photographs from Cherie de Villiers Fine Art

Gallery, Prince Albert Gallery and Imbizo Gallery in Ballito to inject pops of colour to the living areas, while paintings of Umhlanga by Rene Rutgers add a subtle beach house feel.

The kitchen was completely stripped and refitted with custom-made units by Creative Wood Designs who were responsible for the cabinetry throughout the house including in the library. The bespoke wall unit that serves as a bookcase and drinks cabinet is complemented by luxurious armchairs, a daybed and a feature ottoman which

make this the perfect place to relax and unwind. “Initially we weren’t sure what to do with this room off the main living area, but loved Lee’s suggestion of a library,” says Ginny. “It’s a very serene and comfortable space with a beautiful green vista. Michael and I both agree that it’s already our favourite room.”

“The sense of space and tranquillity that the revamp has brought to the interior is incredible,” says Ginny. “We’re looking forward to many happy, relaxed holidays here as a family.” ▸

ABOVE: The main bedroom has a sophisticated, serene atmosphere created by the wallpaper, Harlequin’s Folia Lucerne in Stone from Black Fabrics, and the upholstered headboard made by Reggie Authar.



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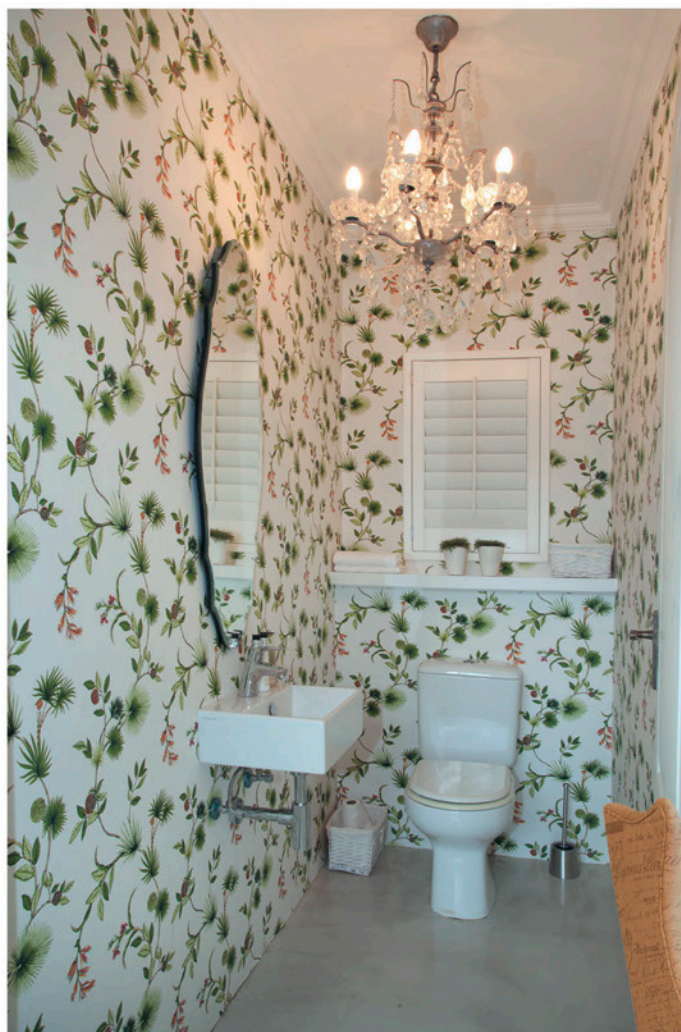


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GET THE LOOK

Key to recreating this home's style are patterned furnishings and finishes which add interest to the interiors **GH**



Hand-tufted wool **rug**, R3 995, Weylandts.

Ikat **cushion**, R590 (incl. down inner), Patina Interiors.

Augusta multi photo **frame**, R99,99, Mr Price Home.

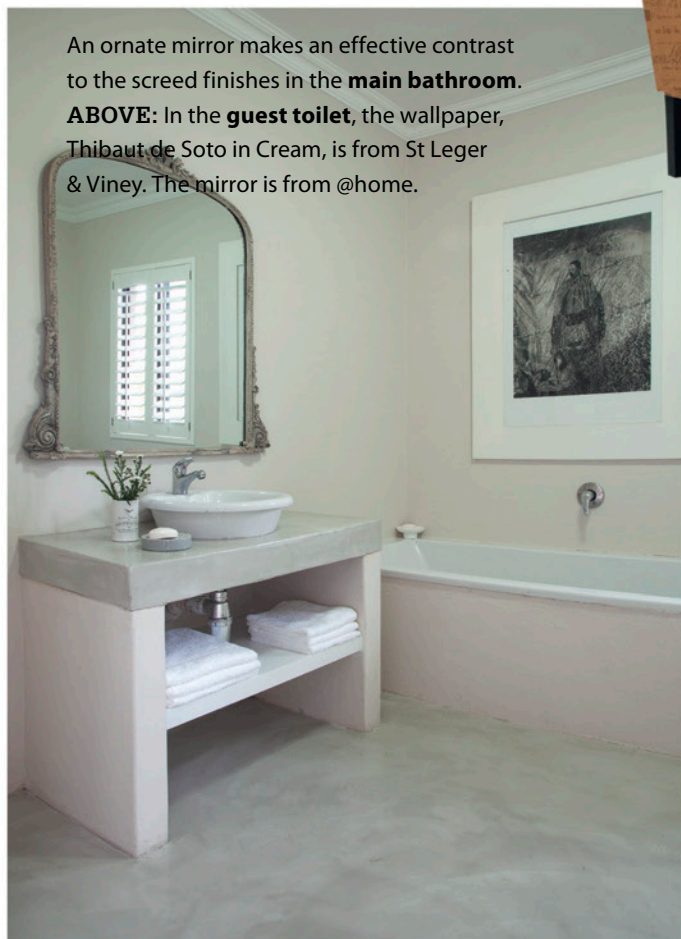
Ronel Jordaan Daisy **throw**, R2 029,90, 6th element decor.design.

Swansea **chair**, R5 995, Coricraft.

Novu **table lamp**, R1 579,95, 6th element decor.design.

Script **ottoman**, R895, Coricraft.

Fabric, Limitless in Oyster Grey, R855/m, St Leger & Viney.



An ornate mirror makes an effective contrast to the screed finishes in the **main bathroom**.

ABOVE: In the **guest toilet**, the wallpaper, Thibaut de Soto in Cream, is from St Leger & Viney. The mirror is from @home.

SOURCES @home home.co.za 6th element decor.design 6thelement.co.za

American Shutters americanshutters.co.za Black Fabrics blackfabrics.co.za

Cécile & Boyd cecileandboyds.com Cemcrete cemcrete.co.za Cherie

de Villiers Fine Art Gallery gallery.co.za Coricraft coricraft.co.za

Creative Wood Designs 031 569 1590 Hertex hertex.co.za Imbizo Gallery

imbizogallery.co.za Leisure Lounge leisurelounge.co.za Lee Moon Interiors

leemoon.co.za Patina Interiors 082 875 5551 Pellegrini Associate Architects

pellegriniarchitects.co.za Plascon plascon.co.za Prince Albert Gallery

princealbertgallery.co.za Mr Price Home mrphome.com Reggie Authar

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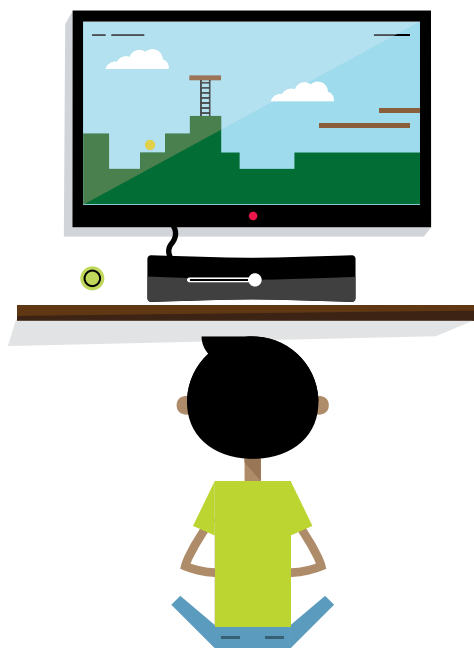
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kitchen styles

STYLE *Counsel*

We look at the design essentials of three popular kitchen styles, and reveal how to make each one work for you



A Timeless Classic

“A classically chic kitchen, like this one we designed for a client in Jo’burg, combines timeless design elements and investment pieces with modern textures and finishes,” says Jennie Kuhn (pictured) of Slavin & Company. “It has great longevity and epitomises elegance, yet retains a hard-working core. It’s a look that’s well suited to young families or for those who may be scaling down.”

JENNIE’S TIPS TO GET THIS LOOK **Juxtapose different elements**

“A classical kitchen is neither overtly modern nor completely traditional, so here we combined different units, finishes and door styles,” says Jennie. “The drawer units and island, for instance, are in a simple Shaker style and have been painted

in a satin finish in White and Morning Fog from Plascon. These are mixed in with more traditional free-standing pieces like the lime-washed oak fridge cabinet made by Forest Collection.”

Keep to a calm, neutral palette

“Select a palette that won’t date – that means mostly monochromatic tones that are easy to live with and enhance a feeling of space,” says Jennie. You can always add a pop of easy-to-change colour by introducing accessories or, as has been done here, painting your island in a distinctive hue.

Consider layout, flow and scale

“Our client has five children, so the right flow was important in making this kitchen as practical and easy-to-live-with as possible. The eat-in section (to the right of the fireplace) overlooks the garden and is adjacent to the main cooking hub. A separate scullery with a pantry and laundry keeps the kitchen free of clutter.

“It’s also important to consider the sense of scale. Here, architect Joe van Rooyen created a dramatic vaulted ceiling with a pair of symmetrical oval windows on either side of the built-in fireplace. Having the right bones is essential for a truly classical design.”

Choosing materials and fixtures

“When it came to the fixtures we looked for those with simple, classic shapes, such as the pewter drop handles on the island drawers and the Axor Montreux taps from Hansgrohe. The bespoke extractor hood has elegant scroll work on each side and the island’s topped with Carrara marble from Granite Studio. This, together with the white Caesarstone countertops, matching splashback and Ilve stove, creates a sense of visual order and calmness.”

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- “While marble is beautiful, it’s also very porous. Liquids like lemon or alcohol can cause corrosion and staining. We recommend using trivets or wooden boards for hot, wet or abrasive products. Caesarstone is launching a colour called Calacatta Classic in spring/summer 2014 which should give the same visual effect, but be more hard-wearing.”
- Underslung sinks and prep bowls give a clean, neat finish. “However, I advise using these in prep areas only, and not for double sinks which have to carry the weight of heavy pots,” says Jennie.
- Satin Duco is a wonderful finish for cupboards as there is a vast range of shades to choose from. It gives a smooth, easy-to-clean finish and there are no exposed seams as the varnish seals off the SupaWood entirely. ▷



"THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER SHADES RIGHT NOW ARE ARCHITECTURAL GREYS. TO PREVENT PARED-DOWN KITCHENS FROM LOOKING TOO COLD, INCORPORATE DIFFERENT TEXTURES AND FINISHES"



Fashion Forward

“The visual simplicity of a modern, clean-lined kitchen belies a host of highly practical features,” says Philip Richards (pictured) brand manager of blu_line kitchens, which designed and installed this contemporary kitchen. “Even though the rest of a home may be more classical or traditional in style, the demand for a pared-down multifunctional kitchen is growing.”

PHILIP'S TIPS TO GET THIS LOOK

Keep things simple with a strong focus on functionality

“Sleek kitchens, like the one featured here, are dependent on a lack of visual clutter – think cupboards without handles and integrated fridges and freezers that are hidden behind closed doors. By stacking

appliances such as convection ovens on top of each other when incorporating them into the wall units, you'll save space and create a more cohesive look.

“To achieve that ‘less is more’ feeling without compromising functionality, create dedicated zones for each activity. For instance, the cooking area should have generous pot drawers, cutlery dividers and spice storage within easy reach. The prep zone should have its own cutlery drawers, as well as quick access to vegetable storage.”

Choosing a colour palette and creating interest

“The most sought-after shades right now are architectural greys. However, to prevent pared-down kitchens from looking too cold, it's important to add interest by incorporating different textures and finishes.

“Here we combined high-gloss lacquer cupboards with both rough and smooth timber veneers on the central island. The earthy colour of the Caesarstone Shitake countertops adds a hint of warmth, and the custom extractor is clad in matt charcoal glass with a clear glass trim. Playing with different surface levels and counter thicknesses also adds a strong visual element, and modern taps are a must.”

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- Bear in mind that high-gloss, handleless units tend to show fingerprints. Bike-riding toddlers can damage the lacquer but a door can be resprayed.
- Stainless steel kickplates can also scratch, but the marks can be buffed out.
- While this style tends not to mix well with very traditional accessories, it combines wonderfully with modern accents such as rough-hewn timber tables.
- As they save energy and are safe to use, induction appliances are a practical choice. ▷



"A MODERN COUNTRY KITCHEN
SUCCESSFULLY MARRIES PERIOD
DETAILING WITH PARED-DOWN LINES"



A New Country

"A modern country kitchen successfully marries period detailing with pared-down lines to create the vintage feel that a lot of homeowners are after today," says architect Alex Stewart who designed this Cape Town kitchen, which was built by Silverbirch Fine Kitchens and Furniture.

ALEX'S TIPS TO GET THIS LOOK

Recycle fittings and fixtures

"If renovating a kitchen in a period property, reuse any original fittings and fixtures, such as cornice mouldings and skirtings, windows and light fittings – these are essential for

adding character." You could also incorporate salvaged architectural finds or new buys that have a suitably vintage feel.

Pay attention to detail

Painted cabinetry and free-standing furnishings are some of the key elements of a country kitchen. "For a modern take on these ideas, we created a semi-fitted look with leg detailing at the base of the meranti cabinets which were given a lacquered finish for easy maintenance.

"Something as simple and small as handles can spoil the look completely. These cup handles from Dito Handles give a very traditional feel, but the brushed finish is both modern and practical."

Choose the right finishes

Wooden flooring will give a softer, more rustic feel than tiles. "We've used

Corcoleum flooring; it's made from natural sawdust and wood flours and as it's laid as a solid surface it gives a seamless, contemporary look.

"Counter surfaces in natural materials are a must. Here we used honed black granite for the worktop and oak for the island."

Barbara Russell of Barbara Russell Paint Techniques suggests that white, such as Plascon's Iceberg, Tackroom or Cloud White, is the best colour to paint the cabinetry in this style of kitchen.

"Whites are complemented by shades of charcoal and pale woods like oak with a soft grey wash," she adds.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- Open shelves used to display items need to be kept neat.
- Seal traditional materials, such as wood, to avoid marking and warping. **GH**

SOURCES Alex Stewart Architecture and Interior Design 021 424 2989 Barbara Russell Paint Techniques 082 868 0507 **blue_line kitchens** blue-line.co.za **Caesarstone** caesarstone.co.za **Corcoleum** 021 852 6733 **Dito Handles** 021 789 1465 **Forest Collection** forestcollection.co.za **Granite Studio** 011 452 5191 **Hansgrohe** hansgrohe.co.za **Ilve** ilve.co.za **JVR Architects** jvrarchitects.co.za **Plascon** plascon.co.za **Silverbirch Fine Kitchens and Furniture** 021 761 7056 **Slavin & Company** slavinandcompany.com

Centre of **ATTENTION**

As walls disappear and open-plan kitchens become the norm, islands that provide an extra work surface and storage space have become essential. Here are some ideas for making yours the perfect mix of functionality and style



2

1. BIG IS BEAUTIFUL

This Jo'burg kitchen not only had to fulfil the owner's request for farmhouse style, it also had to be practical and fun for a family with small children. As the owner didn't want to cover the brick wall with cabinets, the purpose of the island was two-fold: to provide extra storage space and to ground the large, high-ceilinged room. To make it seem less bulky, designer Amanda Barnett had it set on legs and broke up its length by using different counter surfaces and finishes. It features a Mazista slate countertop in the prep area together with a small prep bowl, while in the dining section there's a wooden surface and recesses for bar stools. Mesh-fronted doors with leather handles and basket drawers carry through the farmhouse feel and make a rustic contrast to the glossy paint finish. Lighting the island is a stunning 'chandelier' made from Consol jars. Vase, basket and herb cutter from @home.

2. TWIST OF LIME

Adding the wow factor to the island in Sharon and Leslie Mulraj's Durban kitchen is lime green toughened glass cladding. Not only does it add the zing of colour they wanted, any shoe marks can be easily cleaned off. The island is fitted with an electric hob, a single gas ring and a gas burner for wok cooking on one side, leaving plenty of



3

space for family dining on the other where the counter has an overhang that allows for plenty of leg room. Highlighting the island is a bulkhead with an extractor and light. Kitchen by Modlife Design and Manufacture.

3. RED ALERT

Aside from its bold colour, the beauty of this wooden island from Hollywood Kitchens and Furniture is its double level design. The raised edge hides any messy prep work and the hob, which is incorporated in the countertop, while the upper surface offers a convenient spot for a glass of wine and acts as a serving counter. Also housed in the island are an oven and drawers for utensils, pots and pans. ▷

Practical design tips

- If you want to use your island for meals, decide whether you'd prefer to sit on a high stool or a normal chair. If it's the latter, then specify a lower section for dining.
- For comfortable dining you need a recess in the island of at least 40cm.
- Leave a space of about 1m around the island for ease of movement.
- Fit the surface with a retractable power dock for electrical appliances. These fit flush with the counter when not in use.
- Incorporate storage for crockery and cutlery on the side that faces the dining room.
- Fit an extractor above a hob or grill or a down draft model in the counter.



4. SHOW TIME

As Jo'burg homeowners Fallon McCann and Marcello Saladino love both cooking and entertaining, they demolished the wall between their kitchen and living room. To create a subtle division between the rooms as well as add much needed storage space now that they were missing a wall, they had this stylish island custom made; it was installed by Alan and George Cupboards. Painted with Plascon's Nautilus and fitted with a Caesarstone top from Marmernova, its traditional style is accentuated by decorative turned shelf supports. It houses a gas hob on the far side so the cook can face the guests while cooking and storage space for cooking and baking essentials. The open shelves on the living room side display pots and crockery.

Casseroles from Le Creuset, copper Mauviel pots from the Culinary Equipment Company and glasses from Mr Price Home and @home.

5. TOUCH WOOD

Lee and Justin Rosewarne's Durban kitchen forms part of their living area, so an extra-large island was essential to provide space for an oven, hob, prep sink and wine fridge not to mention drawers for utensils and small appliances. Designed by Union 3, it was built using a mix of solid timber and high-gloss Niemann board.

The sides are clad with grey-washed oak and the Caesarstone countertop was made slightly larger to provide an overhang for dining and socialising. Architecture by Metropole Architects and construction by East Coast Construction.

Nice to have

When planning an island consider adding the following:

- Sink or prep bowl
- Chopping block
- Knife storage
- Boiling water tap
- Marble slab for pastry
- Wine storage or fridge
- Rubbish disposal



6. ONE GOOD TURN

A clever feature of this island in a Pretoria bachelor's home is the slightly raised butcher's block section. In addition to providing a place for food preparation, it's fitted with castors and can be swivelled around to create a surface for dining. The island which is clad with wood also houses a hob on one side and space for wine storage. Decor by Desmond Archibald Interiors and The Design Collaboration. 



SOURCES @home home.co.za **Alan and George Cupboards** 082 221 3757 **Amanda Barnett** 082 440 6203 **Caesarstone** caesarstone.co.za **Consol** consol.co.za **Culinary Equipment Company** love2cook.co.za **Desmond Archibald Interiors** 082 419 5986 **Hollywood Kitchens and Furniture** hollywoodfurniture.co.za **Le Creuset** lecreusetshop.co.za **Marmernova** marmernova.com **Mazista** mazista.co.za **Metropole Architects** metropolearchitects.com **Modlife Design and Manufacture** modlife.co.za **Mr Price Home** mrphome.com **Plascon** plascon.co.za **The Design Collaboration** 082 419 5986 or 082 552 6736 **Union 3** union3.co.za



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French bar stool,
R3 500, Wunders.

Tam six-arm silver
chandelier, R2 199, @home.

Gran Maestria titanium coffee
machine, R7 950, Nespresso.

Footed cake stand with glass
dome, R199,99, Mr Price Home.

Eva Solo deli jar,
R510, Yuppiechef.

Metro chic



Ball chrome ring pendant,
R1 700, K. Light Import.

Steel mesh fruit bowl,
R325, Yuppiechef.

Black KitchenAid mixer,
R6 989, @home.

Cargo counter stool,
R995, Weylandts.

Wesco canister with
window, R360, Liv'In.

Pretty romantic



Cross-back **bar stool**,
R1 595, Block & Chisel Interiors.



Large white lace **pendant**,
R2 059, K. Light Import.



DeLonghi Ikon azure vintage
kettle, R1 299, @home.



Strawberry three-tier **cake stand**, R630, Le Creuset.



Mint green studded
utensil holder, R210,
Ceramic Factory.

Modernist era



Black Soho **pendant***, R499,95,
The Lighting Warehouse.



Pako white **bar stool**,
R995, Weylandts.



Stoneware spatula **crock**,
R180, Le Creuset.



Dualit NewGen **toaster**,
R3 575, Yuppiechef.



Ga-mi fruit **bowl**,
R1 950, Carrol Boyes. **GH**

SOURCES @home home.co.za **Block & Chisel Interiors** blockandchisel.co.za **Carrol Boyes** carrolboyes.co.za **Ceramic Factory** ceramicfactory.co.za **K. Light Import** klight.co.za **Le Creuset** lecreuset.co.za **Liv'In** livin.co.za **Mr Price Home** mrphome.com **Nespresso** nespresso.com **The Lighting Warehouse** lightingwarehouse.co.za **Weylandts** weylandts.co.za **Wunders** wonders.co.za **Yuppiechef** yuppiechef.com

SHOW- stoppers



Samsung's latest range of products were developed with the newest kitchen designs in mind, says Candice Botha, KZN contributing editor, who attended their recent international forum in Spain

EASY AS PIE

As the trend for townhouse living continues and lives become more hectic, homeowners want time-saving appliances that fit comfortably into compact spaces. Samsung has the combination just right with appliances such as the ME0113M 32 Litre Solo Microwave (below left), which has a ceramic interior and round corners, making it far easier to clean, while the BQ1D4T007 Dual Cook Oven (below right) allows you to cook two dishes at the same time and, what's more, it's self-cleaning! The Samsung WW9000 Washing Machine (above right) has a large 5-inch colour Full Touch Screen letting you select a range of settings at the touch of a finger. It's also equipped with Smart Control so users can remotely control and monitor it using a smartphone application. What could be more convenient?



WHAT'S COOKIN' GOOD LOOKIN'

As the kitchen is very much a central part of the living space in modern homes, appliances' good looks and their ability to blend in with sophisticated decor is as important as their functionality.

The new Samsung WW9000 Washing Machine is one appliance you'll be happy to have on show. It combines a sleek, elegant appeal with advanced technology and exceptional eco-credentials. They've removed unnecessary lines, knobs and buttons to create a simple, streamlined front; a translucent

deep blue crystal finish adds aesthetic appeal and when the door comes into contact with a light, a spectrum of colours is created.



GOING GREEN

Saving energy is top of the list for many homeowners. Samsung's new Food Showcase refrigerator has taken energy efficiency to new heights by providing smart separation with two layers of doors: the ShowCase for instant access to frequently used items and the InnerCase for ingredients that require longer storage.

This ensures that the inner compartment stays cold even when the door is open. In addition, Samsung's innovative All-Around Cooling evenly cools every centimetre of the fridge and freezer, while Digital Inverter Technology improves energy efficiency and cooling performance by automatically adjusting the compressor in response to cooling demands.



SOURCE Samsung samsung.com/za

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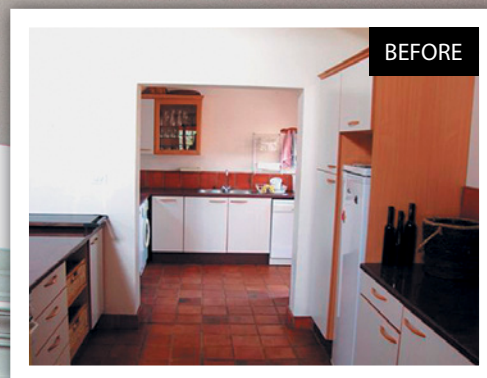
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inspiring before and after



The bright SIDE

By removing a wall and adding a mix of free-standing and fitted cabinetry, this once dull kitchen is now the hub of René and Pieter van der Westhuyzen's KZN holiday home



“THIS KITCHEN WAS not only outdated but, as it featured a huge bar counter, it appeared to split the house in half rather than function as a family gathering spot,” recalls René van der Westhuyzen. “We bought this house in the Midlands so that we could be near our three sons who are all at boarding school. As you can imagine, food is very important to boys and the kitchen is central to our lives when we spend time here.”

HOW THIS SPACE WENT FROM BORING TO BOLD

The whole kitchen was gutted as part of general renovations and the original cabinets donated to charity. To create a family-friendly layout, the wall separating the kitchen and scullery was demolished and the bar counter removed to make way for a new island. As the tiled floor was still in good condition and added rustic character, they kept this and had it resealed.

René had her heart set on something unconventional for this new open-plan space and when she and Pieter visited

Silvia Miles at Milestone Kitchens, she fell in love with a red-painted cupboard. “It’s my favourite colour and I immediately knew it would add the unique touch I was after,” says René. The rest of the units, from Milestone’s French Flair range, were painted in Plascon’s Fresh Linen which, along with the distressed ash countertops, offset the free-standing red Smeg stove beautifully. To highlight the stove, Silvia suggested a striking splashback custom-made by What’s Cutting.

Another clever move was to add a skylight above the stove ensuring that the kitchen is always light and welcoming even on the misty days the Midlands is known for.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The free-standing Milestone Kitchens units were installed by Kitchen Flair. Persian rugs and stools from Weylandts give the kitchen its comfortable, decorated look. **THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** ● Modern touches like the red Smeg stove and glass-covered splashback by What’s Cutting form an interesting contrast to the traditional distressed ash countertops and original tiled floor. ● The brilliant red of this custom-made coffee dresser by Milestone Kitchens is René’s favourite colour and sets the tone for the decor of the rest of her home. ● A collection of vintage-style china is displayed on the coffee dresser.

SOURCES Kitchen Flair kitchenflair.co.za Milestone Kitchens milestonekitchens.co.za Plascon plascon.co.za Smeg smeg.co.za Weylandts weylandts.co.za What’s Cutting whatscutting.co.za



1

EasyLife Kitchens' (ELK) design experts give us the low-down on what's hot in the kitchen right now. From lighting tricks to the latest storage solutions, the heart of the home just got cleverer...

1 THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

"Lighting is an important aspect in every kitchen," says ELK's Maya Herholdt. "We're including low-voltage LED strip lights or rope lights that are slim looking, easy to install and cost-effective. They produce a brilliant white light which, when used in conjunction with white cabinetry, is very striking." Use this type of lighting under floor and wall units, under floating shelves and behind glass shelves. "LED lights can change colour or even pulsate, which can transform the ambience of a kitchen. For example, you can light up the kickplates and change the colour to suit the mood."

2 WOOD WORKS

"One trend that has been growing is the incorporation of natural wood into a kitchen's design, whether it's modern or classic," says ELK's Bronwen Cronje. "Many suppliers are now giving wood a different finish such as a rough, raw feel as opposed to the usual smooth surface. We can see this with the growing popularity of Monocoat, an all-natural oil wood finish that's applied to natural wood as well the new imitation wood ranges such as Niemann's Textured range and the latest Sonae and PG Bison colours."



TEXT CLAIRE MURPHY PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED



3



4



5

3 A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

ELK designer Richard Allsop notes that these days people want clean, unfussy kitchens. “The secret to maintaining this look is to maximise storage solutions. One way to achieve this is to utilise the space underneath cabinets for storage. The dog’s bowls, for example, can be hidden from sight and using a soft-close pull-out mechanism brought out when needed.” Maya Herholdt agrees: “More drawers are included for maximum use of space, easy accessibility and to create a more

comfortable environment to work in. The days of scratching around in cupboards on your hands and knees are thankfully over.”

4 MODERN COUNTRY

It seems that, while open-plan living remains in vogue, people are opting for a softer approach and so comfort is key. People feel too much white is too clinical and too much wood too dark. The solution? Wendy Filmler of ELK says, “I’m finding that clients want a combination of ultra-modern and country style to soften the high-gloss feel. Country style with satin-finish Duco is

also making a comeback.” Maya Herholdt adds, “The current trend is an all-white kitchen with a contrasting splashback and accessories such as a colourful kettle, toaster or even a free-standing stove to add that zing of colour and break up the white.”

5 TOP OF THE CLASS

Worktops just got sleeker. According to ELK designer Ryno Uys, by playing around with the thickness of a worktop, designers can create a light, fresh, more modern-looking kitchen. “A thinner rather than heavier worktop is also cheaper. Using Caesarstone 20mm, Neolith 10mm and other engineered options mean no extra material charge or additional labour costs on mitre joins. But, when you use these thinner options, especially in contemporary kitchens, don’t forget to keep the ‘overhang’ on the front flush with the cabinet doors or you will ruin the aesthetic.”

SOURCE EasyLife Kitchens 0861 EASYLIFE (32795433) or easylifekitchens.co.za

winter patios

WARM reception

While we associate patios with long summer days, there's no reason they can't be cosy areas that you can enjoy in winter too, as these two comfy spaces show



ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Durban interior decorator Lisa Walters enclosed the patio of her sea-facing home to create an all-weather living area



“MY PATIO WAS furnished with bachelor-style sofas and furnishings when I married my husband Dean,” says Lisa. “We seldom used this space because, as is common with seaside homes, it was always dusty and dirty no matter how hard we tried to keep it clean. It seemed a pity not to use it as it has fabulous sea views and Durban’s climate is so good.”

HOW LISA'S PATIO WENT FROM NEGLECTED TO WELL USED

“The most significant change we made was to remove the wooden Mauritian blinds and enclose the patio with aluminium windows and stacking doors,” explains Lisa. “This was a huge expense and most of our budget went here, but it was by far the best change we could’ve made. It’s transformed our patio into an additional living and dining space that can be used year round; the doors between the lounge

and this area are now permanently kept open creating a seamless flow that’s ideal for entertaining.”

Lisa had a white slip cover made for one of Dean’s original sofas and brought in a new sofa, coffee table, a pair of occasional chairs and matching ottomans as well as accessories in a warm palette of blush and gold. “I was adamant about setting it up as a proper lounge that could be decorated with accessories and lovely fabrics that would tie in with the rest of our home. We added these things slowly, though, as we’d both rather purchase quality furnishings than quickly fill up a space,” she says.

“NOW OUR PATIO IS the most used living area in our home,” says Lisa. “We can open all the doors and windows and feel like we are sitting outside, or keep the doors closed in bad weather. Dean and I both say it was the best alteration we’ve ever made.” ▷



OPPOSITE PAGE: Lisa and Dean enclosed their patio with windows and stacking doors so they’d be able to use this area year round. As the furniture and accessories are now protected from the elements, Lisa was able to create a cosy living space. The coffee table is from Cécile & Boyd, and the ottomans and occasional chairs were custom-made by Lisa Walters Interiors. **THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** ● The dining table is a popular spot for family gatherings. The table is from Velvet Home and Living and the chairs were custom-made by Lisa Walters Interiors. ● The addition of accessories gives the patio a decorated feel. The wicker cabinet is from Inside Out Home Boutique.

SOURCES Cécile & Boyd

cecileandboyds.com **Inside Out Home Boutique** info@insideouthb.co.za **Lisa Walters Interiors** 083 703 1199 **Velvet Home and Living** velvethomeandliving.com



STYLISHLY INVITING

Katrin Herrmann-Van Dyk of Hertex recently restyled her Cape patio to make it more cosy, especially in the chilly, wet winter months

“MY PATIO WAS full of potential,” says Katrin. “When we built our home we designed this space to be used all year round. The picture windows offered gorgeous views of the surrounding countryside while keeping the Cape winter rains out and we included a huge wood-burning fireplace to ensure this area could be enjoyed on even the coldest days. The only changes needed were to rearrange the furniture to create a better layout and to add a few new furnishings, art and accessories for warmth and interest.”

HOW HER PATIO WENT FROM DULL TO SNUG The first thing Katrin did was to replace her existing armchairs and wrought-iron bench with a plush sofa

and high-back wicker chair; she also added a new side table and a larger coffee table. She rearranged the furniture to ensure that the built-in window seats would form an integral part of the seating area, which is anchored by a vibrant yellow rug. A trio of Kurt Pio artworks were hung above the fireplace to make the most of this focal point, while the built-in concrete countertop alongside was accessorised with plants and collectables. To finish off the look, Katrin included an abundance of cushions on the window seat, chair and sofa for extra comfort and added a faux fur throw for a touch of luxury.

“OUR PATIO IS NOW a space where we love to relax, even on chilly winter evenings. The new furniture and accessories have made all the difference,” says Katrin. **GH**

and high-back wicker chair; she also added

OPPOSITE PAGE: The deep-buttoned sofa in Prado Cement is dressed in cushions in Glazed Panama Mist, Peony Marigold and Enchanted Glow, all from Hertex. **THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** ● The faux fur throw is in Coyote from Hertex. The sofa was made by Wunders. ● Cushions from Hertex ensure the high-back wicker chair is a comfy spot to relax beside the fire. A new blind in Brushed Naval and Brushed Gravel from Hertex finishes off the window and adds an extra layer for warmth. The side table is from Morgan Associates and the basket from Weylandts.

SOURCES Hertex hertex.co.za
Kurt Pio kurtpio.co.za
Morgan Associates morganassociates.co.za
Weylandts weylandts.co.za
Wunders wunders.co.za



upcycling project



DIY in half a morning

FRAMED!

Taryn Jacobson, owner and creative director of Tiakaya Design and Living Room, a roof garden oasis and eco café in Jozi, shows just how easy it is to transform an old photo frame into a living centrepiece

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

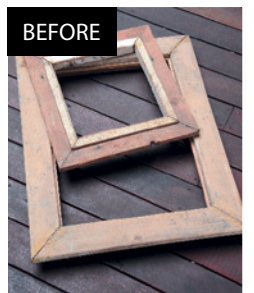
- An old frame that's at least 4–6cm deep
- Superglue or a staple gun
- A piece of chicken wire or plastic mesh that's slightly larger than the glass that would fit into the frame
- A piece of hard, waterproof PVC plastic that's big enough to cover the entire back of the frame
- A drill
- Potting soil mixed with river sand
- A small water spray bottle
- A variety of indigenous succulents

HOW TO DO IT:

1. Lay the frame face down on the table and, if necessary, remove the backboard and glass. Using superglue or staples, attach the mesh to the inside back where the glass panel would usually sit.



BEFORE



TARYN'S TIPS

- You can use a shallower frame if you'd like, but you'll need to build a planting box to add on to the back to increase its depth as can be seen in the main photo.
- If using succulent cuttings that already have roots, use a pin to gently 'tease' the roots out while planting them in your upcycled frame planter.



2. Keep the frame face down and attach the piece of hard PVC plastic to the outside back using superglue, effectively turning the frame into a planter box. Allow the glue to dry. Drill a 5mm-wide hole in the PVC for drainage.
3. Turn the frame right side up. Scatter the soil mix through the mesh, occasionally spraying it with water and shaking the frame gently, until it's evenly filled with soil.
4. Take cuttings of your desired succulents and stick them through the mesh into the soil. Leave the planter frame flat in a bright spot out of direct sun for a few weeks until the clippings grow roots.
5. Spray the plants weekly; you'll know it's enough when water starts dripping out the drainage hole. **GH**

SOURCES Living Room and Tiakaya Design 061 402 2843, info@livingroomjozi.co.za, taryn@tiakaya.co.za or livingroomjozi.co.za

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the green room

YELLOW THERE

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AND SUPPLIED PRODUCTS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND PRICES WERE CHECKED AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT. SEE PAGE 10.

SETTING THE TONE

Gisela Alston of Design For Living gives her tips on how to make your outdoor living area a little cosier this winter.

- Install a metal curtain rod with rings. Then add a curtain in canvas or an outdoor fabric that can handle the sun and the effects of the weather. These drapes can be drawn to keep out the chill and add colour and cosiness to the area.
- Introduce a rug to create instant warmth; there are some durable outdoor rugs on the market in the most amazing colours and designs.
- Change the colours and fabrics of the scatter cushions to terracotta, rich navy or shades of yellow like burnt ochre, or for a really luxuriously warm feel, introduce some faux fur cushions.
- Add a variety of throws, in warm colours or in faux fur, to really make you want to cuddle up on the sofa. Have a large cane basket in a corner of the patio filled with cuddly blankets rolled ready for use.
- Large candles in huge large glass containers will make a statement on the coffee table as will a floor lamp the evenings. **GH**



Lara occasional **chair**, R1 495, Weylandts.



Jute Chindi natural **rug** (160cm x 230cm), R599,99, Mr Price Home.



Studded **plant pot**, R400, Ceramic Factory.



Chenille dark denim **throw** (150cm x 180cm), R199,99, Mr Price Home.



Sofa Epoxy arm **sofa**, R11 590, LIM.



Sheffield **stool**, R840, Tin Table.



Yellow Chevron scatter **cushion cover**, R220 (excl. inner), Zana.

Geometric links **scatter cushion**, R119,99, Mr Price Home.



Chenille gold **throw** (150cm x 200cm), R389,90, Volpes.



Eva Solo My Teapot 750ml **teapot**, R675, Yuppiefchef.



Old Pine Scandinavian Style **coffee table**, R8 495, Trade Secret.

SOURCES Ceramic Factory ceramicfactory.co.za Design For Living 011 804 5048 or 083 263 1177 LIM lim.co.za

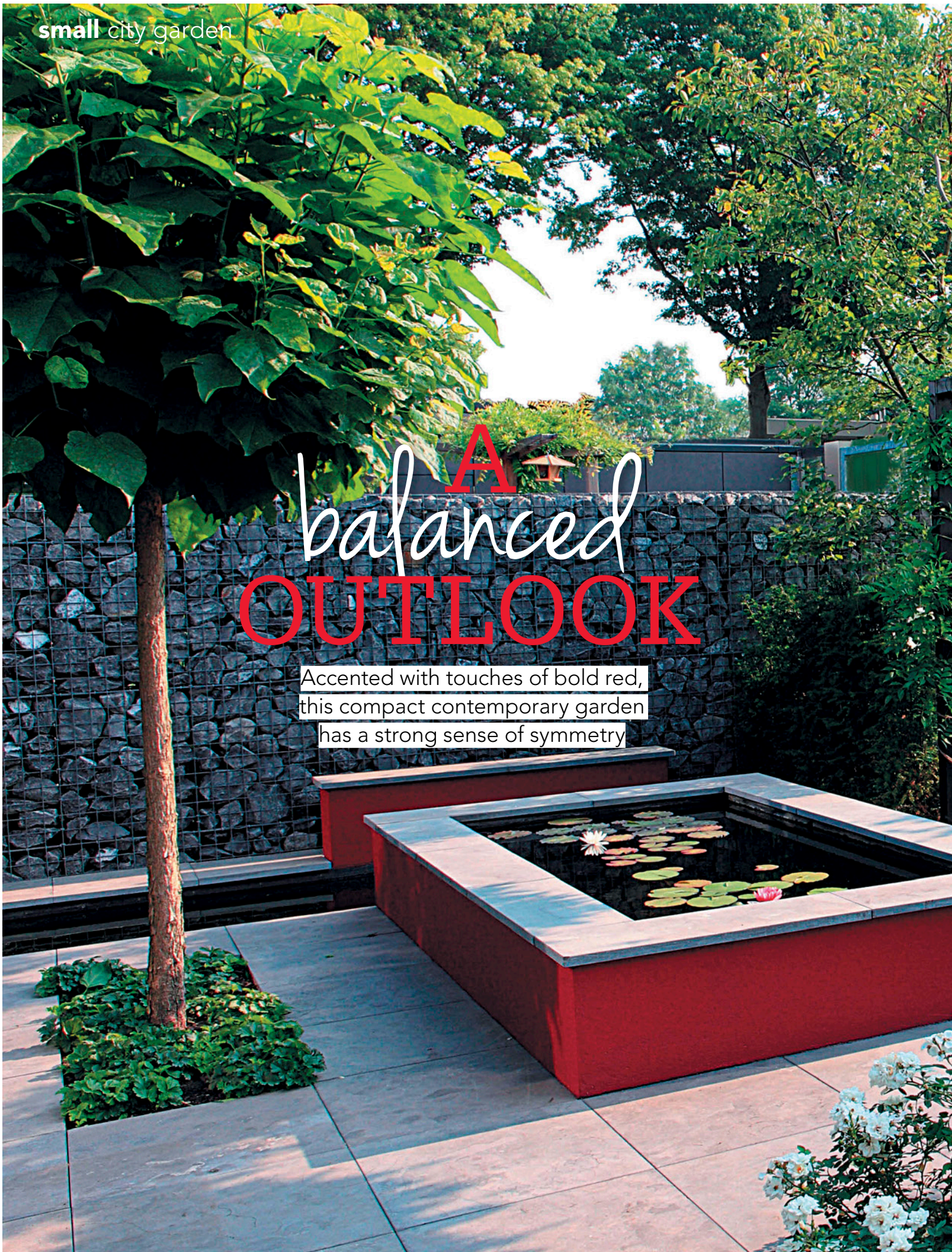
Mr Price Home mrphome.com Tin Table tintable.net Trade Secret trade-secret.co.za Volpes volpes.co.za

Weylandts weylandts.co.za Yuppiefchef yuppiefchef.com Zana zanaproducts.co.za

small city garden

A balanced OUTLOOK

Accented with touches of bold red,
this compact contemporary garden
has a strong sense of symmetry



A photograph of a garden featuring a wooden dining table and chairs on a paved patio. To the left, there are large white hydrangea bushes. In the foreground, there are white roses and tall grasses. A large green trellis structure is on the right, and a stone wall is visible in the background.

Who lives here

Thea, who works in the health care industry and Harry, a retired builder.

The garden

A low-maintenance garden with a 90m² front section and a 60m² area at the back with an outdoor seating area. ▷

By dividing the space into sections and using vertical elements like arches and trees, the garden was made to look larger than it really is.



Gardens should always be an extension of your home and in this small city garden the concept was taken one step further. Usually houses are placed on one side of a stand so that there's a definite main garden. In this instance the house was dead centre so the garden was designed to circle the house and be visible through the large windows on both sides.

While there are different features on each side of the garden, they were designed and positioned to balance each other. There's a raised reflecting pool in the front which is matched at the back by a raised flower bed. The outdoor dining area framed by metal arches is reflected in the secluded seating area on the other side of the house.

As the garden is small, different design tricks were used to create the illusion of space. One is a change in levels like the steps that lead down to the sunken dining area, another is the use of vertical structures and trimmed trees to lead

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ● Wisteria trained over an arch frames the seating area. ● The reflecting pool is home to a number of water lilies. ● Ceramic planters add bold red accents linking the garden to the home's decor. ● The sound of water trickling from three metal spouts muffles the traffic noises from the nearby road.



the eye upwards detracting from the proximity of the boundary walls. In addition, rills on both sides of the house give the impression that one continuous water feature runs underneath it.

Taking inspiration from the owners' red kitchen, this colour was used as an accent to link the garden with the house. The walls of the raised bed and reflecting pool were painted a vibrant cherry, while ruby planters pop against the textured gabions cladding the boundary wall.

To complement the strong structure of the garden, the number of different plants used was kept to a minimum. These consist of hardy, low-maintenance perennials like lavender, Japanese anemones, white floribunda roses, ornamental grasses, bamboo and climbers like wisteria.

Although the topiaries, roses and hydrangeas need occasional pruning the rest looks after itself making the garden a low-maintenance space that can be used for relaxing and entertaining year round. **GH**



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ● Fast-growing bamboo was planted to create privacy for the sitting area. ● The geometric layout of the garden can be seen in this view from above. ● Trimmed trees draw the eye upwards. Gabions add interesting texture to the boundary walls.

Who lives here

Business owners Anne and Mark Luksich and their five dogs Shortie, Scarfie, Donsie, Poodie and Bobby.

The garden

A structured country garden planted with predominantly indigenous species that blends in with the surrounding farmland.



Home on **THE RANGE**

This low-maintenance country garden was designed not only to complement the Luksichs' modern house but also the fabulous view of the rural surroundings



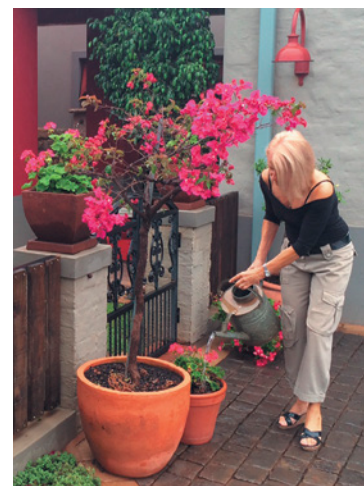
Although the term modern farm garden may sound self-contradictory, this is exactly what Mark and Anne Luksich have achieved on this estate overlooking Hartbeespoort Dam. Left with a bare plot after their contemporary farmhouse-style home was built, they wanted a low-maintenance garden filled with predominantly indigenous species, as specified in the estate's guidelines. However they realised that any plantings should also complement the modern design of their home and link it to the natural surroundings – all in all quite a complicated task.

Help came in the form of landscaper Craig de Necker of The Friendly Plant who advised them on both the layout and the plantings. “The garden has a large front area, tapering towards the back like a wedge of cheese, the back boundary wall being only 10m in length,” explains Anne. “As the back garden looks out over a field towards the dam and mountains, we needed plants that would provide some privacy, but still allow us to enjoy the beautiful view from our patio.”

Here Craig introduced shrubs like *Dychoriste thunbergiflora* and *Euryops pectinatus*, which offer some screening as well as colourful flowers. He also designed a stone staircase with an integrated

OPPOSITE PAGE: *Cotyledon orbiculata* and gazanias bring colour to this low-maintenance, indigenous pavement garden.

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ● Vygies and agapanthus bloom in the front garden in summer alongside *Pappea capensis* (jacket plum) and *Sclerocarya birrea* (marula) trees. ● Anne is an active gardener. ● The pavement garden features low-maintenance indigenous plants like gazanias, *C. orbiculata*, aloes, wild garlic and silvery *Dymondia margaretae*. ● The stone cladding and decorative metal gate at the entrance emphasise the garden's country theme.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ● Low green shrubs and perennials, such as strelitzia, dietes and agapanthus were used along the boundary of the garden so as not to obstruct the lovely view of the dam and distant mountains. ● This retaining wall doubles as a concrete bench providing a spot to sit and admire the view. ● A stone fountain and an old tin watering can add farm-style chic. ● Evergreen *Felicia amelloides*, *Aloe cooperii* and *Delosperma cooperii* soften the paved viewing area in the back garden.

bench which makes the walk down towards the field easier. "This is a perfect viewpoint and we often see blesbok grazing on the estate and jackals roaming at night," explains Anne.

When designing the swimming pool, Craig recommended a circular shape that's reminiscent of a water reservoir, a common sight on farms in South Africa. He then introduced natural hard landscaping materials such as fieldstone cladding, wooden fencing and stone pavers which tie in with the farm theme and give the garden an authentic country look.

Screening from the road and protection from the setting sun was essential, so Craig incorporated *Buddleja saligna* and *Indigofera frutescens* in the front garden. "These indigenous trees are perfect for narrow spaces," explains Craig. "Overall the garden features about 70 different species of local plants and trees. We chose aloes for their structural qualities and the bright colour they bring to the garden in winter. They also echo the strong red used on the exterior of the house."

Other plants include grasses like *Chondropetalum tectorum*, which rustle pleasingly in the breeze adding another sensory

dimension to the garden. Agapanthus were planted mainly in the pool area – their foliage provides low-growing greenery in the bed, and the purple and white flowers pop up for some added height and movement in summer. Hebe varieties were planted near the pool and in the narrow spaces along the side of the house for their interesting leaf structures and attractive purple, pink and white flowers. "As the garden experiences very low winter temperatures, we had to be careful not to use plants that were frost tender," explains Craig.

"As avid gardeners, what we love about the garden Craig designed for us is that although structured, it gives us the flexibility to add plants on an ongoing basis without having to worry about whether they'll fit in with the existing plantings. We aren't the kind of people to sit back and just admire a garden, we like to get involved," explains Anne. "But we also like the fact that it's mainly indigenous, and as we travel often, the garden can look after itself." 🌱

SOURCE The Friendly Plant 082 805 0910 or thefriendlyplant.co.za

Today Spartacus can run free!

I would just like to share with Regal that thanks to your wonderful Joint Health Remedy, today our darling fur baby Boston Terrier, Spartacus, was able to run freely and happily in the park. He was only a baby of eight months when he needed to have surgical repair due to Medial Patellar Luxation in his right back leg knee and from then on he always struggled to walk on that leg. We tried lots of different products, exercises and rub-on creams to try get our baby's leg fully functional again but nothing seemed to make a big difference. We just wanted our fur baby to be able to run and play like any other puppy would be able to – he had always been such a happy, active little boy. When I was at a pet expo earlier in this year, I spoke to someone at the Regal Pet product



stand and bought a bottle of your Joint Health Remedy in the hope it may make Spartacus's life a little easier at least. Well, I can tell you it did far more than that! By doing daily exercise, coupled with using your tonic as directed twice a day, Spartacus does not only have a fully functional leg again but he was able to dash around the park, splash through the shallow water creeks and successfully chase after his ball today on all four legs. Regal, you have truly changed our family's life and, at about a year-and-a-half of age, Spartacus is the happy, crazy, active little boy he used to be and always wanted to be. Thank you for changing his today and tomorrow.

Kind Regards, Claire Brown
Johannesburg



Spartacus



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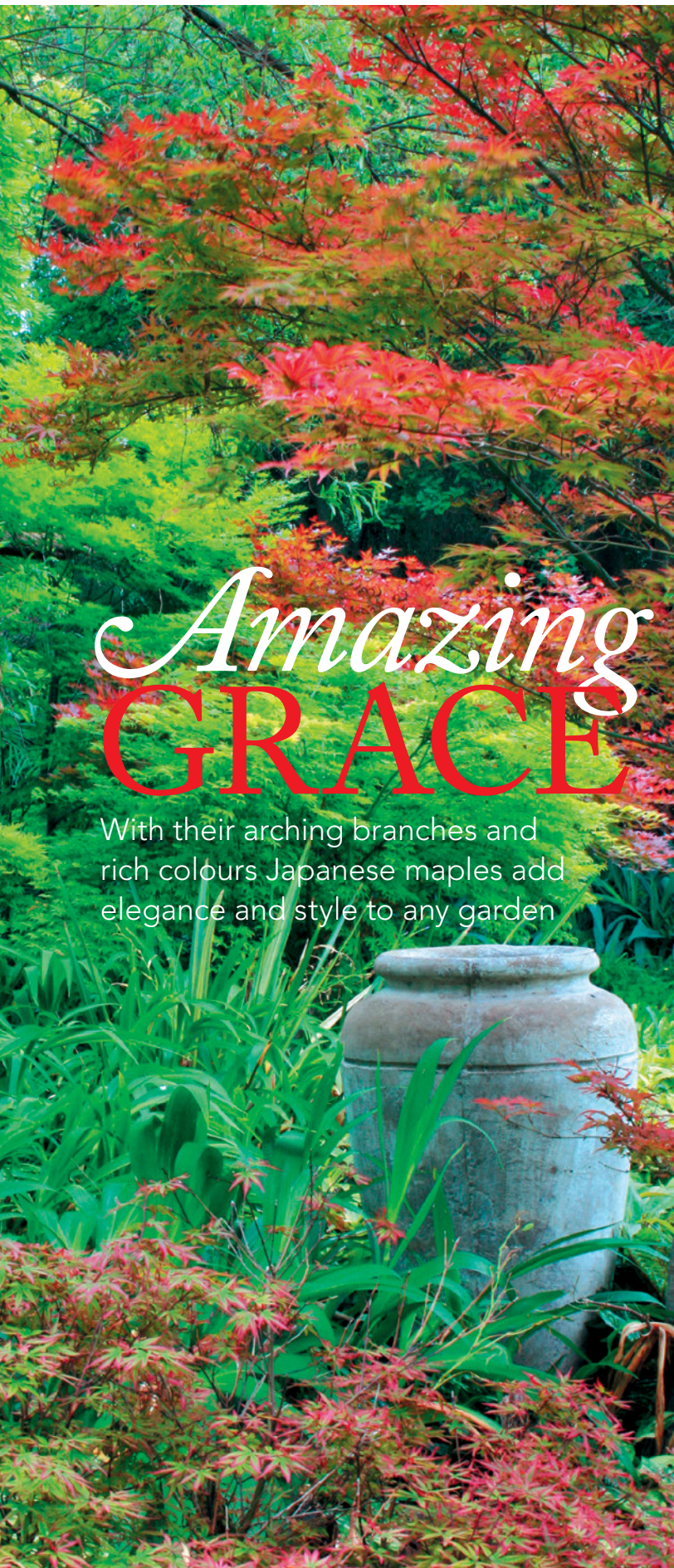
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Amazing GRACE

With their arching branches and rich colours Japanese maples add elegance and style to any garden



Although they're known as Japanese maples (*Acer palmatum*) these deciduous, oriental plants also originated in nearby temperate areas like China and Korea. However it was the Japanese who started developing their remarkable cultivars and forms as far back as the 16th century. Today new cultivars are bred in the USA, Britain, Holland, New Zealand and South Africa. "Their shape and delicate form is naturally appealing," says Laurie Railton of Sandford Heights Nursery which specialises in these trees. "And they don't need to be pruned or bent to maintain this."

6 good reasons to grow them

- They have beautiful foliage, their leaves vary from bold and hand-like to fine and almost fern-like. In spring, their new growth comes in many shades like chartreuse, plum, red, gold and even pink, while in autumn, the leaves turn gold, fiery orange and blazing red.
- Their graceful shape adds a delicate, oriental feel.
- They look good all year round. Even in winter, the shape of their bare branches is striking.
- As they're slow growers, they're ideal for small gardens.
- They thrive in containers.
- Once established, they're hardy and need little maintenance.

TEXT MARIANNE ALEXANDER PHOTOGRAPHS MARIANNE ALEXANDER,
LOREN SHIRLEY-CARR AND BARBARA KNOX-SHAW



A. palmatum 'Trompenburg'



A. palmatum var. *dissectum* 'Crimson Queen'



A. palmatum 'Katsura'



Acers at a glance:

SIZE: Varies from dwarf to 6m high.

PLANTING TIME: Anytime of the year; spring is a good time but root growth is encouraged when the soil is still warm in early autumn.

BEST SEASON: All year round; spectacular in autumn.

POSITION: Dappled or afternoon shade; protect them from drying winds.

SOIL: Well-drained loam, preferably slightly acid.

WATER NEEDS: Water deeply and regularly until they're well-established. Keep the soil moist and mulch them well.

FROST TOLERANCE: Good.

Growing tips

IN THE GARDEN: As they originate in temperate zones, they prefer a cool climate. They do best in summer-rainfall areas like the KZN Midlands, the Highveld, Tzaneen, Hogsback and Elgin which experience some frost and are not too dry. They won't thrive in dry, hot inland areas unless you have a very specific microclimate. They need slightly acidic, well-drained loam or sandy soil enriched with plenty of good organic matter, such as that found under trees, but they'll grow in most soils provided it's not too wet or alkaline. Keep the soil moist and mulch them well. As they have surface roots, try not to disturb the soil around their base. Plant them in filtered shade under the canopy of larger trees, where there's good light and they'll be protected from the hot afternoon sun. Keeping them sheltered from scorching hot winds is essential.

IN CONTAINERS: The advantage of growing acers in pots is that you can move them around until you find the best position. You're also able to easily give them the acid soil they prefer, which should have a high organic content, hold moisture and drain well; a ready-made mix for azaleas works well. Keep the soil moist, and if you experience severe frost, wrap the container in bubble wrap during the winter months.

FEEDING: Plant expert Jan van Bergen recommends feeding them in late spring or early summer with a slow-release fertiliser like Multifeed or Osmocote or a liquid fertiliser like Nitrosol.

PRUNING: As these plants naturally develop into attractively shaped trees they seldom need trimming; opening up the centre of the tree can enhance their shape. Prostrate, bushy types need no trimming.

PROBLEMS: Leaf scorch is caused by too much sun and exposure to dry winds. Too little light can result in an absence of the rich autumn colours with plum and red leaves fading to green. ▷



A. palmatum 'Atropurpureum'



A. palmatum 'Orido Nishiki'



A. japonicum 'Aureum'

Choosing maples

Always buy named grafted forms or cultivars so you'll know they'll be the same as the parent plant. Choose between *Acer palmatum*, which are small trees, and the many shrubby, dissected or cut leaf *Acer palmatum* var. *dissectum*. Among the latter are cultivars with variegated or coloured foliage. Grower Leon Scholtz of Bristlecone Nursery says, "*A. palmatum* cultivars with less variegation and darker foliage do best in sunny conditions, but those with purple foliage lose their leaf colour in shade."

HERE ARE 7 OF THE BEST

1 *A. palmatum* var. *dissectum* is a dwarf variety with finely divided leaves and a weeping stature. It grows to 1-1,5m high.

2 *A. palmatum* 'Trompenburg' is a favourite of Jessie Walton of Keurbos Nursery in Elgin, who adds that this small 3-4m-high tree does really well in this area. The boldly serrated leaves with their slightly curled lobes start off a deep purple red that's almost chocolate and then after fading to a bronzy red-green in summer, take on a stunning crimson shade in autumn.

3 *A. palmatum* 'Katsura' grows to 2-5m high and the leaves start off as yellowish orange with pink margins in summer, fade to green and then turn orange in autumn. "This variety is tops in my opinion," says plant expert Barbara Knox-Shaw, who hosts the Rare Plant Sale in Stellenbosch. "It's a vigorous grower and provides colour in both spring and autumn. Plus there's never any sign of disease."

4 *A. palmatum* var. *dissectum* 'Crimson Queen' is one of the dwarf (1-1,5m high) cut leaf or lace leaf maples. A reliable bushy, multiple-stemmed plant with pendulous branches, its fine leaves keep their amazing burgundy colour throughout summer. "Although it will take full sun in some gardens, it may need afternoon shelter in others," says Jessie.

5 *A. palmatum* 'Atropurpureum' is a small elegant tree, 4-6m high; its deeply lobed, red-purple leaves become a bronzy green in summer then turn a brilliant red in autumn.

6 *A. palmatum* 'Orido Nishiki' is an upright 3m-high tree and is among those with variegated pink, white and green foliage. Others include *A. palmatum* 'Versicolor' and 'Roseo Marginatum'.



DID YOU KNOW?

In Canada maple syrup is made from the sap of *Acer saccharum*.

7 *Acer japonicum* 'Aureum' is a small, 2-3m-high tree with unusual lime-green leaves which become a darker golden-green with age and then take on shades of orange or red in autumn. It needs protection from drying winds.

Landscaping with Japanese maples

- Japanese maples look wonderful in a woodland setting combined with other acid-loving plants like camellias and azaleas.
- They make excellent feature plants in a courtyard or entranceway.
- Plant them near a water feature so the branches arch gracefully over it.
- They look stunning when backlit by the early morning sun so position them with this in mind. **GEH**

SOURCES Bristlecone Nursery 012 207 9904 or info@bristlecone.co.za Jan van Bergen 082 512 1494 Keurbos Nursery 021 849 8714 or jessie@keurbos.co.za Rare Plant Sale Barbara Knox-Shaw 021 844 0154 or 078 021 2101 Sandford Heights Nursery and Teagarden 082 808 2450 or railtons.at.hbg@gmail.com



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Tribe478T_E

small cape town garden

HEDGING *their bets*

Despite its awkward shape and poor soil, this Tokai garden was transformed into a stylish series of garden rooms

A photograph of a garden featuring a central pyramid-shaped topiary structure. The garden is filled with various plants, including tall green stalks with blue flowers (thrifts) and red flowers (Lychnis coronaria). The ground is covered with reddish-brown mulch. In the background, there are trees and a white building.

Who lives here

Anton and Caryl Hochleutner, their daughter Lexi and two Maltese terriers, Lolly and Rosie.

The garden

An awkward, triangular-shaped garden divided into a number of separate garden rooms. ▸

Central to the front garden is this neat enclosed space around a pyramid topiary where a succession of perennials in white and purple including throatwort, *Trachelium caeruleum* and *Lychnis coronaria* come into their own in summer.

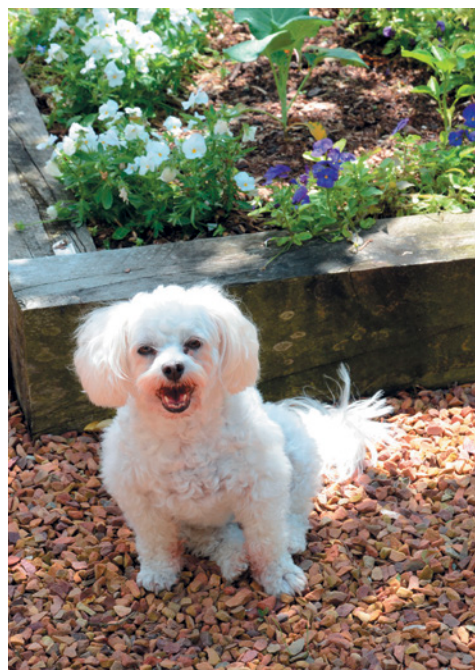


When Anton and Caryl Hochleutner bought this property in Tokai near Cape Town, enormous trees shaded the garden, which featured a patchy lawn and only very hardy plants like the common periwinkle and agapanthus survived. The poor soil and awkward triangular shape presented further problems.

Once the couple had renovated the original Spanish-style house, giving it a more elegant Georgian appearance, they had a better idea of how the garden should look. “We wanted it to be an extension of the formal style of the house,” explains Carol. Over many discussions and cups of coffee with landscaper Julie Lovemore, the Hochleutners, both passionate gardeners, made plans and came up with a whole new design for the property.

Their first task was to fill in the enormous, dated swimming pool that took up most of the back corner (it was replaced with a new one off the north-facing outdoor living area). For this now bare corner, Julie came up with the idea of using cobbles in concentric circles, which together with a row of pleached *Viburnum sinensis* and topiary spheres, disguises the angles created by the boundary walls and gives the area a stylish, minimalist look.

Also on their list was to make the entrance more appealing and welcoming, which they did by planting a mini forest of birch trees adding a topiary that resembles a giant balustrade to invite the visitor in.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

- Hedges play an important role in the Hochleutners' garden. At the back of the house, this cleverly positioned eugenia hedge (Australian brush cherry) provides privacy from the road and hides the driveway.
- Lolly, the little Maltese terrier is a constant companion in the garden.
- Miniature agapanthus form a guard of honour on either side of the path leading to this garden room. Gravelled floors are a unifying element and are easy to maintain.



They then turned their attention to what was a play area for their daughter Lexi now a teenager. Now fitted with a deck, it's become an outdoor living area surrounded by raised boxes filled with colourful flowers.

Between the entrance and the formal front garden, Julie suggested they create a formal hedged flower garden with colourful summer-blooming varieties. As Carol's favourite colour is blue she had no hesitation in deciding on a blue and white scheme. She chose a variety of blue flowers including scabious, heliotrope, statice, pansies and violas with white accents provided by hydrangeas, escallonia, gaura, Chilean potato vine and 'Iceberg' roses.

As Anton believes that leaf textures, sizes and shapes are also important, they added elephant's ears, wild rhubarb and

ornamental grasses to the mix. This has resulted in eye-catching beds offset by an evergreen backdrop.

Also adding structure and sculptural interest are the clipped hedges used to divide the various garden rooms and the topiary shapes that draw you into the garden. As it's fast growing, Australian bush cherry (*Syzygium paniculatum* syn. *Eugenia paniculata*) was used for the taller hedges. For the smaller hedges, Julie recommended dune crowberry (*Searsia crenata* syn. *Rhus crenata*), an indigenous evergreen. The addition of loads of compost has transformed the poor soil and contributed to the abundant growth.

Today the garden is a fascinating series of rooms that invite you in to explore. "We just had to make the best of what we had and we love how it's turned out," say Anton and Carol. **GH**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

- Installed by Envirodeck, the deck is a well-used outdoor living area surrounded by raised beds planted with herbs, vegetables and annuals in shades of blue.
- Neat balls of westringia near the swimming pool create a change in shape and texture.
- Topiary balls of eugenia (Australian brush cherry) mark the entrance to the garden; a winding gravel path leads through a little birch forest up to the front stoep.

SOURCES Envirodeck envirodeck.co.za
Julie Lovemore 083 652 7502
 or lovemore.julie@gmail.com

sowing spring annuals

So sow easy



Thought you'd left it too late to grow spring annuals from seed? If you act quickly and plant these last-minute, cool-season beauties now, you'll be able to enjoy their pretty blooms when the weather warms up

Easy to grow and fast to flower, the five pretty annuals we've recommended should start producing flowers within 6–13 weeks. They're real money savers as you get loads from a single seed packet, costing less than a tray of six seedlings. If you're gardening along the KZN coast, where the weather is cooler in winter, but warm enough for summer annuals to grow, you can also sow spring-flowering fuchsia, nemesia and California poppies (*eschscholzia*) and some warm-season plants which thrive in cool winters like cleome, cosmos, marigolds and candytuft.

TIPS FOR SOWING SEEDS

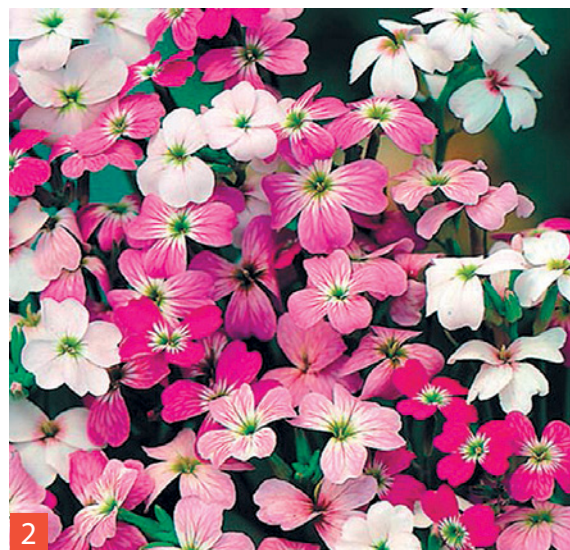
Although you can simply scatter seeds in your garden beds, prepping the soil first will give good results. Here's how to sow them, step-by-step:

- First remove any weeds and dig over the soil to a depth of 5–10cm incorporating some good compost to improve its structure.
- Rake the soil to remove lumps of earth; it should be as fine as possible so there's good contact between the seeds and the soil particles.
- Water lightly before sowing seeds.
- You can sow seeds in two ways: in curved drills, rather than straight lines, for a more pleasing effect; this will also help you distinguish between the seedlings and the weeds; or sprinkle seeds freely in drifts to give a more natural look. Check the seed packet for the correct planting depth.
- Cover the seeds with soil. Some gardeners gently tamp down the soil with a flat plank to ensure the seeds and the soil are in contact.
- Water with a very fine spray and keep constantly moist until the seeds have germinated.
- Sprinkle over a light mulch.
- Keep the seeds watered until the plants are established.
- Thin out seedlings when they are about 4–8cm high.

SEEDLING CARE

Marlaen Straathof of seed company Ball Straathof has the following advice:

- Protect very small seedlings with a light mulch.
- Water in the morning so that leaves are dry by evening to lessen the risk of fungal diseases and frost damage.
- Feed seedlings two weeks after germination with a liquid fertiliser like Margaret Roberts Organic Supercharger and thereafter once a month. Even though plant growth is slower in winter, seedlings need nutrients to grow and flower well.



5 LAST-MINUTE, SUN-LOVING, COOL-SEASON ANNUALS TO SOW NOW

1. *Calendulas* (*Calendula officinalis*)

The bold, multi-layered petals of these cheerful daisy-like flowers, also known as pot marigolds, not only bring a ray of sunshine to the garden in winter but are edible and make good cut flowers. The plants, which have bright green leaves, develop into neat, compact bushes; they come in a choice of yellow, gold, apricot and bright orange. Perfect for window boxes, containers and sunny borders they're useful in the kitchen garden too; they not only help repel pests but attract pollinators. They vary in size from 20cm high and include the 25cm-high Bon Bon and the 40cm-high Pacific Beauty series.

GROWING TIPS: Calendulas thrive in ordinary soil; cover their large, crescent-shaped seeds with 5–6cm of soil. Thin out seedlings to 20cm apart; a little less for the Bon Bon series. Pick flowers or deadhead regularly for a constant show.

GOOD TO KNOW: Height: 20–40cm. Flowering time: 11–13 weeks.

2. *Virginian stocks* (*Cheiranthus maritimus*)

Formerly known as *Malcomia maritima*, these low-growing plants are covered in a mass of small flowers in pink, white, mauve and lavender. They're perfect for filling in gaps in the border, as a neat edging at the front of flower beds or between paving stones. They are a picture when planted between spring-flowering bulbs even providing support for those prone to toppling over. They also look great under rose bushes. Despite their name, they come from the Mediterranean coast, not Virginia in the USA.

GROWING TIPS: Lightly cover the seeds with about 4–5mm soil. Thin out if overcrowded so they're about 15–20cm apart; use the seedlings you've thinned out to fill gaps elsewhere in the garden or pop a few into pots.

GOOD TO KNOW: Height: 20–25cm. Flowering time: 6–8 weeks

3. *California poppies* (*Eschscholzia californica*)

These bright and cheerful annuals come in orange, the most common colour and yellow. The recently released Thai Silk range has double flowers in sunset pastels like cream, pink, red and lilac-mauve; all colours which show up well against their ferny grey green foliage. They're best planted with ornamental grasses and prairie-like plants like cornflowers and nemesias,

but also look good massed in borders and in gravel gardens. They're ideal for planting under bare roses during winter.

GROWING TIPS: These hardy, easy-going cool season annuals are at their best in spring. They need full sun, grow well in winter-rainfall areas and thrive in poor, even sandy, soils. Don't over fertilise them if you have rich soil. Although drought tolerant, they need periodic watering in summer-rainfall areas. Allow some poppies to set seed so they'll reappear the following year.

GOOD TO KNOW: Height: 20–40cm. Flowering time: 10–11 weeks. ▷



4. *Linaria* (*Linaria maroccana*)

These cottage garden annuals have fine ferny foliage and come in a charming melange of bright and pastel colours including crimson, yellow, orange, lavender, white and pink. Also known as mini snapdragons or toadflax, the 'Fairy Bouquet Mix' produces a profusion of miniature spikes of little snapdragon-like flowers, hence their common name. Use them in semi-shade as well as sunny areas, to fill in bare spots, especially around roses or among tall bulbs like anemone and ranunculus, or mass plant them in your flower garden.



GROWING TIPS:

As linaria seeds are exceptionally fine, mix them with some fine, sifted sand or maize meal for even distribution; some gardeners find

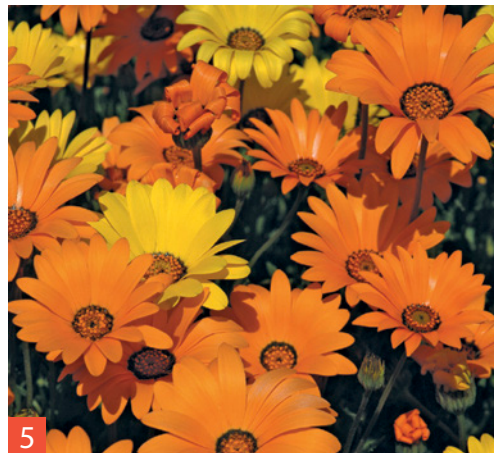
shaking the seeds out of an old spice bottle gives a more even spread. Press the seeds into the soil and barely cover with 3mm of soil; thin out if necessary.

GOOD TO KNOW: Height: 25–35cm. Flowering time: 8–10 weeks.

5. *African or Namaqualand daisies* (*Dimorphotheca sinuate*)

Also known as Namakwalandse Madeliefies, these sun-loving, indigenous daisies come in orange, yellow, pastel apricot and cream as well as in packs of white. Eye-catching when planted en masse, they're undemanding but need full sun to open fully and they always turn their faces towards the sun; they're at their best in a north-facing bed viewed from the south.

GROWING TIPS: They produce two types of seed, some are like little sticks, others are disc-like and papery. As they tend to be blown or washed away sow them on a still, sunny day; they grow well in sandy, well-drained soil. Be quite generous with your seeds and either sprinkle or rake some soil over them,



watering immediately with a fine spray. Keep them moist and later thin them out to 20cm apart. By sowing batches at 2–3 week intervals you'll extend the display through to September. If protection is needed from seed-eating birds, use fine netting.

GOOD TO KNOW:

Height: 30cm. Flowering time: 12 weeks. GH

MIXED SEED PACKETS

Seed companies have taken the hassle out of planting meadow-style beds by producing packets of mixed seeds. These just need to be scattered on pre-prepared ground, covered and kept watered for a stunning, colourful show. The annuals have been specially selected to flower at different times for non-stop flowering to provide more colours and a longer display. When planting with scatter packs, don't weed until the plants are well established. After that they need little care.

Try these mixed seed packs:

- **Kirchhoff's Scatterings of Africa** has a blend of Namaqualand and African daisies, gazanias and arctotis. They'll even grow in poorer sandy soil, but need sun.
- **Kirchhoff's Winter Dwarf** includes some of the plants suggested in this feature like Virginian stocks, calendulas and Namaqualand daisies as well as cornflowers, *Chrysanthemum paludosum*, ursinias, poppies and many others.
- **Starke Ayres Winter Winners** includes *Bellis perennis*, calendula, dahlia 'Piccolo', California poppies, dwarf stocks, poppies, *Petunia multiflora*, violas and many others.
- **Mayford's Autumn and Winter** mixes contain more than 20 different flower types ranging in height from 30cm to 1m and start flowering within 7 weeks from sowing.



SOURCES Ball Straathof ballstraathof.co.za Kirchhoffs 011 794 2316 Mayfords 011 548 2800 or info.saf@sakata-eu.com Starke Ayres 011 748 3552

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Always wanted to grow veggies but don't have the space? Jane Warburton of Potager: Urban Garden Creations shows you how to use containers to turn a tiny courtyard into a kitchen garden in a weekend

What you'll need:

- **Wooden boxes** that are at least 20cm deep; alternatively use baskets or containers with drainage holes. To give your wooden planters a longer lifespan, Jane advises that you waterproof the interior of the box using a non-toxic waterproofing product like SelfCoat Clear Guard and seal the wood on the outside with a non-toxic oil or water-based sealant.
- **To make your own planter boxes**, use lengths of cedar or meranti (pine will warp

over time) and four aluminium brackets per planter. You'll also need a drill, screws, a hammer and nails and landscaping fabric or shade cloth.

● **A good soil mix.**

● **Edible plants.** June's a good time to plant perennial herbs such as lavender, rosemary and thyme plus lettuce seedlings, rocket, bok choy, baby spinach and mizuna. Add a few flowers; blooms like marigolds act as companion plants. (See box overleaf.)



How to do it:

1. MAKE A PLANTER BOX

"We made 1,2m x 80cm boxes with a depth of 22cm out of cedar and joined the four sides with aluminium brackets to hold them together," explains Jane. "Cedar planks were nailed to the bottom of each box to form a base with gaps left between them for drainage. Additional planks, turned on their sides, act as 'feet' allowing the boxes to be raised off the ground." Lastly, line the inside of the planters with the landscaping fabric or shade cloth to hold in the soil, but still allow water to drain through.

2. POSITION YOUR BOXES

"Choose a spot close to your kitchen so that you can pop out and pick fresh ingredients when you're cooking. Most herbs and veggies enjoy full sun, but in SA a full day of sun is generally too harsh for more tender plants like lettuce, so an area that is sunny for part of the day is best," says Jane.

If you're using more than one planter box, leave spaces between them so you can move them around when weeding and harvesting. Put the boxes in position before you fill them with soil.

3. ADD SOIL

"A combination of compost and loam mixed with a bit of vermiculite (which helps with water retention) and peat moss is best for herbs and veggies," says Jane. "Good garden mixes are available at most nurseries, but avoid potting soil, which is not suitable for vegetable seedlings."

4. PLANT THEM UP

Once you've selected your seedlings, Jane advises that you arrange them in your container to ensure you're happy with the overall composition before you start planting. Remember to position the largest plants at the back and to also take leaf texture, shape and colour into account to create an attractive look.

"You can plant herbs and veggies closer together in a container than you would in the ground. However, you'll need to pick herbs regularly as this acts as natural pruning," says Jane. "You can also add tripods to your containers and train plants like tomatoes, gem squash and beans up them to make the most of the available planting space."

"If you're using single pots, it's best to have one type of plant per pot, but in a larger planting box, companion planting is best," Jane adds. >





Companion planting

This is the practice of planting certain plants together so they'll benefit each other in some way. For instance, they might deter pests or attract beneficial insects that'll act as pollinators. Certain varieties supply organic nutrients, helping to feed their bedfellows. For example, plant legumes, beans and peas, which put nitrogen back into the soil, with tomatoes, peppers and eggplants as the latter take nitrogen from the soil.

Try these combinations in your potted kitchen garden:

- Plant baby cabbage, celery and marigolds (pictured above) together. "Marigolds are the hardest working plants in a potager garden," says Jane. "Their smell either repels harmful soil nematodes, which feast on the roots of plants, particularly tomatoes, or attracts pests that will eat the marigolds instead, leaving the other plants alone. Celery deters cabbage moths."
- Great companion plants for lettuce varieties include beetroot, radishes, strawberries and parsnips. Also include beautiful groupings of pansies, which will deter aphids and attract bees and butterflies.
- Plant peas near beans, carrots and radishes. Remember to stake your beans.
- Team aromatic herbs like thyme with brassicas as it helps to repel cabbage moths and enhances the flavour of broccoli and cabbage.
- Onions, chives, garlic and shallots are excellent pest repellents and great allies for carrots, tomatoes and brassicas. 🌱

Watering and care

- Raising beds and containers off the ground minimises frost damage. Add a layer of mulch on top of the soil to keep it moist and a few degrees warmer.
- Water your containers daily to encourage good growth.
- Soil nutrients in containers leach out faster than in the ground, so feed your plants monthly with a liquid fertiliser like Seagro or Nitrosol. Margaret Roberts has a range of organic fertilisers and pesticides. "I have a worm farm and the worm tea makes a wonderful fertiliser," says Jane.
- Pick your herbs and veggies daily to encourage them to produce more leaves. Pick lettuce leaves from the outside (avoid pulling out the whole plant) and pick herbs like basil from the top to encourage bushier growth.
- While companion planting (see box) deters pests, you may need to spray your plants with an organic spray. Hand-pick snails and slugs in wet conditions – look for them on the backs of leaves at dusk.

TIP! To get rid of snails and slugs, partially bury a yoghurt cup and half fill it with beer to attract them. Simply remove them from the cup every day.

Other container options



Baskets should be lined with a porous material that'll retain the soil, but still allow water to drain through.



Ensure wooden crates have adequate drainage holes and that they haven't been treated with a toxic sealant.

SOURCE Urban Garden Creations 082 446 0445, janewar@gmail.com or potager-garden.com

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GARDEN notes

Contrary to popular belief, winter can be an exciting time in the garden

10 'must dos' this month

Contributing Garden Editor Marianne Alexander's handy checklist of essential chores to do in June



- 1 Repair** any damaged garden tools. Take pruning equipment, like secateurs, clippers and saws, to be sharpened.
- 2 Make a to-do list of chores:** include maintenance to fences, paths and paving and painting and sorting out your potting shed. Remember to recycle old pots and seedling trays.
- 3 Move shrubs and trees** that aren't thriving. Plant them in well-prepared holes and make sure they're secure and firmly staked.
- 4 Check ties and name tags** on trees, climbers, roses and standards; make sure these aren't too tight.
- 5 Improve the quality of your soil.** Sprinkle a handful or two of gypsum over heavy clay soils (it won't change the pH); this can also improve sandy soils. A light sprinkling of lime will benefit acid soils.
- 6 Feed roses** with 3:1:5 or 2:3:4 fertiliser in warm, subtropical areas. Water them weekly and give a final spray for black spot. Wait till the end of June or July to prune; August in frost zones.
- 7 Allow lawns** to grow longer before mowing, especially in the shade – the larger the leaf's surface the more food it will produce; this also insulates the roots in cold areas.
- 8 Prune summer- and autumn-flowering plants** like barleria (*Barleria obtuse*) and ribbon bush, *Ruspolia* spp., *Solanum rantonnetii*, duranta, plumbago and tecoma, hard in frost-free areas. Trim summer-flowering salvias in warm areas.
- 9 Plant sweet peas** in frost zones. In warmer areas, guide new tendrils up supports, pick the flowers frequently to encourage more blooms and feed with 3:1:5 or 2:3:4 fertiliser.
- 10 Mark the position of 'deciduous' perennials** (plants that die back rather than lose their leaves) like hostas, astilbe, perennial phlox, eucomis bulbs (pineapple plants) rudbeckia (cone bushes) and thalictrum to avoid inadvertently digging them up.



Barleria obtuse



Eucomis (pineapple plant)

BEST OF THE BLOGS

"I love to visit gardens and dream about what I could do in my own!" says UK journalist Charlotte Weychan on her blog, The Galloping Gardener. Her beautiful photographs are a treat and draw you into the magnificent gardens she visits. Recent gardens she's featured include Arundel Castle in West Sussex during the annual tulip festival, Keukenhof in Holland in spring and the gorgeous Valley Gardens in Surrey. Visit thegallopinggardener.blogspot.com



BAGS OF FUN

The BACSAC is a lightweight, flexible pot for flowers. It's portable and can be used indoors and out on the veranda, the balcony or in the garden. Made of geotextile fabric, it's 100 percent recyclable. Inside, three layers of felt protect the roots, limit evaporation and distribute water. BACSACs come in various sizes, styles and colours, from R370 – R6 000. For more information, call 083 415 1104 or visit bacsac.co.za



WIN!

At your service

Flat Dog, R389 (excl. postage), is a handy portable table that's easy to set up anywhere. It's ideal for picnics, around the pool or on the patio. The plastic tray-like top (40cm diameter) can be attached to one of three poles so you can adjust the height of the table; there's a steel spike that can be driven into the sand at the beach. Call 079 973 5652 or e-mail info@flatdog.co.za **WIN!** We're giving away two Flat Dogs. To enter SMS **FLATDOG**, your name, city and e-mail address to 48406. An SMS costs R1,50. Errors will be billed and free SMSes do not apply. For Ts&Cs, see page 137.

Great idea TO STEAL

Aila Meyer of Bergvliet in the Cape says, "If you have a pest that favours a particular plant year after year, grow more of the same plant as a decoy. The pests will then leave your other plants alone. For example, stink bugs love *Buddleja davidii*; they damage the young tips every year, but it keeps them away from everything else."

SHARE YOUR SECRETS! Send a photo of your best gardening tip or idea together with your portrait to gardenhome@caxton.co.za



CLEAN LINES

It wasn't just the eye-catching design of this Keira watering can that appealed to us; it's also easy to fill and carry and made of eco-friendly, 100 percent recyclable polypropylene. It's available in five vibrant colours and 2-litre and 5-litre sizes from leading nurseries countrywide. Prices start from about R160.



IN THE veggie GARDEN

Now's the time to grow delicious Asian greens like bok choy (1), mizuna (2) and tatsoi. Also try Starke Ayres sprouting broccoli, Zara (3), a new brocette variety with tasty, sweet, succulent stems that's quick growing and high yielding. For the best results plant them 25cm apart. ▸



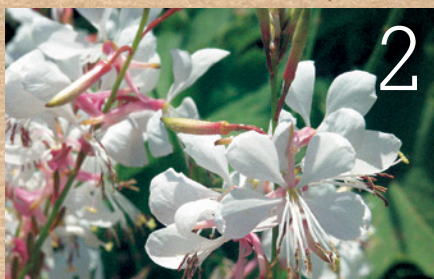
We're planting...

GAURA LILIPOP PINK (1) AND KARALEE WHITE (2)

WHY: Their beautiful floriferous spikes have an excellent branching habit. They have a taproot which allows them to tolerate heat and some drought.

WHERE: They prefer full sun, but can take moderate shade. They grow in a variety of soils; sandy, loamy, well-drained soil is best.

HOW: Deadhead them regularly to prolong flowering. Cut them back a little in late spring to promote budding.



WOODEN IT BE LOVELY

If you're a keen DIYer then *Woodworking for Everyone* by Peter Alkema (Struik Lifestyle), R250, is ideal for you.

It includes 13 step-by-step projects for woodworkers of all levels. There are clear 3D illustrations, colour photographs and instructions, practical advice on tools and techniques, as well as tips on how to tackle each project.

WIN! We're giving away two copies of this book. To enter SMS **WOOD**, your name, city and e-mail address to 48406. An SMS costs R1,50. Errors will be billed and free SMSes do not apply. For Ts&Cs, see page 137.



3 plants that BIRDS LOVE



A Major Garden's clivia (*Clivia gardenii*). Although the orange, green-tipped tubular flowers are not as showy as the spring-flowering *C. miniata*, they're popular with birds who feed on their berries; they like dappled shade.

B Golden shower (*Pyrostegia venusta*). This sun-loving climber is smothered with clusters of nectar-rich flowers from late summer well into winter. An exotic, it prefers a warm climate and summer rains.

C Pig's ears (*Cotyledon orbiculata*). This bold, indigenous succulent grown both for its nectar-rich flowers and amazing leaves comes in a variety of shapes. It's drought tolerant, takes some frost and is easy to grow from pieces broken off the parent plant.

Handy buys for growing herbs



1. Normann Copenhagen **herb stand** (including scissors), R599,95, Entrepo. Visit entrepo.co.za
2. Plasma **shelf** (400mm wide), R640, Garden Bleu. Visit gardenbleu.co.za
3. PH assorted herb **pots**, R59,95 each, GardenShop. Visit gardenshop.co.za

Aloe there!

Aloes are perfect for adding drama to the winter garden. To learn more about these plants, diarise these dates.

24 MAY – 31 AUGUST ALOE EXPO

Gariep Plants, Faerie Glen, Pretoria. Call Kotie Retief on 082 779 2612 or visit kambroo.com

14 JUNE OPEN DAY

Sunbird Aloes, 336 Vine Ave, Randburg, Jo'burg. Call Leo Thamm on 082 824 6604 or visit sunbirdaloes.co.za

20 – 22 JUNE SMALL ALOE VARIETIES OPEN DAY

Witkoppens Wildflower Nursery, 363 Valley Road, North Riding, Jo'burg. Call Malcolm Hepplewhite on 082 900 8324 or visit witkoppenswildflower.co.za



OPEN garden

1 JUNE Shepstone Gardens, 8 Hope Road, Mountain View, Jo'burg

With spectacular views of the distant Magaliesberg, this magnificent garden ticks all the blocks when it comes to style and grandeur. Paths clad with natural stone are lined with cycads, succulents, strelitzias and many other indigenous plants. Wander through several different gardens each with beautiful water features and linger for a cup of tea in the tea garden. Highlights are the chapel and the glass house. Entrance fees, R20 pp (children under 12 free), are donated to charity. For more info, call Heather on 082 857 2355 or Annette on 082 879 8962 or visit gardensofthegoldencity.co.za **THANKS** to all those who visited the Gardens of the Golden City open gardens over the last season and helped to raise R160 000 for charity. **GH**



NEW SCENT-SATIONAL fragrant plants

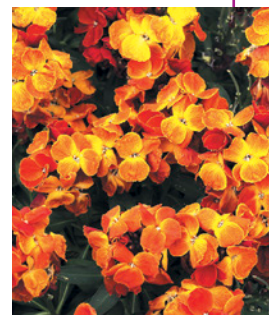
Nemesia foetans 'Poetry' is a compact bush, about 36cm high, that fills out fast. It's available in true blue (pictured), deep pink and white (the most fragrant). Although at its best in autumn and spring, in mild regions it also flowers in winter.



Plant the bushes 20cm apart in full sun or partial shade in warmer areas and feed monthly with a liquid fertiliser.

Cheiranthus 'Sugar Rush',

an old-fashioned hybrid perennial, is now available in vivid shades of orange (pictured), red, yellow and purple and as well as a soft primrose. Compact in size (30 x 25cm), these plants are ideal



for containers, window boxes and hanging baskets. They flower from autumn through winter into spring if deadheaded regularly. Plant them in full sun or partial shade. For stockists, call BallStraathof 0861 256 776 or e-mail info@ballstraathof.co.za



The Wonderful World of Orchids

Garden and Home invites you to join them for a fascinating talk on growing and caring for orchids. Tinus Oberholzer, a renowned horticulturist, will tell you all about different orchid varieties and which one is the right orchid for you. Tinus is the co-author of

Anyone Can Grow Orchids and his practical advice covers all aspects of keeping your orchids healthy and happy. There will also be a display of beautiful orchid flower arrangements and lots of inspiring ideas for table decor with an orchid theme.

THIS GREAT BOOK WILL BE ON SALE AT THE EVENT. IT'S AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH AND AFRIKAANS FOR ONLY R195

DATE: Saturday 7 June 2014

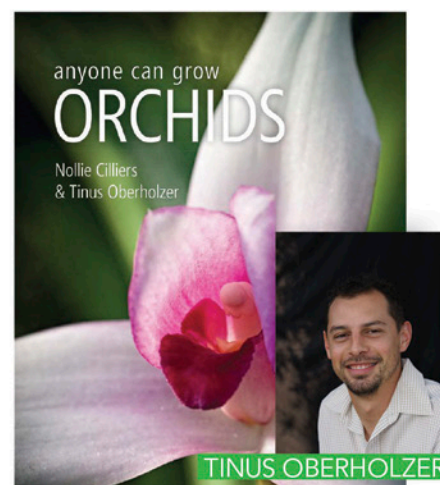
TIME: 10h00

WHERE: Multiflora Flower Market,
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pruning shrubs

MAKING *the cut*

Are your shrubs tired and overgrown? Pruning will rejuvenate them, rewarding you with lush plants and bigger flowers next spring

Pruning is a vital part of gardening, but most gardeners are intimidated when they have to get out the shears and loppers. The two most important things you need to know about pruning is that it's good for the plants and that it's almost impossible to kill a plant by over-pruning. You might not have flowers the next season, but the following year the plant will bounce back and reward you with a bumper flush of blooms.

Prune during the dormant season or directly after the shrub has flowered. The latter works well if the plant flowers on the previous season's wood, like hydrangea and mock orange.



Three good reasons to prune garden shrubs

1 REDUCING THE SIZE

Most shrubs become overgrown and rampant at the end of summer often overpowering less vigorous neighbouring plants. Reduce the size of these shrubs by cutting back the branches by a third to half their length (A). Start with the thicker branches, especially those that overshadow smaller plants; if you'd like to maintain the plant's natural look avoid trimming them all the same length. Next trim thinner branches here and there to create a pleasing shape (B).

THIS WORKS FOR: Spirea, butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii* hybrids), *Duranta* 'Sapphire Showers', *Duranta* 'Gold Mine' and weeping sage (*Buddleja auriculata*).



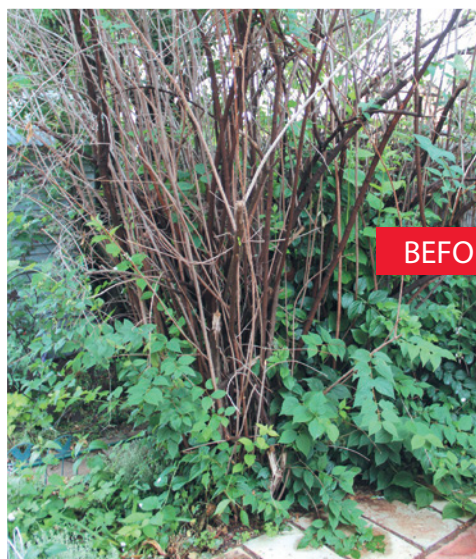
2 REJUVENATION

Softwood and medium-sized shrubs that haven't been pruned for a while become leggy and woody and flower less. The key to healthy, more vigorous plants is to start annual pruning when they are still young; this can even be done twice a year, usually after flowering. As pruning encourages side shoots, softwood shrubs will also start producing more flowers.

English, Spanish and French lavenders in particular should be pruned to discourage the formation of hard wood. Cut them back by a third (about 10–15cm) (C) every year after flowering, usually in late summer or winter. The intermedias like the 'Margaret Roberts' lavender and 'Grosso' can be cut back in late summer or autumn as they start pushing out new flower shoots early in spring. English lavenders should be pruned back after the summer flush; Spanish lavenders should be pruned after the spring as well as the autumn flush. French lavender can be trimmed right through the year. Woody or leggy specimens can be shaped vigorously but take care to leave enough leaves to enable the plant to produce food (D).

THIS WORKS FOR: Lavender and other softwood shrubs like leonotis, gaura and the various daisy bushes, *Anisodonteia* species, plumbago, red robin (photinia), *Abelia* 'Francis Mason', rosemary, perennial basil and hydrangeas. ▷





How to prune a shrub, step-by-step

Step 1: Shape the bush by cutting the branches just above a new shoot or node (where a new little leaf or shoot emerges on the branch).

Step 2: Using sturdy loppers, cut out all dead wood at the base (A) including old, thick and diseased branches.

Step 3: Cut out all branches that cross each other (B) either at the base or a little shorter. This must be done with those branches that have friction wounds.

Step 4: Check that you've cut out all old, dead and diseased wood and that only soft wood and thin branches are left.

Step 5: Halve the long canes to encourage them to send out new side shoots.

TOP PRUNING TIPS

- Always use clean, sharp secateurs. Disinfect your tools by washing them with hot soapy water and dipping them in a weak bleach solution. Rinse and dry them thoroughly.
- Cutting should be done without tearing or splitting the wood as every pruning cut is an opening where disease can enter the plant. It's not necessary to seal the cut ends, but as a precaution, plants can be sprayed with a fungicide after heavy pruning.
- When pruning, don't cut more than 1cm above a node as the branch will die back; it also makes the plant look untidy. But be aware that cutting too close to the node can injure new growth.
- Never prune all the leaves off an evergreen plant – even in the dormant season – as the plant needs leaves to photosynthesise food.
- Don't prune immediately after hail damage. People tend to cut off all damaged parts of the plant, including the leaves, right after a hail storm. The plant then dies because it has no leaves to make food. Instead leave the damaged leaves until the plant pushes out new growth. If a plant has heavy hail damage, spray it with a fungicide to minimise the chance of fungal disease.
- To retain the natural shape of the shrub don't cut all the branches the same length, as this will result in a ball shape.
- Think twice before pruning any slow-growing shrub like azaleas. Rather shape them lightly by trimming the branches.

3 RESHAPING To prevent the branches of bigger shrubs from dying back or producing fewer flowers and shoots, cut them back hard. First cut out all old thick, branches right at the base and then remove crossed branches, as these develop open wounds where they rub against each other. Then shorten the remaining, long, thinner canes, so the plant can bush out lower down.

THIS WORKS FOR: Mock orange (philadelphus) (pictured), *Hibiscus syriacus*, *Freylinia tropica*, snowball bush and *Abelia grandiflora*, berberis and *Buddleja davidii*. **GH**

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Should I trim the damaged leaves off plants that have been hit by frost?

An unequivocal no. Wait until spring after all danger of another freeze is past. Though unsightly, these leaves and stems help protect your plants from further frost damage.

I love fuchsias and pelargoniums, but they never survive our harsh winters. Where should I plant tender plants like these to protect them from frost?

Try growing them near a north-facing wall; at night this will release any heat that's been absorbed during the day. Plant shade-loving fuchsias under a deciduous tree which will let in the sun during winter. Here are some other tips:

- In really cold areas, lift your plants and overwinter them in pots in a warm frost-free place. Keep the soil moist.
- In less severe frost areas, leave them in the ground. Add mulch, keeping the stems clear. Drape fleece over four stakes and cover the plant, anchoring the fleece to the ground. Remove this during warm, sunny spells.

The flowers of the camellias and magnolias on the east side of my house are damaged by frost every year. What can I do to prevent this happening?

- Frosted blossom and young shoots which are exposed to the early morning sun can be damaged if they thaw too fast. Hose them down lightly before the sun reaches them. (Remember to store your hose in a frost-free area so it isn't frozen when you need it.)
- Plant a few trees to retain the warmer air and provide some cover.
- If your camellias and magnolias are growing in containers, move them to a sheltered position for the winter.

THE COLD WAR



Contributing gardening editor Marianne Alexander answers common questions about protecting plants from frost

I live in a very cold area. Could you recommend some frost-proof plants that would be a good bet for my garden?

Ann Fletcher from Elliot in the Eastern Cape, which has severe frost in winter, finds the following plants work well in her garden: *Abelias*, *Elaeagnus pungens* 'Variegata', *Pittosporum tobira*, *P. tenuifolium*, rosemary, confetti bushes, *Melaleuca bracteata* 'Johannesburg Gold' and holly.



Confetti bush



Melaleuca bracteata 'Johannesburg Gold'



Holly



Abelia

What's the difference between black and regular frost?

White or regular frost occurs when there's little cloud cover or wind. In this case, the soil cools rapidly, the cold air sinks, and when the temperature drops below freezing (0°C), the water vapour or dew on the leaves freezes forming white crystals which rupture cells damaging the plants.

Black or hoar frost happens when the air is too dry for dew to form and be converted into ice crystals. It leaves plants blackened.

My lollipop topiaries have been damaged by frost. What should I do to prevent this happening again?

There are a number of things you can do:

- Place a couple of two-litre cool drink bottles filled with water at the base of your trees. At night they'll release the heat they've absorbed during the day.
- Make sure the soil in your container is moist as damp soil stores more heat during the day than loose, dry soil. (Only water your plant in the mornings.)
- Drape horticultural fleece over the crown of your plant to trap the heat that is given off by the ground (see left).
- Twirl outdoor Christmas lights around the tree, or place a low-wattage, waterproof light at the base; the heat given off will rise up into the canopy. (Note: The wattage of strings of LED lights are too low to be effective here.)

How does mulch help guard against frost damage?

Frost protection is all about preventing heat loss by covering your plants or replacing radiant heat loss by trapping any heat given off by the ground or surrounding structures like walls. Mulch retains heat and keeps the plant warmer. **GH**





A gourmet's DELIGHT

Vegetable growing expert Jane Griffiths reveals some lesser-known edibles from your kitchen garden that you won't find at your local greengrocer

1 BRASSICA SEED

Once your bok choy and broccoli bolts you'll find they bear masses of yellow flowers. Not only do bees love these, but they'll become seed pods, providing you with spicy mustard-like seeds. Harvest them just before they completely dry out otherwise they'll pop and seed themselves everywhere. Leave them in a warm, dry spot to dry out before splitting the pods and removing the seeds. Store in an airtight container.

How to prepare and eat:

Although brassica seeds vary in heat and flavour, use them the same way as traditional mustard seeds. Add to hot oil at the start of a curry, grind into a paste or use in a pickling liquid.

2 PEA TENDRILS

Although freshly harvested peas are one of the sweetest garden harvests, the pea tendrils are just as delicious. So much so it's worth planting leftover pea seeds (there are always too many in the packet) in a tub near the kitchen. Harvesting young leaves, stems, vines and flowers from these will allow other pea plants in the garden to grow to full size and bear pods.

How to prepare and eat:

Sweet tasting, pea tendrils add a fresh flavour to everything from salads and salmon to scrambled eggs. They can be eaten raw or cooked until just wilted.

3 CORIANDER SEEDS

Don't be disappointed when your coriander, planted to provide you with masses of leaves quickly bolts, resulting in spindly leaves and lots of little white flowers. These form clusters of green seeds that are one of the most delicious edibles you'll find in your garden – a combination of the earthy dried seed and the fresh taste of the green leaves.

How to prepare and eat:

Crush the green seeds into a paste and use on roasted vegetables or add to a sauce for fish. They can also be pickled and used as you would capers.



4 BRASSICA BUDS

Too often gardeners remove broccoli, tat soi and bok choy plants (pictured above) as soon as they go to seed. However, unlike bolting lettuce, brassica buds aren't bitter, they're tender and nutty tasting. When the plants begin to send up long stalks, harvest them regularly, cutting the base of the stem at an angle, allowing

any water to run off. And if you forget to harvest them and they begin to flower, the small yellow flowers are edible too.

How to prepare and eat:

Steam the buds and stems until tender or quickly stir-fry them; don't overcook them. Use the flowers in salads or scattered on soups and sandwiches.



5 ASPARAGUS FRONDS

One of the delights of growing asparagus is the beautiful fern-like plant that develops in spring after the spears are harvested. The more established the plant becomes, the bigger it grows. And – no surprise here – the young leafy tips taste like asparagus. These are best harvested when the stalks are just starting to spread and the tiny buds haven't quite unfurled. Be selective in your harvest, leaving sufficient foliage for the plant to keep growing.

How to prepare and eat:

Asparagus fronds are best lightly steamed, in a salad or served with grilled vegetables and fish. ▸

6 SQUASH FLOWERS

Flowers from all summer squash (zucchini, patty pans, gem squash, etc.) are edible, but I used to ignore recipes for squash blossoms, thinking I was destroying a potential squash fruit for each one eaten. Then I discovered that only the female flowers produce fruit. Male flowers can be eaten as long as four or five remain on the plant for pollination. If you look inside the blossom, the difference is obvious: the male blossoms, which appear first, have a straight stem and a single stamen. The female flowers (pictured), which follow about a week later, have a distinct bulge just below the flower and inside you will see a far more complicated pistil with four parts.

How to prepare and eat:

Squash flowers are delicious stuffed with herb-flavoured cream cheese or ricotta. Eat them raw or dip in batter and fry until crispy. You can also simply tear the blooms into strips and add them to pasta and salads. 



OTHER HIDDEN DELIGHTS

SELF-SOWN SURPRISES: Sometimes the best harvests come from seeds that have sown themselves. My most abundant harvest last summer was from a self-sown miniature squash plant. A friend gave me a tiny squash the year before and a seed survived in the compost.

PLANT THINNINGS: Don't throw thinned-out seedlings away. Most of these (see right) are delicious, healthy micro-greens which you can enjoy without the hassle of growing them separately.

WEEDS: Many weeds are edible too, so instead of tossing out dandelions, sorrel, chickweed and purslane, add them to leafy salads.

EDIBLE FLOWERS: Many unexpected flowers, such as hibiscus, are edible and delicious.



SOURCES *Jane's Delicious Herbs* and *Jane's Delicious Garden* by Jane Griffiths (Sunbird Publishers)

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competition

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winter lunch

The spice **OF LIFE**

For passionate foodie Junelle Germishuizen of Pretoria, cooking with her family and entertaining friends at home is a natural extension of her online food business

MENU

TURMERIC AND CUMIN DATE ROLLS

SPICED TOMATO BROTH WITH
LAMB DUMPLINGS



DUCK BREASTS WITH ARABIC-STYLE
WALNUT SAUCE

SAFFRON AND NUT RICE POLOW



PROFITEROLES WITH FIG CREAM

Spiced tomato broth with lamb dumplings. Recipe on page 122.



Ronel Trouw and Junelle Germishuizen

You'd imagine that someone surrounded by gourmet ingredients all day would like time off from food when they got home from work. But Junelle Germishuizen, who co-owns the epicurean online food store Lardiere Fine Foods with her husband Gerrie, is just the opposite. "I love cooking and entertaining and so does Gerrie; he gets stuck in in the kitchen and we have a lot of fun," she says. Her passion has even rubbed off on her children Tyge (21), Ethan (11) and Julia (9). "Ethan makes a mean butternut soup," she reveals.

Having recently discovered that she's gluten intolerant, Junelle's changed her style of cooking. "I've started exploring other options such as baking with spelt flour and using quinoa instead of pasta. I love Mediterranean-style food and I'm really inspired by fresh seasonal produce."

Brought up in a family of great cooks, Junelle developed an appreciation for good, simple food made with fresh, locally produced ingredients at a very early age. After school she trained as a chef at the Cordon Bleu Cooking School in Johannesburg and worked in a number of restaurants including those in the Linger Longer group under Mugg & Bean founder, Ben Filmlater whom she describes as her 'food hero'.

During her many years in the hospitality industry, Junelle was introduced to a world of gourmet products that were only available if you bought in bulk. Realising that the average home cook didn't have access to these ingredients, she came up with the idea of starting an efficient online food store and so Lardiere Fine Foods was born. Lardiere stocks a variety of food products many of which Junelle makes herself including



spices, preserves, sweets and snacks as well as crockery and giftware all beautifully presented in their signature black and white packaging.

The Germishuizens entertain frequently at their home in Pretoria's eastern suburbs. "At least once every two weeks," says Junelle whose specialty is dinner parties. "It's an opportunity for me to try something new whether it's an Italian-style meal or a Persian feast." Her elegant dining room is the perfect setting and a large glass-fronted cabinet displaying crockery and glassware sets the culinary mood. Wooden boards serve as place mats and she always provides extra-large French linen napkins for guests. "I decorate the table with greenery from the garden, pots of fresh herbs and vegetables or bowls of fruit which guests can nibble on during the meal or tuck into with the cheeseboard. I like to use my grandmother's vintage champagne glasses and lots of candles as their warm glow creates a relaxing atmosphere. Soft lighting also makes the food and sometimes even the people look better!" she laughs.

"Gerrie is a great wine lover and brilliant at food and wine pairings so I leave it to him to find the perfect wine to serve with each dish." >



TURMERIC AND CUMIN DATE ROLLS

(Serves 8–10)

680g white flour

60g sugar

10ml instant dried granular yeast

5ml ground turmeric

7ml sea salt

375ml lukewarm water

30ml olive oil

1 egg

15 fresh dates, pitted and cut into chunks

50g butter, softened

FOR THE TOPPING:

2 egg yolks, lightly whisked

7ml cumin seeds, lightly crushed (optional)

7ml fennel seeds, lightly crushed (optional)

few dried rose petals or dried hibiscus flowers (optional)

TO SERVE:

icing sugar, for dusting

1. Place the flour, sugar, instant yeast, turmeric and salt in a mixing bowl or the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a dough hook.
2. Place the lukewarm water, olive oil and egg in a large jug and whisk lightly to combine.
3. Gradually add the wet

mixture to the dry ingredients and work together. Knead for 8–10 minutes with the mixer or 12–15 minutes by hand, until the mixture is smooth and shiny.

4. Transfer the dough to a large, greased bowl, cover with a damp tea towel and leave in a warm place, for about an hour, to double in size.

5. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured counter and knead gently to knock it back. Return to the greased bowl, cover with the cloth and leave to rise again for another hour.

6. Preheat the oven to 200°C. Roll out the dough into a rectangular shape and cut it into 2 squares. Place the dates and dot knobs of butter on top of one square. Place the second square of dough on top to enclose the filling.

7. Use a cutter to cut rounds out of the dough, creating rolls and place these on a baking sheet.

Brush the rolls with the egg yolk and if using, top with the cumin seeds, fennel seeds and petals.

8. Bake for 8–10 minutes, or until puffed and golden. Transfer the rolls to a wire rack and dust with a little icing sugar before serving with the tomato broth.



SPICED TOMATO BROTH WITH LAMB DUMPLINGS

(Serves 6)

500g cherry tomatoes

1 clove garlic, peeled and sliced

5ml fresh thyme leaves

10ml fresh oregano leaves

30ml olive oil

salt and freshly milled black pepper

10ml tomato paste

5ml sugar

5ml saffron* strands, soaked in

30ml warm water for 10 minutes

1 litre chicken stock

5ml lemon zest, finely grated

3ml cayenne pepper

FOR THE DUMPLING DOUGH:

150g self-raising flour, sifted

2ml salt

2 eggs

30ml cold water

FOR THE DUMPLING FILLING:

100g minced lamb or beef

1 small red onion, finely chopped

1 garlic clove, crushed

3ml dried oregano

3ml ground coriander

2ml salt

TO SERVE:

fresh chives, snipped

fresh chive flowers (optional)

1. To make the spiced tomato broth: preheat the oven to 180°C. Place the tomatoes in a roasting dish. Add the garlic, thyme and oregano. Drizzle

the olive oil over the top and season with salt and pepper. Roast for 20 minutes.

2. Transfer the roasted tomatoes to a food processor and process until smooth. Strain the mixture through a sieve into a pan. Add the remaining ingredients, bring to the boil then cover and simmer for 8–10 minutes. Set aside and heat when ready to serve.

3. To make the dough for the dumplings: place the flour and salt in a large mixing bowl. Make a well in the centre and add the eggs. Gradually add the water and work the mixture together. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and knead for 3–4 minutes, or until the dough is smooth. Cover and chill for 30 minutes.

4. To make the filling for the dumplings: combine all the filling ingredients together in a mixing bowl. Set aside.

5. To assemble the dumplings: roll out the dough thinly, and using a 9cm cutter, cut out 18–24 rounds.

6. Place a teaspoonful of the filling in the centre of each round of dough and brush the rim with a little cold water.

Fold the round in half to form a crescent shape and pinch the two edges together to seal.

7. Cook the dumplings in salted boiling water for 8–10 minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside.

8. To serve: place 3–4 dumplings in each soup bowl. Fill up with some of the hot soup. Garnish with the chives and chive flowers.

***COOK'S TIP:** For a cheaper saffron substitute, use 5ml ground turmeric. Replace the dumplings with store-bought fresh ravioli or tortellini.



DUCK BREASTS WITH ARABIC-STYLE WALNUT SAUCE

(Serves 6)

5–6 duck breasts
salt and freshly milled
black pepper
15ml olive oil
15ml honey
3 cardamom pods, lightly
crushed to release seeds
2ml freshly milled black pepper

FOR THE WALNUT SAUCE:
200g walnuts
45ml olive oil
1 red onion, peeled and diced
1 garlic clove, crushed
5ml ground cinnamon
2ml ground cumin
1ml ground turmeric
15ml tomato paste
375ml chicken or vegetable stock
250ml pomegranate juice or red
grape juice
50g sugar
15ml pomegranate molasses*
2 bay leaves
salt and freshly milled
black pepper
15ml lemon juice

1. To make the Arabic-style walnut sauce: preheat the oven to 200°C. Place the walnuts, in a single layer on a baking sheet and roast for 5–7 minutes. Allow to cool and roughly chop.

2. Heat the oil in a pan and gently fry the onion and garlic over a low heat for 5 minutes. Add the cinnamon, cumin and turmeric and cook for 1 minute.

3. Stir in the reserved walnuts, tomato paste, stock, fruit juice, sugar, pomegranate molasses, bay leaves and season with salt and pepper. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 40–50 minutes. Set aside until ready to use. Just before serving, reheat and stir in the lemon juice.

4. To prepare the duck breasts: use a sharp knife to score the skin in a criss-cross pattern; season with salt and pepper.

5. Heat the olive oil in a pan and sear the duck

breasts, skin-side down, for 1 minute. Reduce the heat to low and cook, skin-side down, for 5 minutes until the skin is golden brown. Turn the breasts over and cook for 5–8 minutes on the other side.

6. Meanwhile, heat the honey, cardamom pods and black pepper in a small pan. Brush the honey mixture over the skin of the duck breasts and cook over a moderate heat skin side down and for another 4–5 minutes.

7. Keep the breasts warm; allow them to rest for 10 minutes. Slice them into chunks and serve with the walnut sauce and the saffron and rice polow.

***COOK'S TIP:** Pomegranate molasses is a concentrated syrup, frequently used in Middle-Eastern cooking and is available at large supermarkets or online. Use an equal mixture of honey and balsamic vinegar as a substitute.



SAFFRON AND NUT RICE POLOW

(Serves 6)

pinch saffron strands or turmeric
45ml hot water
120g butter
2 carrots, peeled and cut into
thin matchsticks
5ml ground coriander
2ml ground cinnamon
1ml ground cardamom
250ml water
125g caster sugar
zest of 2 oranges, cut into
thin strips
75g flaked almonds,
lightly toasted
50g shelled pistachio nuts,
roughly chopped
300g basmati rice, cooked
and drained
salt and freshly milled
black pepper
TO SERVE (OPTIONAL):
45ml assorted micro greens
30ml pomegranate rubies
orange segments, chopped

1. Soak the saffron strands in the hot water for 10 minutes.

2. Melt the butter in a wide pan and fry the onions over a low heat for 1 minute. Add the carrots, coriander, cinnamon and ground cardamom and cook for 3–4 minutes.

3. Stir in the saffron mixture, 250ml water, caster sugar and orange zest and bring to the boil; reduce the heat and simmer for 8–10 minutes.

4. Add the almonds and pistachio nuts, reserving a little of each for garnish. Stir in the rice, season with the salt and pepper and toss to combine and to heat through.

5. Serve hot, topped with the reserved nuts and any of the optional garnishes. ▷



QUICK CHAT WITH THE COOK

My cooking style is modern and fresh.

My top three ingredients are sea salt, lemon and olive oil.

The best thing I ever ate was an incredible calamari dish at The Pot Luck Club in Cape Town.

My favourite winter dish is osso bucco.

I couldn't live without a sharp knife.

No winter meal is complete without red wine.

If I was stuck on an island with a celeb chef, I'd pick Heston Blumenthal, because he definitely wouldn't be boring.

If I could visit any city in the world it would be Paris, it's an historic culinary capital.



Helene Landskroon and Ilze van Pletzen

PROFITEROLES WITH FIG CREAM

(Serves 6)

80g butter, cubed

175ml water

1ml salt

100g cake flour, sifted

4 eggs

FOR THE FIG CREAM:

350ml cream, whipped

15ml icing sugar, sifted

3ml vanilla extract

50g fig jam

TO SERVE:

70g fig jam

icing sugar,

for sifting

oven-dried fig slices or fresh berries (optional)

1. To make the profiteroles: preheat the oven to 200°C. Line a baking sheet with baking paper.
2. Put the butter, water and salt in a large pan and heat, stirring until the butter has melted. Bring to the boil and then remove from the heat.
3. Add the flour and beat vigorously with a wooden spoon, until the mixture comes away from the sides of the pan. Return the pan to the stove over a low heat and cook for 1 minute stirring continuously to dry the dough.
4. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.
5. Spoon the mixture into a piping bag and pipe out 25–30 rounds onto the prepared baking sheet, allowing room for spreading.
6. Bake for 20–30 minutes or until the profiteroles are golden. Allow to cool.
7. To make the fig cream: fold the whipped cream, icing sugar and vanilla extract together. Swirl the fig jam lightly through the cream and chill until required.
8. To serve: open the profiteroles, fill each one with a little fig jam and a dollop of fig cream. Dust with icing sugar and serve at once with fresh berries or oven-dried figs, if desired. **GH**



For something different, add hibiscus flowers in syrup to a glass of bubbly.



SOURCE Lardiere Fine Foods

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or lardiere.co.za

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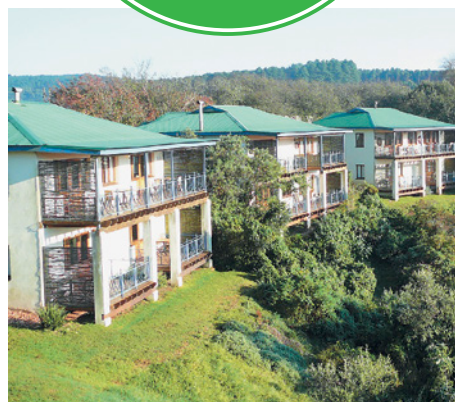
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS: This offer is only valid for bookings made for Ditholô Game Lodge, Mont Aux Sources Hotel, Santé Hotel & Spa, Selborne Hotel, Golf Estate & Spa and The Magoebaskloof Hotel from 1 June – 31 July 2014 using the promotional code. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other special offer. Accommodation is subject to availability and booking is essential.

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KAROO CUISINE

Veld to Fork (Struik Lifestyle), R250, by Graaff Reinet-based chef and guesthouse owner, Gordon Wright, is a classic collection of Karoo recipes including soups, meats, charcuterie and desserts. Visit our website gardenandhome.co.za to find the recipe for this delicious hearty Minty Mutton Stew.



GET STACKING

Easy Keepers are a super-handly range of stackable interlocking storage containers from ADDIS ideal for freezing soups and casseroles. Microwave, freezer and dishwasher safe, they make defrosting and reheating mid-week suppers a cinch. Priced from R34,99, they're available at selected Checkers and Pick n Pay stores.



Waffling on

Waffles are a favourite anytime of the day. With the flexible silicone Lékúé Waffle Moulds, R395 for two from Yuppiefchef.com, you'll be able to whip up eight waffles in under 20 minutes.



THE COOK'S CELLAR

These wines have a culinary twist that'll appeal to foodies and wine lovers alike.

- The **Grinder Pinotage** 2012, R46, with plummy flavours and a coffee-choc core is delicious with lamb shanks.
- The **Spice Route Chakalaka** 2011, R140, is a Shiraz-dominated, African melange of spicy flavours, and perfect with a hearty stew.
- **Edgebaston's The Berry Box** 2011, R70, is bursting with ripe berry flavours and is a winner served with grilled steak.

A is for Avocado

Avo is always a delicious addition to a meal. For a quick and easy dinner, simply toss strips of grilled fillet and slices of avo with warm pasta, garnish with toasted pine nuts, add a touch of chilli, then serve warm with parmesan shavings. For more avolicious recipes visit The SA Avocado Growers Association at avocado.co.za and like them on Facebook facebook.com/iloveavocadoSA



WHAT'S ON?

12 JUNE Helderberg Wine and Food

Sample regional wines and signature dishes from local chefs at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West. Visit wineroute.co.za for more information.

13 – 15 JUNE Cook Franschhoek

A festival for foodies in the Franschhoek Valley with classes, which include pickling, fermenting and preserving and snout-to-tail eating. Book at webtickets.co.za. Visit cookfranschhoek.co.za

14 – 15 JUNE Absa Calitzdorp Port & Wine Festival 2014

Head to the delightful town of Calitzdorp for this fun-filled port festival. Visit portwinefestival.co.za

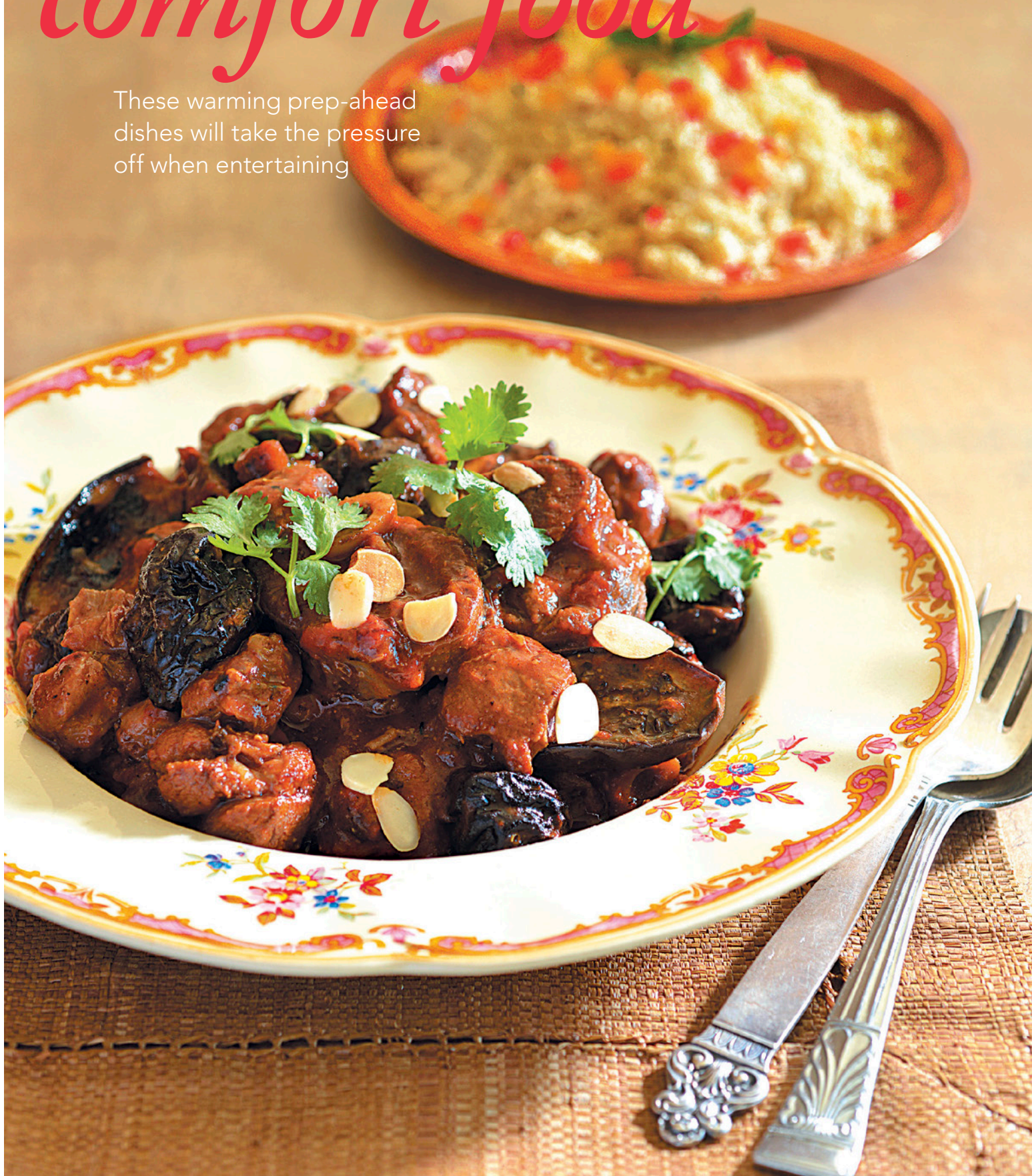
21 JUNE Franschhoek Winter Wines

The Vignerons of Franschhoek will present their red wines at the Franschhoek Motor Museum at L'Ormarins Estate. Tickets cost R180 pp and are available from webtickets.co.za. For more information, call 021 876 2861.

effortless entertaining

CHEERS TO *comfort food*

These warming prep-ahead
dishes will take the pressure
off when entertaining



LAMB AND PRUNE TAGINE

(Serves 4–6)

25ml + 15ml olive oil
600g lamb knuckles or cubes
1 onion, peeled and sliced into thin crescents
2 garlic cloves, crushed
150g baby brinjals, halved lengthwise
5ml cumin seeds
15ml fresh ginger, peeled and finely grated
15ml ground cumin
10ml ground coriander
5ml paprika
3ml ground cinnamon
2ml ground ginger
1 x 410g can chopped tomatoes
375ml lamb or beef stock
120g prunes, pitted
salt and milled black pepper
TO SERVE:
fresh coriander leaves
20g flaked almonds, toasted
couscous or rice

1. Heat the 25ml oil in a pot and brown the lamb in batches, transferring it to a plate using a slotted spoon. Set aside.
2. Add the onion and garlic to the pot and cook over a moderate heat for 4–5 minutes, or until softened. Add the brinjals and cook for 2 minutes.
3. Add the cumin seeds and ginger and cook for another minute, before stirring in the rest of the spices. Cook for 1 minute.
4. Return the lamb to the pot, stir in the tomatoes and the stock and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat, cover with a lid and simmer over a very low heat for 2–3 hours, or until the meat is tender.
5. In the last 30 minutes of cooking time, stir in the prunes and season with salt and pepper.
6. Serve the tagine topped with fresh coriander and flaked almonds accompanied by couscous or rice.

COOK'S TIP: As with all casseroles, the flavours of this tagine develop with time so you can prepare this dish a day or two before your dinner party. Add some colour and flavour to rice or couscous by mixing in finely diced, mixed peppers and chopped fresh coriander.



LIKE A SHOPPING LIST?

Visit gardenandhome.co.za and go to Our Mag, then Current Issue to download the shopping list for this menu.

ORANGE AND POPPY SEED POLENTA CAKE

(Makes 1 cake)

175g butter, softened
180g caster sugar
3 eggs
30ml poppy seeds
5ml orange zest, finely grated
5ml lemon zest, finely grated
150g self-raising flour, sifted
150g almond meal (ground almonds)
100g polenta
180ml orange juice

FOR THE ORANGE SYRUP:

100g caster sugar
125ml orange juice
80ml cold water
5 cardamom pods, lightly crushed
3 star anise

1 small orange, thinly sliced
60g orange marmalade

TO SERVE:
whipped cream (optional)

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C. Grease and line the base and sides of a 20cm round cake tin.

2. Cream the butter and caster sugar using an electric mixer. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the poppy seeds, orange and lemon zest.
3. Add the flour, almond meal, polenta and orange juice and carefully fold the mixture together.
4. Spoon the batter into the prepared tin and smooth the surface. Bake for 40–50 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out just clean.
5. Remove the cake from the oven and allow to cool in the tin for 5 minutes before turning it out onto a cooling rack.
6. Meanwhile make the orange syrup: place the sugar, orange juice, water, cardamom and star anise in a pan over a low heat. Stir until the sugar dissolves, then increase the heat and bring to the boil for 2 minutes. Add the orange slices and simmer for 5 minutes.
7. Remove the orange slices from the syrup and arrange them on top of the cake. Add the marmalade to the remaining syrup and melt over a low heat then pour over the cake while it's still warm.
8. Serve with whipped cream, while the cake is still warm or at room temperature. 

destinations

UNSUNG *HERO*

Candice Botha delights
in the myriad charms of Amsterdam, one
of Europe's most underrated cities



Amsterdam's charming architecture is characterised by its decorative gables.



Amsterdam's famous canal-side houses.

CANDICE'S TRAVEL TIPS

ESSENTIAL ITEMS TO PACK: Your camera – Amsterdam is exceptionally photogenic. Take an umbrella and waterproof shoes no matter what time of year you visit.

MUST-SEE SITES: Take a day trip to one of the neighbouring towns like Edam. Look out for windmills, and for a cultural experience, visit a cheese or clog factory.

NEED-TO-KNOW LINGO: Most Amsterdammers speak English and the city is quite cosmopolitan so it's easy to communicate.

INTERESTING TO KNOW: A 'Coffee Shop' sells more than just coffee and it's commonplace to see people buying and smoking marijuana inside them.

MOST DELICIOUS BITE: The famous Dutch *stroopwaffels* are a decadent, delicious treat and are rather like a biscuit soaked in syrup.



The Anne Frank Museum.



Albert Cuyp flower market.

Like my hometown, Durban, Amsterdam is the less-celebrated, oft-forgotten cousin of big, bold, brilliant cities – overshadowed by Paris and Rome, as Durban is by Johannesburg and Cape Town. Just like Durban, though, Amsterdam has a charm all of its own which keeps visitors coming back time and again.

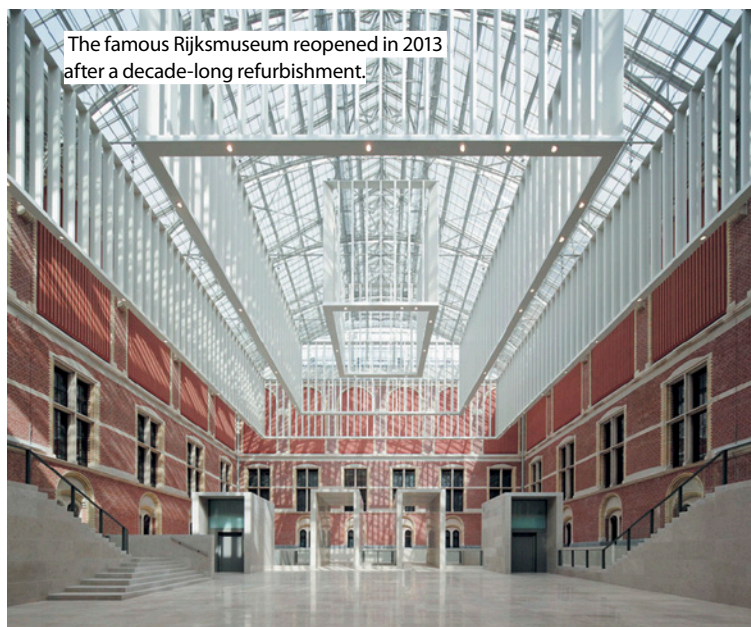
It's hard to pinpoint exactly what makes Amsterdam so special, and having visited the city accompanied by various people, I've discovered that everyone will cite a different element of it as their favourite. For some it's the city's extensive network of canals lined with magnificent old buildings; for others, it's the quaint fact that bicycles outnumber

people, and still others talk fondly of the city's history and thriving cultural and design scene. For me, no matter what time of the day you wander the streets, nor what season you visit, Amsterdam is full of magic, whether it's the twinkling lights of houses built centuries ago reflecting in the canals on a winter's evening, or rainbow-hued blooms crowding shopfronts and market stalls in spring.

Although there's enough in Amsterdam and its surrounds to keep you engaged for weeks, it's ideal for a short stopover – exactly what my family and I did on our last visit. There's a sense that this is a thoroughly modern community living comfortably alongside the remnants of a colourful and interesting past which makes ▷



The famous 'I Amsterdam' letters in front of the Rijksmuseum.



The famous Rijksmuseum reopened in 2013 after a decade-long refurbishment.

for a fascinating mixture of sights, sounds and experiences and even a two- or three-night stay is enough to take in elements of each incarnation of the city.

An absolute must is a hop-on-hop-off canal cruise that makes a lovely variation of the ubiquitous bus tour. Amsterdam is often referred to as the Venice of the North and the canals are an attraction in themselves and the best vantage point from which to appreciate the attractive façades of the traditional tall, narrow buildings with their gracious gables, some built as early as 1602; we made a game of trying to spot the oldest based on the dates stencilled above the front doors. Sometimes, we were able to see inside these beautiful old homes from our waterborne vantage point and I delighted in glimpses of grand chandeliers and bold wallpapers.

The canal tour follows the same format as the customary bus tour with a recorded commentary listened to through headphones plugged into portals on the boat. This is a quick, pleasant way to become acquainted with the layout of the city and its history. As Amsterdam is so centred around the canals, it's easy to access all the tourist must-sees from the covered tour boats that are quite comfortable whatever the weather.

There're several well-known sights worth a visit. High on the list is the Rijksmuseum. Refurbished over the last decade and reopened with much fanfare in April 2013, the museum has a collection of over



There is very little traffic in Amsterdam as travel by boat and bicycle is so popular.

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

WHEN TO GO: If you're keen to see the tulips in bloom, April is the time to visit.

VISAS: South Africans require a Schengen Visa to visit the Netherlands.

CURRENCY: The currency in the Netherlands is the Euro.

GETTING ABOUT: A tram system makes travelling around the city very simple, but investigate your options when buying tickets as once-off rides can be expensive.

USEFUL WEBSITES: amsterdam.info, iamsterdam.com and holland.com

a million paintings, images, historical objects and applied arts with about 8 000 on display. Most people are attracted by the paintings by Rembrandt and Vermeer but there's likely to be something which appeals to everyone – even if it's the gift shop which stocks unique novelty items created with prints of famous paintings.

The Rijksmuseum is situated on the Museumplein, a large, grassy square also home to the Van Gogh Museum, a towering, modern, concrete structure which shows off the Dutch master's works to perfection. For those who like pop culture, a quick selfie in front of the famous 'I Amsterdam' lettering is a must. The giant red and white letters juxtaposed with the old-world façade of the Rijksmuseum is a perfect example of the balance of history and modernity found in Amsterdam. In summer, the lawn is an ideal spot for people watching and relaxing with a picnic; in winter, it's an outdoor ice rink, one of several in the city set up for skating in the crisp, cold air under the twinkling lights of a Christmas tree.

Another historically significant site is the Anne Frank Museum, which for me was one of the most moving experiences. An ex-English teacher, I've taught many teenagers about World War II and the Holocaust through the study of Anne Frank's diary so I was interested to see the annex where the family lived. I didn't



The Central Station.

anticipate, however, just how emotional I would feel when walking through those claustrophobic spaces and how much I learnt from the fascinating displays that have been so creatively put together. You can't miss the building either as a very contemporary brick and glass extension has been added to the original house which stands out from the traditional architecture surrounding it.

Something more light-hearted (and an absolute must if there are men in your party), is a visit to the Heineken Experience. Even if beer is not your tippable of choice, the interactive displays are 'infotainment' at its best. A fabulous 4-D ride takes you through the process of making beer and there's a wealth of material on the history of the company and its phenomenal success. The building itself is the original brewery which produced the pilsener for over 120 years and is a landmark in Amsterdam.

Talking about beer brings me to the nightlife – often a source of concern for potential visitors. While it's true that marijuana is legal here and there's a Red Light District, the areas in which this more illicit side of the city thrives are contained and clearly demarcated and it's possible to avoid them altogether. In other parts, the nightlife is relaxed and varied and you're sure to find something that suits your tastes whether it's fine dining, a cosy pub or a bit of dancing.

I love to shop in foreign cities, despite the fact I often don't buy much, and Amsterdam has a wealth of stores for all budgets. I've always made a point of visiting 'I Love Vintage' a short walk from Anne Frank House. The Nine Streets district is a bustling hub of gorgeous boutiques, jewellery stores, art galleries, gift shops and design stores. If you're after the big European chain stores like H&M and Zara, take a walk down Kalverstraat and there're bargains and



A canal tour is the best way to see Amsterdam.

novelties galore in Haarlemmerstraat. As is common in Europe, the shops are housed in handsome, old buildings which make even the most commercial areas of Amsterdam charming and open straight onto the streets, most of which are pedestrianised.

The city has several markets filled with fresh produce, an abundance of flowers and artisanal goods which are a delight to explore. They also provide an opportunity to interact with the locals who're undoubtedly integral to Amsterdam's appeal. Friendly, helpful and generally fluent in English, they're welcoming to tourists and so proud of their city, just as I would be if I called this extraordinary place home. **GH**

COLLECTING VINTAGE KITCHEN APPLIANCES WITH *Emma de Crespigny*

This Cape Town expert in 20th-century design just couldn't resist equipping her kitchen with iconic retro appliances



Vintage rules in the Woodstock kitchen of Emma de Crespigny: from the azure blue 1920's wallpaper behind her glass splashbacks and retro porcelain sink with copper taps to the old weighing scale on the wall and the glass-fronted cupboards filled with china from the '50s and '60s. Her love of vintage has also resulted in a collection of fully functioning retro kitchen appliances.

How many collectors can say that they do anything with their collections, other than rearrange, dust and admire them? Emma is the exception and revealed that she'd used her 1950's Morphy Richards food mixer to make a batch of cupcakes that weekend. "My '50's toaster makes the best toast," she claims. "In the last century there was a desire to make appliances that really worked well and were aesthetically styled."

Born in Cleveland in the US, Emma started her career at an auction house where she discovered her passion for 20th-century design. Determined to learn more, she moved to New York and found the perfect job – working for Alan Moss, a well-known dealer in high-end '50's designs. She spent 10 years



A BRIEF HISTORY OF VINTAGE KITCHEN APPLIANCES

The emphasis on good design in the appliance industry started in the 1920s. When the Coldspot electric refrigerator caused a flurry at the 1929 Paris International Exposition, US company Sears, realising that cost was a major factor, designed one that was bigger, but cheaper. They hired refrigerator engineer Herman Price and industrial designer Raymond Loewy who pioneered the new-look streamlined design and sales soared.

Famous brands to emerge with this new look were Morphy Richards and Hamilton Beach. In 1936, Morphy, an engineer, and Richards, a salesman, teamed up to make electrical and gas equipment as well as radios and televisions.

Hamilton Beach, a partnership between Louis Hamilton and Chester Beach, invented the electric drinks mixer. Another success was a universal electric motor used to power sewing machines, making treadle driven sewing machines defunct.

Metal and earthenware cookware was replaced by Pyrex a revolutionary new glass invented in 1915 by the Corning Glass Works in New York. It didn't crack or break when subjected to heat or cold, so you could bake and serve your food in the same dish. In 1947, Pyrex started producing attractive coloured tableware and continued right up until the 1960s.

The other innovation was space-saving stacking storage items that fitted snugly into the fridge, a concept which began as long ago as 1925.

THIS PAGE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ● A 1950's toaster.

● This beautiful Hamilton Beach food mixer shows the ultimate in streamlined styling in chrome. A similar item on eBay would cost in the region of \$50 (about R527).

there during which time she completed her MA in the History of 20th-Century Design.

As she has family in Hermanus, she later decided to settle in South Africa with her five-year-old daughter. She bought and revamped a terrace house in Woodstock last year and opened C20 Galerie a shop selling rare vintage furniture, much of which she brought in from America.

"The original furniture I sell costs thousands of US dollars, so I replicate certain pieces including light fixtures," she explains. She also acquires items on eBay and her success in this area is mainly due to her in-depth knowledge of design and who the top designers were in different eras.

However, most of her iconic 20th-century kitchen appliances were bargain-shop finds here in South Africa. Her aim is to buy at reasonable prices and restore where she can. "As long as they still work, I can get a car panel beater to respray and refurbish them," she says.

Her collection continues to grow. Wanting a companion storage unit for her retro SMEG fridge for instance, Emma came up with the idea of buying an old fridge and revamping it. "I re-lacquered the body work, cleaned up the chrome parts and converted the interior to a dry goods store with glass shelving," she says.

"I could've bought all my appliances new, but they wouldn't work as well, nor last as long and where's the character in a new toaster from Oz?" she asks. **GEH**

TIPS FOR ASPIRING COLLECTORS

- Make sure the appliances work. If you find a piece that requires power, ask to plug it in.
- Don't be afraid to buy cheaply and to revamp, as long as you know of a trusty panel beater who can respray and touch up the chrome.
- Look for maker's marks and labels such as Pyrex (always marked on the base), Morphy Richards and Hamilton Beach.
- To educate yourself about prices and brands, go to eBay and see what's on offer. Knowledge, as in Emma's case, gives you the edge on other collectors.
- You don't have to buy in retail outlets. Buy 'wild' which means trawling through junk shops, car boot sales and charity shops for items that haven't yet been 'civilised' or redone by dealers.
- South Africa has a lot of Scandinavian designed pieces but not much from Germany or France. Learn to identify these brands and research lesser known ceramic brands that you can buy at reasonable prices.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

- A scale from the 1950s which Emma has re-lacquered in typical '50s light green.
- Retro Hamilton Beach soda fountain-style milkshake maker, around \$100 (about R1 055) on eBay. Emma had it re-lacquered in vintage green.
- Colourful enamelware lotus pattern bowls and ice bucket by Catherine Holm, a 1950's Norwegian designer. A single bowl, which Emma bought for \$30 (about R300), is now worth \$150 (about R1 500).
- Vintage Pyrex 4–6-cup glass stovetop coffee percolator from the 1960s.

SOURCE C20 Galerie c20galerie.co.za or 021 448 8512

Treasure chest

What are your collectables worth?

FIND OF THE MONTH

I inherited a Spode dinner service with servers, gravy boats, side plates, soup bowls, breakfast plates, dinner plates, coffee cups and saucers in this Kymono pattern. There are numbers underneath. Can you tell me anything about the pattern and how much the set would be worth?

Derick Taylor, via e-mail



Clyde Terry of Clyde on 4th Antiques and Collectables says, "Spode, an English porcelain factory, made pieces that were very white and translucent due to the large proportion of bone ash used in the clay. Spode was also well known for its blue and white transfer printed earthenware in a huge selection of patterns. This Kymono pattern pre-dates 1930. The value of a basic six-place setting in excellent condition is about R3 000 – R4 000. A set with 12 of everything plus extras like serving dishes, would be worth R7 000."

I read with interest a letter relating to British Royal memorabilia in your February 2014 edition.

I have a cup, saucer and side plate commemorating the coronation of Edward VIII, which of course never took place. The set is in very good condition. Can you tell me whether it has any value?

Marion Baxter, via e-mail

Nick Howarth of Antiques and Bygones in Durban says, "All Royal Coronation memorabilia is produced well in advance and as Edward VIII abdicated before it could happen, these items are more sought after than average royal memorabilia. Your Royal Stafford cup, saucer and plate are transfer printed and appear in good condition. I would estimate their value to be about R1 000." **GH**



EXPERT TIP: "ALWAYS CHECK OLD LUGGAGE FOR A MONOGRAM OR LOGO," SAYS DEALER JO-MARIE RABE. "AN OLD LOUIS VUITTON TRUNK COULD BE WORTH AS MUCH AS R50 000"



I would love to know more about this trunk that belonged to my father. It's lined with a kind of white wallpaper sealant and is in perfect condition. The handle appears to be in stagecoach leather with a type of solid buckle. **Lindi Baird, via e-mail**

According to Jo-Marie Rabe of Pier Rabe Antiques, "Old leather trunks can be worth as much as R4 500 depending on their condition. Sometimes they are not in fact made of leather at all, but a wax treated canvas that starts looking like old leather over time. I'm unable to tell from the image what this one is made of. However, judging by the condition, if it's leather, it's probably worth around R1 200."

WRITE IN AND WIN

EVERY MONTH we'll be giving away a *prize for the most valuable or interesting antique item sent in. Congratulations to **Derick Taylor**, who's won six bottles of Sauvignon Blanc and six bottles of Stones in the Sun Syrah worth R650. This handcrafted collection hails from Dunstone Wines, a small family-owned winery set on the lower slopes of the Bovelei Valley Retreat guest house estate in Wellington which is also home to The Stone Kitchen restaurant. Reservations are essential. Visit dunstone.co.za

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Send in clear photographs of collectable items to Treasure Chest, SA Garden and Home, Box 3124, Parklands 2121. Due to the volume of mail we are unable to respond personally or return photographs. Send e-mail submissions to gardenandhome@caxton.co.za. Pictures must be sent as separate attachments at a size between 1MB – 2MB. Only one submission per reader will be accepted. For guidelines on the best way to take your photos for Treasure Chest, visit our website gardenandhome.co.za



THANKS TO OUR SPECIALISTS:

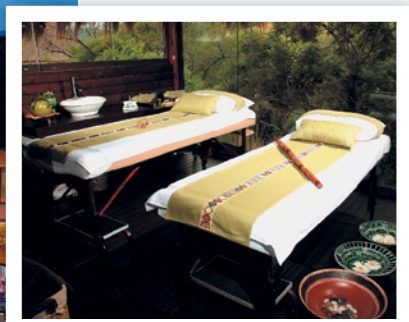
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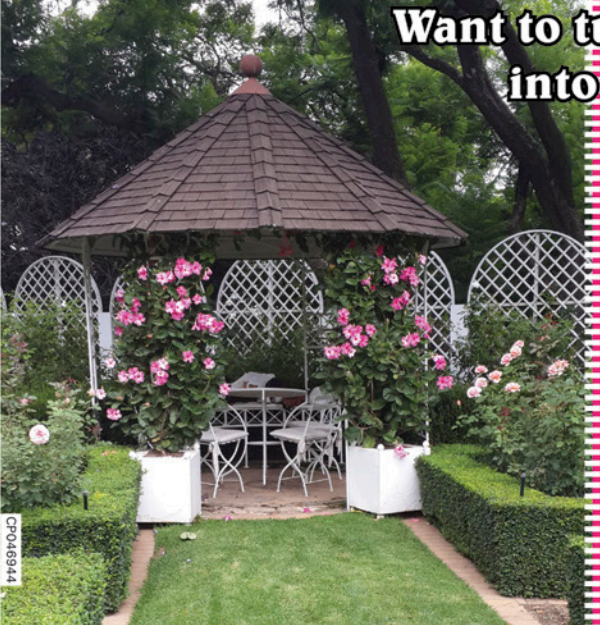
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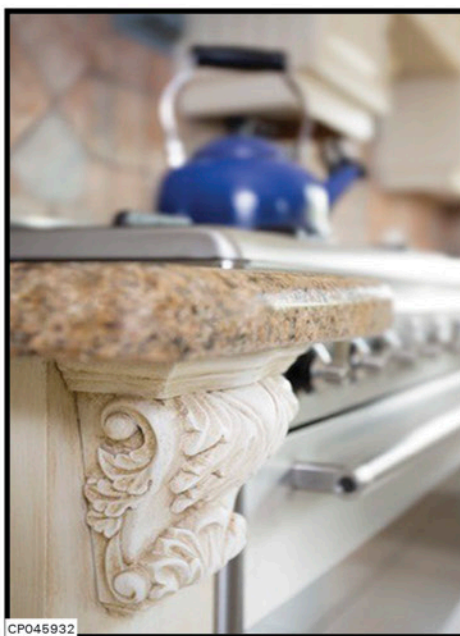


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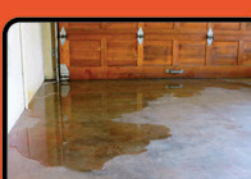
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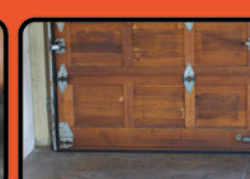
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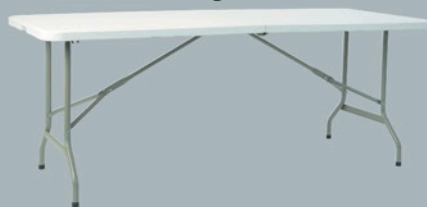
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Shekara Hellmann Singh's successful new online store stocks the best in local and international home decor and furniture. She shares five of her favourite things

“Following your passion can be so rewarding,” says former marketing professional, Shekara Hellmann Singh. “I left the comfort of the corporate world to co-found an interior design company and never looked back.” Her business, 6th element decor.design, has grown from a successful consultancy specialising in interior design, decorating and product design to one of the leading online home decor stores in SA.

The website offers covetable finds from international brands, but has a strong focus on showcasing the best of local design too. “South Africa is brimming with art, craft and new design talent and we're delighted to provide a platform to get these products into people's lives and homes,” Shekara says.

“What sets us apart,” she adds, “is we're able to use our experience in decor and design to select pieces we know will add to the quality of life of our customers.” Another unique feature is that the website offers a free online home decorating course allowing the 6th element team to share their expertise with their more ardent customers.

SHEKARA'S BEST...

SPACE is Bistro98 at Dunkirk Estate in Ballito (1). “One of my favourite escape-from-the-city spots, it's open to the outdoors and effortlessly combines great food, stylish decor and a peaceful relaxed atmosphere – the hours go by without you noticing.”

ITEM OF FURNITURE is the Koi-Booki Chair (2) by Italian designers Claudio Dondoli and Marco Pocci for Pedrali available locally from 6th element decor.design. “It's got the right balance of pattern, shape and texture. Like the perfect outfit, it can be dressed up or down and still looks amazing.”



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FLOWER is the tulip (3). “Tulips have a cheerful vibrant quality without being overwhelming so they look great anywhere. I especially like a bunch of pink tulips swept to the side in a shallow glass bowl,” she says.

DECOR TREND is the alternatives to taxidermy that are suddenly in vogue. “I love how the beauty of nature is celebrated in new and imaginative ways using a variety of materials including fabric, wood, metal, paper and even recycled objects,” she says. “Ronel Jordaan's hand-felted wool Sheep Sculptures (4) are pure design poetry.”

LOCAL DESIGNER is Nawaaz Saldulker. “One of the best things about my job is getting to know passionate, new designers who have fresh ideas such as Nawaaz Saldulker. His designs like this Shelf Light (5) are so unique and show a keen understanding of how objects interact with people and spaces,” she explains. **CEH**

SOURCES 6th element decor.design 6thelement.co.za Bistro98 bistro98.co.za
Nawaaz Saldulker nawaazsaldulker.co.za Ronel Jordaan roneljordaan.com



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