

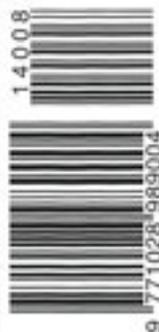
CONDÉ NAST
House & Garden

SOUTH AFRICA'S FINEST DECOR MAGAZINE

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AFRICAN DESIGN COME
TOGETHER BEAUTIFULLY
IN A CAPE TOWN HOME

TEXT PETE BERMEJO
PRODUCTION PETE BERMEJO
PHOTOGRAPHS MONTSE GARRIGA

FROM TOP The house is made up of modular elements and massive windows; the kitchen links the living rooms and concrete, stone and wood unify the space OPPOSITE PAGE In the dining room, a standing lamp offers a pop of colour. A teak table and chairs from Mid-Century Modern Furniture & Lighting are underpinned by a Moroccan rug from OKHA and accented by a cork pendant by Benjamin Hubert at The Modern Home Company



‘THE SIMPLICITY OF THE MINIMALIST ARCHITECTURE CALLS TO MIND THE AESTHETIC OF MID-LAST-CENTURY’S ICONIC CASE STUDY HOUSES OF CALIFORNIA,’



From the living room is a view of the City Bowl. One-off pieces are positioned throughout the room, such as the ‘Falcon’ chair and the ceramic and Murano glass objects – both from Mid Century Modern Furniture & Lighting. These are offset by contemporary local pieces – a wood-and-steel table from OKHA and ‘Hex’ solid-brass side tables by Haldane Martin

W

hen François Van der Leek, his wife Dalene and their three young children were looking for a plot to build on in Cape Town, the City Bowl seemed

to them to have all the elements they wanted in a location for a second home in the city – a major departure from their life on a game reserve near the Kruger National Park. ‘We love living in Nelspruit, but we wanted a place in a big city where we could come on holiday and where the children could live when they go to university,’ explains the owner. The property they eventually settled on, in the suburb of Vredehoek, is high up on the slopes of Table Mountain, with a park behind it and harbour views down below.

On the triangular plot, architect Antonio Zaninovic created a three-storey central tower with elements projecting from it. ‘Although we didn’t know him personally at the time, we decided on Antonio for the project because we really liked the connection between exterior and interior he makes in his work,’ François comments. Through his design, they were able to free up the first floor, avoid narrow rooms and achieve a sense of fluidity between the interior spaces and the garden.

Outside there are still traces of the cement factory that was abandoned over 30 years ago. ‘We kept the concrete structures, but because they bordered on the neighbours’ property, we couldn’t incorporate them into the building,’ Antonio says. So, to maintain some connection between the new section and the old ruins, Antonio, project manager Ana Corrochano and builder Jeremy Berrisford decided to use concrete in different textures throughout the house. In the living room, for example, he left the ceilings and a dividing wall bare but applied polished cement to the floor.

The entrance hall on the ground floor is entered directly from the street and leads in to a large dining room and kitchen, which serves to link the former to the living room. Large windows bring the exterior into the interior, a theme that’s carried throughout the house – even to the study and the bathroom. This is something of a signature for the designer, whose designs foster harmony with their sites.

The master bedroom, with en-suite bathroom, is on the first floor of the tower and overlooks the pool. François and Dalene thought it was a good idea to have a floor to themselves, ▶



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Architect Antonio Zaninovic; the open-plan bathroom is light and airy; the primary palette of a quilt in the bedroom provides a link between side tables from Marlanteak and an artwork by Michael Taylor at Whatiftheworld Gallery



where they could have peace and privacy and control the children being able to come up and down. On the second floor are another three bedrooms that share a bathroom and a large terrace, from which the harbour is visible. Right at the top, on the third floor, a room with especially large windows is dedicated to a painting studio.

The simplicity of the minimalist architecture calls to mind the aesthetic of mid-last-century's iconic Case Study Houses of California whose reductive designs have stood the test of time.

Working with these simple lines and open spaces, decorator Natalie Thiart, from interior-design studio Solving Spaces, was in charge of dressing the house. She complemented Antonio's work by playing with solid mid-century objects and furniture in punchy colours, paying particular attention to chairs, tables and Italian and Nordic adjustable lamps. The final touches were local fabrics, ceramics and accents by South Africa's design luminaries. A truly global and timeless mix.

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“THE FINAL TOUCHES WERE LOCAL FABRICS, CERAMICS AND ACCENTS BY SOUTH AFRICA'S DESIGN LUMINARIES.”

FROM TOP The sofa was found on auction. Behind it hangs Lyndi Sales' *Double Vision, Parallel Universe* from Whatiftheworld Gallery; the desk and chair in the study are from Mid Century Modern Furniture & Lighting

OPPOSITE PAGE In the dining room a Californian-style stone wall offsets the gritty off-shutter concrete slabs and frames a Meyer Von Wielligh dresser. An abstract from Jeannette Unite's *Headgear Mining* series commands a dividing wall in the next room

