



Magically transformed

Text **RAMI MOOROSI** Project Consultant **ANINE EHLERS**
Photography **JEANNE-CLAIRE BISCHOFF & NICO VAN DER MEULEN**

Nico Van Der Meulen Architects

011 789 5242

Nico Van Der Meulen Architects transformed what was originally a 1970s house into a home ideal for the 21st century. The architectural firm created an atrium and a moat around the hall and dining room, with a curtain of water falling past a cut-out in the atrium wall. The end result is a beautiful breakfast garden to the east of the kitchen, overlooking the moat and water feature. The family and dining room opens onto a spacious 13m x 6m lanai through frameless folding doors – an excellent idea as this doubles the space available for entertaining during the long South African summers. The interior walls were removed to create a spectacular double volume living area and to form a more seamless floor plan. The roof over the lanai is suspended from a two-storey-high beam traversing the pool. The outcome is a contemporary home that is open-plan with north-facing layout ideal for family living and entertaining.







M SQUARE LIFESTYLE DESIGN 011 789 5242

BOLD, ULTRA-MODERN and fit for a contemporary South African lifestyle – no one would ever guess that this house was originally built in the 1970s. Architect Nico van der Meulen explains the reason behind taking up the impressive renovation project: “The house is situated in a very good area, but was very dated, thus an ideal candidate for a make-over.” One of the main

objectives was to also build a home that accommodates the typical South African indoor and outdoor lifestyle.

The transformation into the 21st century was achieved by removing the interior walls to create a spectacular double volume living area. This also helped to get rid of the chaotic floor plan with small boxes, all on different levels. Nico goes on to explain:

“There used to be a screen wall around the kitchen, and we decided to create an atrium and a moat around the hall and dining room, with a curtain of water falling past a cut-out in the atrium wall. This created a beautiful breakfast garden to the east of the kitchen that overlooks the moat and water feature.” The water feature adds an interesting visual element

PE CONTRACTORS 011 477 4842



ABOVE: M Square Lifestyle Design complemented the architectural style of this home with an interior design that accentuated a seamless transition between the interiors and exteriors. A good example is seen in the use of frameless glass doors extending the interiors into the garden, and the gradual transition of floor finishes from outdoors to indoors depicting layers of natural, semi-natural, and man-made finishes and fabrics were introduced to create a luxurious yet comfortable space – the overall effect is spaces where one can retreat and relax.

LEFT: PE Contractors was responsible for the general structural steel work throughout this home – this included the lightweight roofing, staircase, balustrades as well as gates. By working closely with the architects the company was able to create structural elements that enhance and complement this home’s unique architectural appeal.



and is visible from almost everywhere in the living and kitchen areas. The kitchen takes centre stage as the hub of the house where the open space invites people to gather around.

The symbiotic relationship between the exteriors and interiors is seen in bedrooms and bathrooms that open onto balconies and atriums, and in the case of the guest bedroom, directly onto the garden. The original structure was north-facing, and due to the established gardens surrounding the site it was easy to create the privacy needed for the main bedroom and bathroom to seamlessly flow outside. The use of frameless doors also helped to extend the interiors into the garden.

In terms of some of the other finishes used to enhance the architecture, Phia van



Nico van der Meulen

**Nico van der Meulen
Architects**

“My two sons and daughter-in-law joining me at the firm was a definite career highlight, but so is every commission we get to design another building for our stimulating clients,” says architect Nico van der Meulen.

After studying civil engineering, Nico worked as a project manager and started to design buildings in his spare time. This then progressed to designing and project managing for clients.

After only four houses the design side of the business took off and eventually Nico wrote his SA Council for Architects’ examination to become registered as an architect.

During the 25 years since he has designed more than 3 000 buildings throughout Africa, many of which have been featured in SA Home owner.

One of the highlights of his job comes from the fact that there is never a boring minute. “New challenges everyday keeps me on my toes and prevents complacency and boredom.” Nico concludes by adding: “Trying to find new solutions to familiar problems makes for an interesting life, at 60 I’m still working 80 hour weeks because I enjoy it!



Midek Coatings

GS 011 792 7073

The surface coatings throughout this home were supplied by Paint Options. The company used a selection of Midek Coatings products for the interior and exterior walls and ceilings. Warm African tones as well as specialised rust paint and effects give a distinctive and attractive appeal to this home.

M Square Lifestyle Design

011 789 5242

M Square Lifestyle Necessities created interiors reflecting opulence and the latest in interior decor trends. These can be found in aspects such as the spherical copper lamp shades designed by one of the world's leading designers, Tom Dixon. The copper mirror balls were artistically used to create a dynamic layer in the double volume space while the height variations of the lights attract intimacy, making the space more relaxed. The astute placement of furniture divides spaces into pockets of activity – an excellent touch as this promotes an interactive family life. A luxurious colour palette was applied throughout to complement the modern theme of the interiors, including rich rust and copper hues. The end result is a look that is open, warm, modern and infinitely inviting. M Square Lifestyle Necessities imports furniture from leading manufactures in Europe using award-winning designers.



Natural Stone Warehouse

011 465 4334

For the last decade Natural Stone Warehouse has been home to the largest selection of the finest quality natural stone tiles and cladding, imported exclusively from around the world. Its reputation for unsurpassed quality and service excellence ensures an unforgettable customer experience and with its extensive range, you will find the perfect match for your requirements.



INTERIOR WOODEN FLOORS 011 455 2975

der Meulen of M Square Lifestyle Necessities explains: "Usually areas underneath stairs are redundant – a functional, popular spot was created by placing a bar in this cavity." Phia also explains that the fireplace serves as a centrepiece and another focal point. It also acts as a barrier that subtly divides distinct areas. The interior design was done subtly in order to underscore the architecture using more or less classical materials that included travertine, rusted steel, glass and wood.

The end result is a contemporary home with an open-plan and north-facing layout that is more than ideal for family living and entertaining. The ingenuity of the architecture lies in its natural flowing effect but without making the house too overpowering and too big for easy maintenance. 🏡



RADIANT SHOWERS 011 708 3081



LEFT: Interior Wooden Floors was responsible for supplying and installing the Kährs Linnea Narrow in a teak colour. The flooring carries a 12-year manufacturer's guarantee and is protected by six coats of a water-borne silk matt lacquer – an excellent touch as it is not only aesthetically pleasing but also water and UV-resilient.

BOTTOM LEFT: The residents of this home shower in style with this custom-made regal frameless shower supplied and installed by Radiant Showers. Only the best 8mm polished, toughened safety glass and imported hardware were used, ensuring a quality shower that will last for years to come.

MAGICALLY TRANSFORMED

PROFESSIONALS:

PE Contractors –
contractor

M Square Lifestyle Design –
interior design

Nico van der Meulen Architects –
architecture

CONTACTS:

Interior Wooden Floors –
genuine wooden floors
011 455 2975, info@
interiorwoodenfloors.co.za

M Square Lifestyle Design –
interior design
011 789 5242,
phia@nicovdmeulen.com

M Square Lifestyle Necessities –
decor accessories
011 447 0807, 011 268 5103,
011 325 2949

Midek Coatings –
professionally supervised quality
coatings
011 792 7073, 011 791 6328

Natural Stone Warehouse –
natural stone tiles and cladding
021 506 1300, 031 566 6562,
www.naturalstonewarehouse.com

Nico van der Meulen Architects –
architecture
011 789 5242,
www.nicovdmeulen.com

PE Contractors –
contractor
011 477 4842, pecon@telkomsa.net

Radiant Showers –
custom-made showers
011 708 3081