habitat



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these pages:

Architecture here is patently modern with an emphasis on indoor / outdoor lifestyle. Materials include wood, glass, concrete and steel – all the elements of this classical contemporary signature.

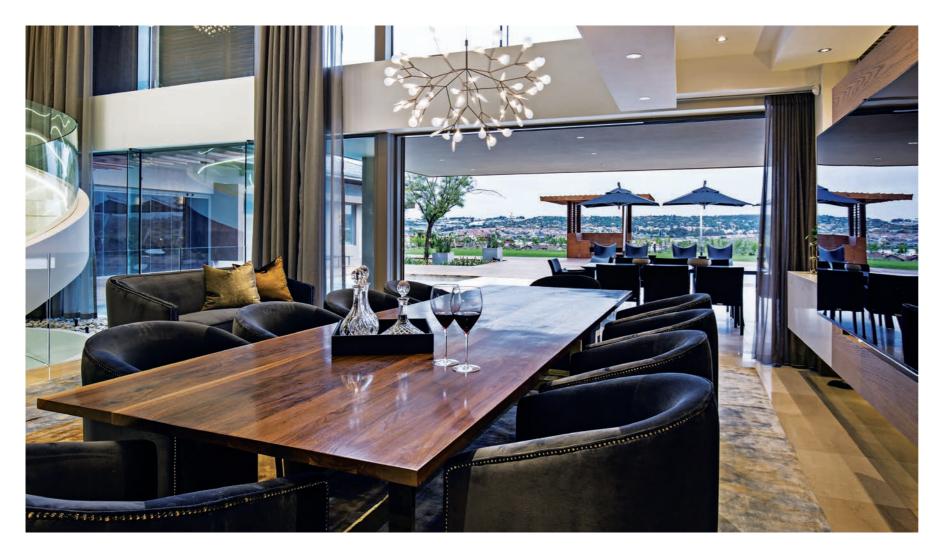
Modern Family

location: Waterfall Equestrian Estate, Midrand, Gauteng | architecture: Theo Coetzee FEEU Architects | interior design: Schane Anderson, Olala! Interiors | photography: Grant Pitcher

This home is a testament to good old family values and the pursuit of excellence. The union of family was paramount when considering the design and function of key spaces. The look was further motivated by the client's appreciation of decoration, which includes fabrics, wall claddings and iconic pieces.



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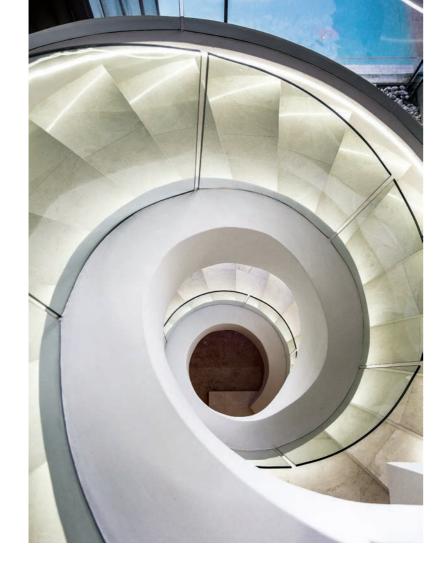
these pages: The multifunctional living / entertaining area accesses a spacious terrace and pool. The custom-engineered spiral staircase spans three levels and is imaginatively illuminated; interior design is eclectically contemporary.

left: In the kitchen infinite pieces mimic the keys of a piano, unique and different in each configuration; the Rhythm light located over the kitchen island, designed by Vibia, combines minimalism and movement.

Says the designer: 'Having worked with these clients previously, I had a very good idea as to what their expectations and preferences were and to deliver this I invested a good deal of time on research, and in the development of the interior design concept. The brief was for a customised, luxurious yet comfortable solution – one in which the whole family could live harmoniously.'

The formal reception area is composed and graceful and is separated from the dominant spiral staircase by a timber screen. The staircase was designed and evaluated by the client, an engineer by profession, and its construction is inspirational. Says interior designer Schanè Anderson: 'If I had to choose the most suitable word to describe a spiral staircase it would be 'caracol' (or 'caracole'), an 18th century architectural term for spiral or helical stairs. I like the quote of contemporary Turkish playwright, novelist and thinker Mehmet Muratildan: 'Stairs are wonderful friends; they rise with us and they fall with us!'

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above:

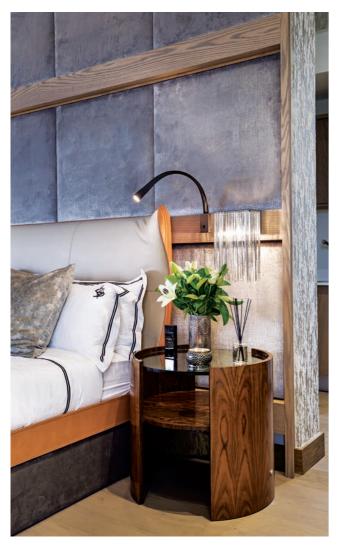
The Brave New World standing lamp in the study (the first in South Africa) was designed by award-winning UK design duo, Freshwest. They are celebrated for their experimental and playful touch and belief that 'in the brave new world, imagination is free'. Wallpaper by Zinc.

In the dining space there is something of a fairy-tale setting. Nine Heracleum Pendants, designed by Bertjan Pot, are mindfully scattered throughout the generous double volume area – their white lenses illuminating from organically designed branches. Velvet tub chairs with brass bangles surround the imposing solid walnut dining table top, anchored by an equally solid brass base. It was custom manufactured 'to hearten and foster many happy family dining events,' says the designer. She adds: 'We made a few prototypes before we got it exactly right, we involve a lot of time and effort in our R&D.'

The designer enthuses over her solution for the main bedroom suite. 'The requirement for this space was to create a luxurious private drawing room where no colour is dominant; a calm yet breathtaking interior space. The winged Mamy Blue bed, designed by Roberto Lazzeroni, is described as half-bed half-sculpture and was intentionally placed to take centre stage in the room. The pronounced winged headboard sits in front of a velvet padded wall and is flanked by circular bedside pedestals. Neutral tones, playful patterns and uber comfort create a measure of ambiance here, which is virtually elysian: beautiful / creative, divinely inspired, peaceful and perfect. The wallpapers are by Romo and Omexco.'

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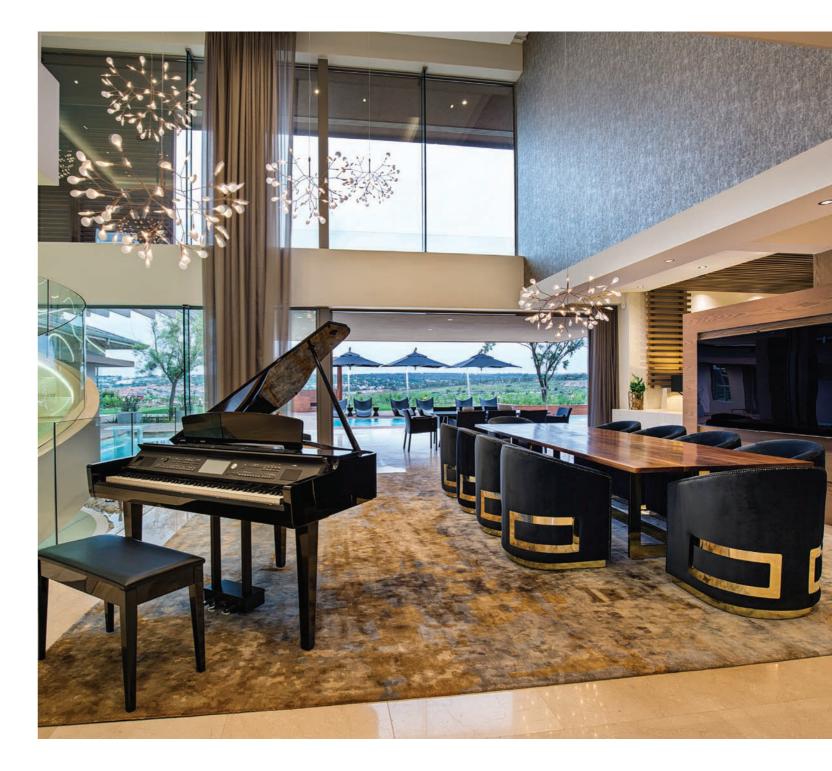
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The main suite accesses a private terrace. Materials here are of high quality and the attention to detail is absolute.

'What is done in love is done well,' so said Vincent Van Gogh. Juan Montoya, one of the most acclaimed and prolific interior designers said: 'I feel that a room should never allow the eye to settle in one place. It should smile at you and create fantasy.'

And yet Andrée Putman, the French interior and product designer, actually sums up the final impression in this contemporary family home: 'For a house to be successful, the objects within it must communicate with one another, respond and balance one another.' This has been achieved here.





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