HOME of FAB ANDERSON

fabulousness

In the words of leading Architecture and Design writer Steven Crafti, '... unlike other houses that scream out for attention, black houses sit quietly in the landscape, gently accentuating their natural environment and evoking a sense of calm and tranquility.'

By Illona Salgado-Schrant

BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL

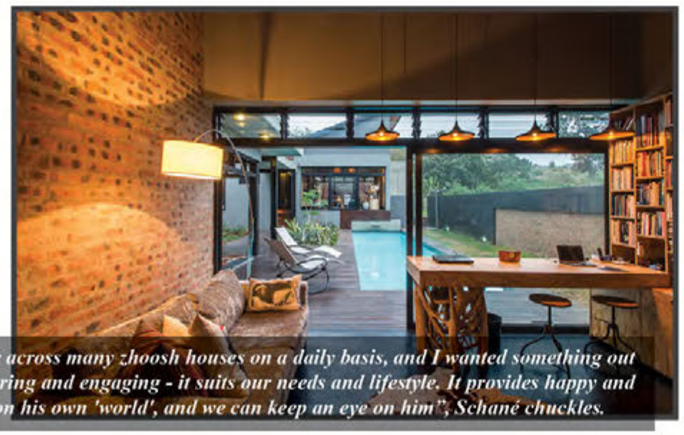
The Anderson home greets you like a bold, soaring bird, with extended wings, as you approach Honeyguide Way within Brettenwood Coastal Estate. Designed by Mabette Vermaak of Detail Architects, with interior design by home owner Schané Anderson of O Là Là! Interiors, this collaboration has resulted in a unique space which the Andersons now call home.

After a long build supervised by Keith Anderson, they have finally moved in. "The house was designed around two main parameters. Firstly, the requirements of the Andersons and secondly, blurring the boundaries between internal and external spaces. We pulled the living spaces apart to create internal rooms connecting to external courtyard 'rooms' yet all functioning as one" says architect Mabette Vermaak.

A simple innovative water feature, flanked by Camphor trees meets you at the entrance. The first of the three zones is the functional garage block, also containing a mezzanine level for Keith's den, which gazes out with a suspended view of the surrounding vegetation.

Entering the house one is struck by the perspective provided by a 25m backbone which connects the two additional spaces and runs all the way down their long property. The second zone comprises of a bedroom with study, "chill lounge", bathroom and kitchenette for their 14 year old son Grant. The guest suite is also located here allowing privacy for guests.

Walking down the indoor and outdoor boardwalk one passes the heated lap pool and small outdoor garden area flanking the spine on either side.



"I love our new and uncomplicated home. In my profession, I come across many zhoosh houses on a daily basis, and I wanted something out of the norm to come home to. Our new home is unsophisticated, daring and engaging - it suits our needs and lifestyle. It provides happy and independent spaces, whilst at the same time allowing our teenage son his own 'world', and we can keep an eye on him", Schané chuckles.

The third space is the heart and soul of the home. Spacious and a showcase for Schané's remarkable ability to combine colour, texture and lighting with an industrial yet homely atmosphere, one is struck by the magnificent array of lights.

A spacious black and stainless steel island kitchen and floors, mampara brickwork, off-shutter concrete and reclaimed Baltic oak paneling provide a backdrop for pieces of furniture and art collected over the years. The double vaulted ceilings, which have also been painted black, fade into nothingness allowing the lights to take centre stage. A covered patio with distant sea views leads off from here.

The main bedroom overlooks Red Bishop Dam and enjoys forest and sea views, whilst the functional integrated bathroom backs up behind the Andersons headboard. This area of the house also includes their study, which overlooks the lap pool and provides a space for reflection. A wildly playful guest bathroom completes this zone.

Keith oversaw the build project and invested much time in providing the home with energy efficient solutions. He says, "We've included two underground JoJo tanks for harvesting of all rainwater, solar heating for the pool, two gas braais and gas kitchen hob and energy efficient gas geysers. We also installed a back-up generator which links dedicated circuits and allows for seamless transition when we experience power outages".

115 Honeyguide Way is a testament to original thinking, knowing what you like and having the courage of your convictions to create your own home and not simply a clone of someone else's idea of what works. It's a great example of less is more reflecting the Andersons taste, lifestyle and preferences.