

A home full of soul

By Trisha Harinath, Project Consultant Ruanda van der Walt, Photography Barry Goldman, David Ross and Nic Baleta



NICO VAN DER MEULEN ARCHITECTS 011 789 5242

Nico van der Meulen Architects designed this contemporary home, with the most important design objectives being the views over the nature reserve, sun orientation and privacy. In stark contrast to the solid volumes of the street facade, the south glass facade allows for unobstructed views, and sliding glass doors connect the downstairs living and kitchen spaces to the separate outdoor entertainment area. However, in spite of this every room in the house still receives ample north sun. A concrete column and beam extend over the pool to frame the landscape, with the infinity pool reinforcing the idea of the interior space extending out. Materials and colours were chosen to complement the surrounding landscape, and through the use of different materials such as wood, steel and stone, and different variations in the application of these materials, the strong three-dimensionality of this building is accentuated and celebrated.



ABOVE LEFT: All of the steelwork in and around this home was manufactured and installed by P.E Contractors. Using mostly beams and lip channels, the company was responsible for the structural steel, stairs as well as the roof walkway, which all contribute a current aesthetic to this modern home.

Down a long driveway, behind an understated wall in one of the tree-lined streets of Meyersdal Eco, lies a remarkable home. This home, built in just over a year, embodies all that is exciting, inspiring and uplifting about living in South Africa.

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Its owners and their children may have had a wish list for a residence, but ended up with a home full of soul – a place that pumps feel-good energy, and effortlessly complements its natural surroundings while showing off the best that a home has to offer.

The clean-lined geometric facade of this contemporary home speaks the same language as its straightforward interior, with both expressing a purity





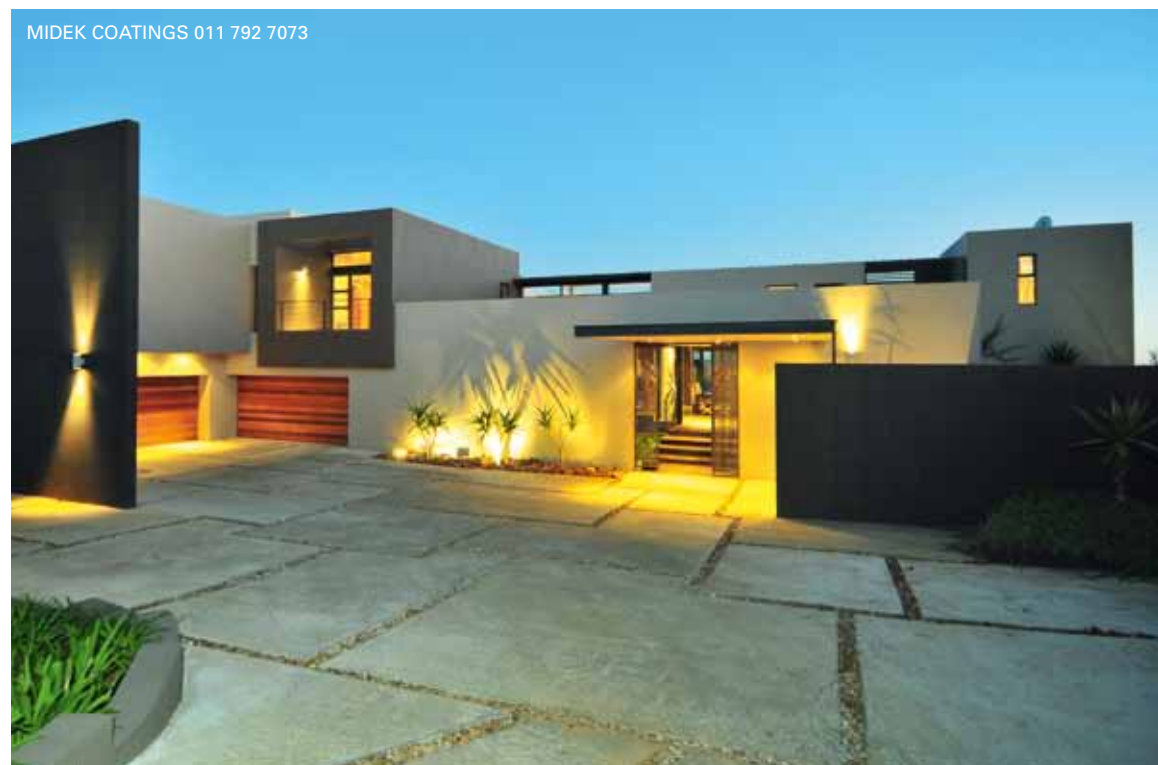
of line and a modern aesthetic, as envisioned by designer Wynand Coetzee of Gotz Consulting and Interiors, and architect Nico van der Meulen of Nico van der Meulen Architects.

According to Nico, the most important design objectives were the views over the nature reserve, sun orientation and privacy. "The open space to the south of the site naturally created problems in terms

of the orientation versus the views. But by moving the building south on the site, the home still enjoys the views of the nature reserve without looking into adjacent properties," he says.

The problem of northern sunlight was solved by creating an entrance courtyard and a double-volume space in the main living area. High windows were also used to allow the northern sun to penetrate

BELOW: Midek Coatings were used on the walls and ceilings throughout this home, with a variety of colours and finishes selected. For the exterior, Midek Wall Armour Stonehenge was used as the main colour, with Thoroughbred and Koala as accents. For the interior, Midek Satin Elephant was applied on both the walls and ceilings. Not only do these paint coatings protect the substrates, but also add to the appeal of the home by creating warm and welcoming spaces.



MIDEK COATINGS 011 792 7073



deep into the home. The privacy issue was addressed with the use of steel shutters. "This design approach has not only resolved all of the challenges that the site presented, but also enables visitors to experience the views beyond the house from the moment that they step onto the wooden walkway, which seems to float above the water feature," Nico explains.

Of the interior, Wynand remarks that he wanted the spaces to be timeless. "So often designers and decorators are too conscious about seasonal trends, and this

results in rooms that have to be changed completely once the fashion changes. I had to dig deep into my little black book, and carefully plan how I could maximise the budget with interior pieces and furnishings, using as many local manufacturers and suppliers as possible," he recalls.

Inside, the interior is as strong and unforgettable as the owners, which is achieved by balancing bright colours with muted tones, raw materials with high-shine objects, and personal items with a touch of glamour. "Textured



walls, furnishings accentuated with walnut and dark woods, and slivers of stainless steel heighten the streamlined drama of the home," explains Wynand.

Through the use of different materials, and by applying these materials in different ways on the exterior and interior surfaces, three-dimensionality in the home was born, Nico says. "This can be seen especially on the street facade,



where a collage of various materials was used not only to create layers of privacy, but also to tie in the design in a holistic way."

Looking at the south elevation, this three-dimensionality can be seen in clear view – the steel roof hovers above thick stone walls, while steel and concrete beams break the monotony of the mostly glass facade, adding a unique and dynamic appeal to the structure.

The layout of the home is as breathtaking as its exterior, with a magnificent frameless glass door providing a glimpse of the imaginative interiors beyond. As you enter the home, you are immediately introduced to this family's love for entertaining, with the dining room being the first grouping area, followed by the foyer and then a powder room.

Wynand says that, since he loves to create a welcoming focal point, an unframed canvas of the couple's three daughters adorns the wall in the foyer, with their friendly faces greeting you and giving you access

BELOW: Providing the perfect workspace, this Pure White CaesarStone surface contributes a subtle brightness to the kitchen. CaesarStone work surfaces are highly durable and retain their beauty for a lifetime. Available in 32 colours, CaesarStone is crack, chip, heat and stain-resistant, and is backed by a lifetime warranty.





BELOW: This versatile, gas-fired pizza oven was supplied by Jetmaster. Made from a cast heat-resistant mortar in a metal frame, the oven can also be used as a free-standing unit. It is finished in a terracotta colour and is also available in a wood-burning model. With a variety of high-end products, Jetmaster offers discerning home owners an enhanced lifestyle.

BELOW: Specialising in creating upmarket kitchens, the Kitchen Studio was responsible for the installation of the cabinetry in the kitchen and the scullery. Using walnut veneer with aluminium beading, as well as a high-gloss, acrylic accent colour and quartz countertops, the company has ensured a modern but timeless appeal.



JETMASTER 011 661 5900



THE KITCHEN STUDIO 011 781 4888



EUROTREND 011 609 0214

ABOVE: Emphasising the contemporary characteristic of this home are the custom-made cabinets, mirrors and taps, which were all supplied by Eurotrend. The company is one of the largest suppliers in South Africa of ready-made and custom-made bathroom furniture, inspired by European designs yet kept within budget for the South African consumer. With innovation, function and emotion the cornerstones of the company's philosophy, Eurotrend products are designed to give home owners functional spaces with an elegant and fashionable edge.



to their home. "Pinpoint lighting focuses on the photograph and illuminates this specific piece to stress its importance," he remarks.

In order to give this wonderful family a home that they can share with their guests, attention to detail was the order of the day in the entertainment area. "The brief was an environment that was easy-going, informal and, above all, a great place to entertain," Wynand adds.

Equipped with a braai, wood-burning pizza oven and ample seating for dining, this area has been accentuated by sliding glass doors that wrap around the space, providing panoramic views from every angle. With everything that one needs to enjoy the pleasures in life, as well as the calm serenity of the outdoors, this is indeed a home full of soul.

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