

HOUSE BER - MIDRAND

THE PRACTICAL DREAM HOME



With the clever use of transparent glass, a living room area surrounded by a koi pond and pool, and a porch that forms part of the interior, this masterpiece invites the serenity of the outdoor environment inside, and vice versa. The open plan nature of the house makes it a practical and comfortable space to live in. A sense of unity is created between all its various spaces, with each room seemingly flowing into the next.

Gone are the days where a house is designed with the intention of removing its occupants from the outdoor environment - and House Ber is an exquisite example of this. The client's request was simple: a modern, iconic, open-plan and airy home - without unnecessary rooms. Designed by Werner van der Meulen of Nico van der Meulen Architects, the house's striking rectangular structure answers this brief perfectly.



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photos: David Ross, Barend Roberts, Victoria Pilcher.





The cantilevered granite-clad staircase is elegantly secured between a wall on one side and glass support on the other. There are handrails on both sides for added support, with the one handrail resting on the glass support structure, and the other neatly cut into the wall. The steps are made from slabs of granite, with steel sheets used as the dividers. These steel sheets are barely visible, making the steps appear as though they are floating in the air and creating an aesthetically pleasing illusion.

The whole house has been thoughtfully planned and carefully laid out. The kitchen, which is enclosed by frameless doors, has been cleverly designed to be as stylish as the rest of the house, yet simple enough to work in. A steel grating balcony off the main bathroom is located in the north-east corner of the house, and protects the kitchen from too much morning sun.

A bridge that crosses over the living room connects the pyjama lounge and children's bedrooms to the main suite. The bathroom and bedroom are spacious, yet cosy - offering the sense of privacy that these rooms should have.

As inviting and open as the home is, security was not compromised - neither was originality. Instead of conventional burglar bars, steel bars were placed in a unique uninformed fashion all around the house. Phia van der Meulen, lead designer of M Square Lifestyle Design used the random patterns found on the steel facade as inspiration for the interior design. Illuminated ceilings add to the feeling of transparency, whilst the materials used were chosen to complement the contemporary feel.

Previous Page: Granite slabs punched with steel inserts function as steps dividing the dining room from other parts of the house.

Above: The smooth texture of this simple kitchen with its built-in cabinets gives it a neat and clean appearance.

Left: Unimposing and nearly invisible, the frameless glass doors seamlessly separate the interior from the exterior.







Innovation and originality were the driving concepts behind the design of House Ber, however functionality was never overlooked. As a result, it's impressive enough to be the ultimate dream home, yet practical enough to be a liveable one too.

B&B Italia, Pedrali and Molteni & C furniture, Foscarini and Zero lamps and Ligne Pure rugs were supplied by M Square Lifestyle Necessities, along with steel sculptures by Regardt van der Meulen.

Above: All materials were kept true to form, demonstrating the admirable ability of the designers.

Below: Splashes of yellow add an element of life and vibrancy.

