



On the cover

Janez: jersey (R290), Markhams; shoes (R450), Uzzi
 Aidan: jersey (R499), Guess; Relay belt (R99) and Jordan shoes (R299), both Markhams
 Jeans, models' own

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Decor

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Eastern *restraint*

Decor Editor Marian van Wyk
Photographs Angie Lázaro
Stylist Lauren Stewart

The simplicity of the sculptural lines of this Johannesburg family home is deceiving: After spending only a few minutes in Yaron and Neel's home, one realises that the design isn't as simple as it seemed at first glance.

There is an artful attention to detail and symmetry, starting at the large wooden front door, with its three asymmetrical cut-outs. And when you start absorbing the visual

impact of the interior, you notice other design elements in groups of three, such as the contrasting chocolate-brown stone cladding on the column pictured above.

Yaron, who has developed a chain of Japanese restaurants in the couple's homeland of Israel, believes that odd numbers contribute to harmony and balance in an interior. And with four children under the age of seven, it was worth a try.

Above Right

The double-volume ceilings of the entrance hall lend a spacious feeling to the home designed by architect Louis Louw and the Padma Group. Black Smith assisted the Padma Group with the interior design. All the natural stone, such as marble, was supplied by Marbleus Tiles and the special paint technique on the brown wall is by Tuscany Wall Creations.



Japanese design influences bring a sense of tranquility to this busy family home, where life revolves around four children... and a big oak tree



Right

The floating alabaster stone counter is a reminder of the Japanese restaurant chain that Yaron developed back in Israel. All the woodwork, bars and vanities were supplied by Carinthia. The doors are by Falcon.



Above

A two-way gas fireplace separates the lounge from the dining area. The muted colour scheme of the interior, designed by the Padma Group, creates a simple yet stylish background for the strong architectural lines

Left

The Caesarstone island unit, weighing a hefty half-ton, is the heart of the home and the family's gathering place. Orange accents are subtly used throughout the house

The most striking design element of the house is not the rich textures of the ashwood, stone and marble finishes, nor the sculptural architectural detail... The oak tree behind the staircase (pictured on the opening pages) is the real showstopper.

Architect, Louis Louw, originally designed the staircase without a landing, but a bylaw required that he change this design. Initially, Yaron and I thought that the landing would cut the view in half, but the visual impact turned out to be even stronger, Louis says.

Saving the exquisite tree when the construction work started also held structural challenges. Yaron explains: 'The foundation on the tree's side had to be strengthened with piling into which concrete was injected.'

Thanks to clever engineering and Yaron's insistence that the tree should remain, this newly built home now boasts a unique focal point that no money can buy.

Get the designer look

Colour: Use muted colours to create a simple background palette and add splashes of bright colours as a surprise element, such as the orange cupboard doors in Yaron and Yael's kitchen (opposite page).

Finishes: Use only natural materials, such as stone and wood. They inject warmth into a contemporary interior, and age beautifully.

Lighting: This is the ultimate design trick. Avoid lighting in the centre of the ceiling. Instead, bring in accent lighting to emphasise artwork, a staircase, work surfaces and focal walls. Get an expert's help if necessary.

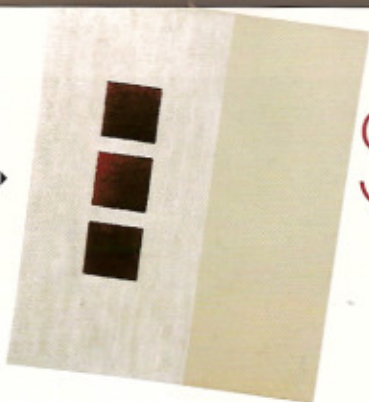
Natural light: Bigger windows, doors and sky windows create a feeling of open space. ▶

Rooms



Source it yourself

Glen Tong painting ▶
R3 300, Lisa King Gallery



Conran leather chair and footstool (R5 495), Weylandts



Cushions (R99 each), @home



Triangular platter (R79), @home



Barstool (R695), Weylandts



Cup and saucer ▶ (R29), @home



Faux-fur throw ▶ (R850), @home;
fleece throw (R90), Woolworths



Vase ▶ (R130), @home



Buyer's guide

@home 021-670-3980, 021-529-3156, 011-685-1417, Black Smith 011-467-4171, Carinthia 083-286-7940, Falcon 011-626-3257, Lisa King Gallery 021-421-373, Louis Louw Johan Bergenthuin Architects 011-781-3663, Marbelus Tiles 011-974-6444, Padma Group 011-3211-551, Tuscany Wall Creations 083-2632-441, Weylandts 021-425-5282, 021-914-1440, 011-467-8001, 044-302-5769, www.weylants.com

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Left

The two-way fireplace, such as this one in a Johannesburg home, designed by architect Louis Louw and the homeowner, is a hot trend – ideal for open-plan living.

There is no better excuse than the dropping winter temperatures to cosy up in front of a blazing fire in your own home. Fireplaces are more popular than ever, and topping the trend list are floating fireplaces, two-way fireplaces and fuel-efficient designs with clean, contemporary lines.

If you live in a flat, the best news is that you no longer have to make do with a heater or – horror of horrors – a fake fireplace! A wide variety of stylish, chimneyless designs are available, most of which will keep the eco-conscious happy too.

If you are planning to build a new home or to renovate an existing home, it's a good idea to incorporate at least one fireplace into the design. These definitely add value to your property. If you don't feel up to the noise and dust of a renovation, you can consider one of the many chimneyless options.

And remember, fireplaces shouldn't be restricted to the living room. A fireplace in the bedroom is a real bonus and a romance booster to boot.

Opposite page

EcoSmart burner unit and vein-cut travertine cladding, Natural Stone Warehouse; green carpet (R4 500), Living Room; Kartell Victoria ghost chairs (R2 790) in green and white, Twice International; suspended pendant lights (R2 494), Lights by Linea Table: red napkins (R10 each) and Typhoon chopsticks (R13 each), all Boardmans; white dinner plates (R15 each), Home etc; green side plates (R29 each) and white bowls (R19 each), all @home; cabernet wine glasses (R45 each), Weylandts; and five-piece Maxwell & Williams appetiser sets (R89 each), Home etc; red glass tealights (R465 each), Jajo Design

Previous double page

EcoSmart grate and tight-packed travertine cladding, Natural Stone Warehouse

Top shelf: tall grey vase (R510), Jajo Design. Other items, homeowner's own

Bottom shelf: red ceramic bowl (R75) and red and white candles in bowls (R65 each), all Living Room; black wooden vase (R99), Weylandts

Side table: green vase (R610), Jajo Design. Other items, homeowner's own

Bed: olive throw (R299), @home; red throw (R1 125), Nocturnal Affair; green chenille throw (R149), @home; red scatter cushion (R315), Living Room; moss piped-silk scatter (R99), @home; grey scatter (R245), Living Room; stitched grey scatter (R80), Boardmans

TOP BILLING

JUNE 2007
R21.95 (incl. vat)
Namibia N\$19.95
Other countries R17.50

WHAT'S ON THE CARDS?

Play with your food

SASSY, SEXY AND 79

Vidal Sassoon's
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STEP IT UP

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the odds

JANEZ & AIDAN

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