

habitat

T H E A R T O F L I V I N G



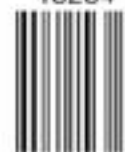
Architecture: Unique Signature on the Cape Coast | Picturesque Villa in Provence

Design: Detail and Finesse in Athens | Top Echelon Decoration in the Hamptons, NY

Focus: Kitchens and Bathrooms for 2018 | The Very Best of Walls and Windows



18264



#264 | R51.00 | other countries R44.74 excl. tax



Contemporary Connectivity

location: The Ridge Estate – Pretoria East | architecture: Johann Koch – JK Designs | interior design: by client | photography: Lourens Reyneke

This new home on a Pretoria estate could be described as an aesthetically organised assembly of rectangular shells on two levels. But it's more than that. Built on a vacant piece of land measuring just over 1 200 square metres, the structure spans just under 620 square metres and represents an appealing solution to high echelon family living in 2018.



these pages:

Space and light were key prerequisites in the design of this extensive family home.

The brief given by client to the architect was succinct: To design a modern contemporary home that boasts clean lines, open layouts and that would offer abundant natural light to the interior. This through the inclusion of large expanses of glass and strong connections to outdoor areas through incorporating open, always flexible floor space.

Says architect Johann Koch: 'My clients required entertainment and relaxation areas for big family days, they enjoy entertaining and having lots of space to do it in. So there was a prerequisite that they would be able to facilitate large gatherings that included many family members and numerous guests.'

these pages:

Access to the exterior is paramount on the ground-floor level. Materials used are modern and easily maintained.



'So this evolved as a spacious family home with five bedrooms and en suite bathrooms, plus a downstairs study and a three-car garage with adequate storage space.

'In executing this brief we had to come up with an original design that was both simplified yet eye-catching. From the outset, the overall concept revolved around the family entertainment areas, creating these as the heart of the home. On entrance, this multifaceted area becomes a living machine where all activity can be seen and monitored through the double volume glass entrance and large stacking doors. It really invites the appraiser inside.

'The open family areas at the central core allow for an interesting balance on the first floor with the children having their own wing. The parents get to walk across their exclusive bridge to access their private wing.'

Did the architects face any specific challenges on this virgin site?

The stand is orientated on the north-south axis and is narrow in its width. The challenge was to create a totally open-plan layout that would facilitate abundant preferred northern light, whilst also allowing for the triple-car garage within the tight confines of the stand. This was solved by creating a very well-lit double volume entrance area with additional high windows that allow natural light to radiate into the open-plan. This presents as a very beneficial and illuminating experience throughout the area. The architect adds: 'It never feels as if there might be a dark corner.'





He recalls: 'It was important to the client that the whole family could have a continuous connection irrespective of where they might be. So the open-plan experience had to extend to the second level as well as the exterior. The entertaining facilities were also to be multifaceted; the dynamic that often occurs being that while males might enjoy the braai area, their wives prefer the indoor lounge and the children play outside or inside with TV games. This was the major rationale behind the open-plan visual connection across all entertainment areas, including the upstairs lounge.'

The interior signature was inspired by introducing contemporary pieces with minimal decoration. This involved the extensive use of modern / mixed industrial materials with abstract art. Neutral tones were used throughout the interior with a few bold pillows and throw rugs introducing pops of colour.

these pages:

Finishes here are slick and well executed around a natural palette.



Architect Johann Koch adds: 'The result here is a culmination of a number of successful architectural traits and design philosophies that synergise in an appealing balance. It provides the family with a vibrant living experience, and yet – for guests and inhabitants alike when walking through the home – one notes a level of peace and tranquility.'

'The idea was to recreate a holiday beach house ambiance, yet within the city. To formulate that special feeling that occurs with the knowledge of being away from work stress, where the atmosphere encourages relaxation and unwinding. The primary approach was to consider which factors should typically evoke such a feeling; so from the beginning the key design drivers were: lots of light, high ceilings and constant visual connection inside and out.'

[h]