

# Understated *elegance*



Shades of oyster, pewter and gunmetal create an aura of relaxed sophistication in this home on the North Coast of KZN



**W**hen this family of four moved to South Africa from Zimbabwe a little while ago, they visited a number of decor shops to get a feeling of what's available with regards to furnishing their prospective home. At the well-known Cécile and Boyd's decor store in Durban, they came across Bruce Fyfe of Bruce Fyfe Interiors. At their first meeting they established an immediate rapport.

The clients bought a house on a golf estate north of Durban and after doing extensive renovations, decided to redecorate it. Their brief to Bruce was for a contemporary, yet classic interior reminiscent of the colonial era, but representing modern day living, a home that's easy on the eye and suits the family's lifestyle.

"Great spaces have been created to allow a brilliant flow for day-to-day living and it works wonderfully for entertaining. The colour palette is cool in summer and warm in winter, using the right mix of warm colours in the artwork and loose Persian rugs and cool colours on the general upholstery," says Bruce.

He painted the previously rather dark walls in china white and kept the existing tiled floors, creating a blank canvas on which he could create a look with a sophisticated, yet relaxed and airy feel. Stackable doors can be opened to create a wonderful flow from the double-volume entrance to the deep veranda in the front, the family room to one side and the dining room on the other, all of which open up onto the garden.

The formal lounge is an indication of how agreeably different styles can work together in one space: a vintage

leather sofa sits comfortably alongside a more contemporary one and two arm chairs covered in cream linen, as well as some classic Louis-style chairs, upholstered in dove grey velvet with an antique pewter technique on their frames. A selection of artworks, some so subtle they're barely there, others striking in colour and composition, are dotted around, while huge mirrors in ornate frames reflect additional light and fragments of the garden into the living areas.

The deep veranda is furnished with as much care to detail as the rest of the home and the family spends a great deal of time in this outdoor space. As Bruce says, "I often see the family converge here; you have a glorious view of the fairway, but you can also roll down the Mauritian blinds to screen off the area for increased privacy or in the event of inclement weather."

Upstairs the bedrooms also lead out onto their own verandas. The master bedroom is decorated in muted shades of grey. The two teenagers' rooms display the individualism of their personalities, while the guest bedroom is once again decorated with understated elegance. ▷

**MAIN PICTURE:** A narrow table with turned legs is combined with two stools in the entrance, where a lovely artwork by Scott Brendan from the Elizabeth Gordon Gallery makes a striking statement.

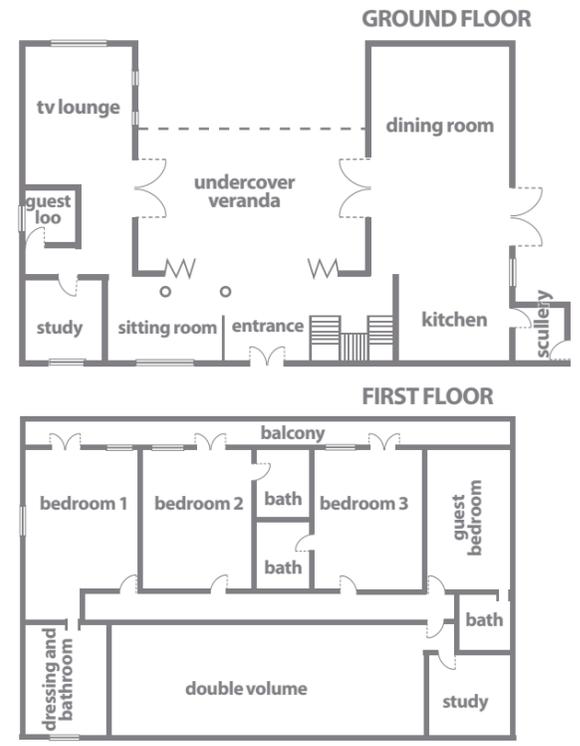
**ABOVE:** A grouping of botanical prints in mirror frames coupled with huge mirrors in pewter frames create a light and airy feel in the formal sitting area. The deep-buttoned vintage leather sofa is from Cécile and Boyd's. The remaining furniture is covered in a cream linen.

TEXT COBA KODELITSCH PHOTOGRAPHS SALLY CHANCE ASSISTANT KHULEKANI SHEZI



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

- The dining room has a regal look with a classic 10-seater table, chairs with curved backrests and tall candelabra.
- In the TV lounge, Bruce has once again teamed leather with linen and a grouping of artworks. The vintage standing lamp is ideal for reading.
- When the stackable doors are open, the veranda becomes an integral part of the home. The cloth sofa is upholstered in Black and White ticking from Lou Harvey.

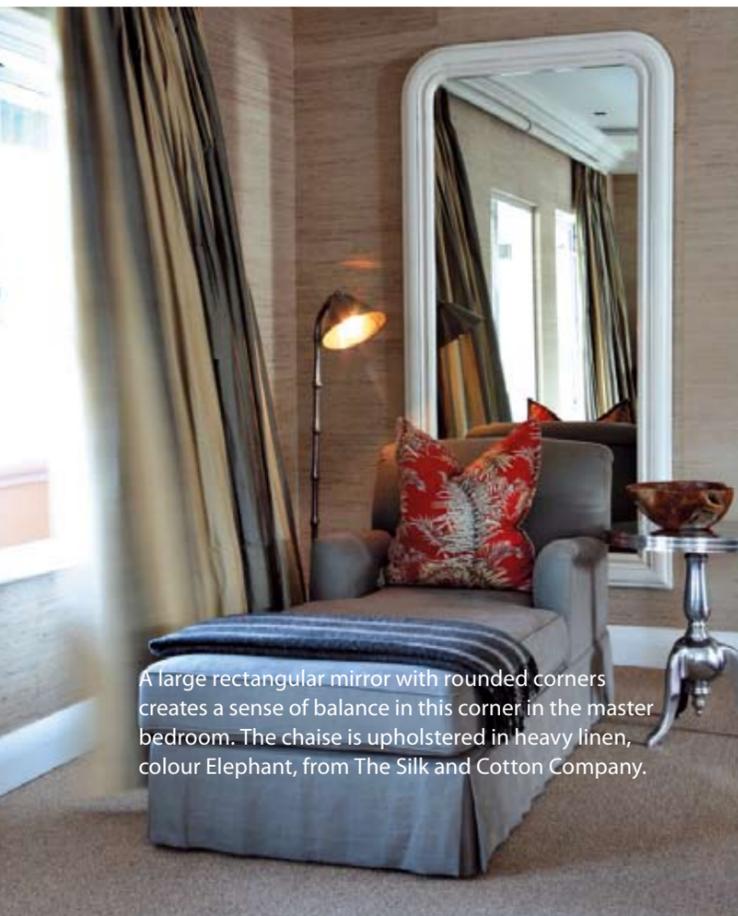


Although the leather wingback armchair and round wooden table under the stairway are quite heavy, they ground the light wrought-iron balustrade, white walls and columns beyond, which demarcate the formal sitting room. ▷





Hues of muted grey and green on the furniture and grass cloth from Wallcovering Contracts on the walls make the master bedroom a tranquil haven. The storage ottoman at the end of the bed is upholstered in a Jim Thompson fabric with a fern leaf theme.



A large rectangular mirror with rounded corners creates a sense of balance in this corner in the master bedroom. The chaise is upholstered in heavy linen, colour Elephant, from The Silk and Cotton Company.

#### BRUCE'S DECORATING TIPS:

- Using leather on at least one item in a room introduces a different texture, but avoid using it on all the furniture.
- Don't be afraid to use fabrics with different textures on separate pieces, as long as they all work within the scheme.
- Every room needs a mirror to add depth and dimension. Grouping mirrors can also add a contemporary twist to the space.
- Use imported fabrics on scatter cushions to add a richer, more glamorous feel. Using a plain fabric on the back of the scatter will make the fabric go further, saving you money.
- In spaces where the ceilings are extremely high, use the height to create a dramatic effect. This can often be achieved by using one large mirror or artwork, or grouping several together. ▷

#### SOURCES

**Bruce Fyfe Interiors** 031 764 5931 or 083 665 5553  
**Cécile and Boyd's** 031 303 1005 or 021 425 5110  
**Elizabeth Gordon Gallery** 031 303 8133  
**Lou Harvey** 031 208 0930  
**The Silk and Cotton Company** 011 448 2578  
**Wallcovering Contracts** 084 611 1958

Clay beads come in strings of various lengths, starting from R150 per string, and are available from Karrin Hatfield.



Mirrors in ornately carved frames, approximately R6 000, are available from Cécile and Boyd's. Slightly smaller but similar mirrors are available from Karrin Hatfield and retail at around R900.



The pewter table lamp with shade, approximately R2 000, is available from Cécile and Boyd's, but most reputable decor stores carry a selection of pewter table lamps.



Achieve an aura of relaxed sophistication in your home with a mix of classic styles and modern, glam colours

This classic Louis-style chair, R1 800 excluding the upholstery and technique, is upholstered in Marilyn Velvet, colour Platinum, from Mavromac. Similar style chairs are available from Cécile and Boyd's or Peter JA Stuart.



Metal Ethiopian crosses are available from Art Africa.

**SOURCES**

- Art Africa** 031 561 1515 or 011 486 2052
- Cécile and Boyd's** 031 303 1005
- Karrin Hatfield** 031 312 1285
- Mavromac** 011 444 1584
- Peter JA Stuart** 031 303 4976