

A taste of the tropics

Interesting textures and natural accessories were combined with lovely artworks to create a stylish yet relaxed look in this revamped holiday apartment in Umhlanga Rocks

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This spacious apartment on the KZN coast has been the owners' favourite place to spend holidays and weekends for the last 10 years. Recently they decided it needed a facelift and called in Durban designers Bruce Fyfe and Kelsey Boyce to assist. "We gutted it completely before starting on the extensive

renovations," recalls Bruce. "The clients wanted a tasteful and calm seaside feel, so practical finishes, furniture and fabrics were paramount. They didn't want the typical blue and white look so I looked to the surroundings for inspiration and reflected this in our choice of furniture and fabrics." The entire apartment was painted in a neutral china white and the floors tiled with oatmeal porcelain tiles. ▷

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: • With its stunning view of the sea the balcony lends itself to entertaining. The hard-wearing, weather-resistant dining table and chairs are from Out The Box Trading. • Kelsey came up with this clever idea for a truly South African Christmas tree. It consists of a branch of driftwood decorated with proteas and hung with bunches of wooden balls, placed in a large glass vase lined with banana leaves. Driftwood is available from Flower Fusion. • Bruce Fyfe (standing) and Kelsey Boyce (seated) • The combination of modern white crockery and classic glassware is ideal for an alfresco meal.

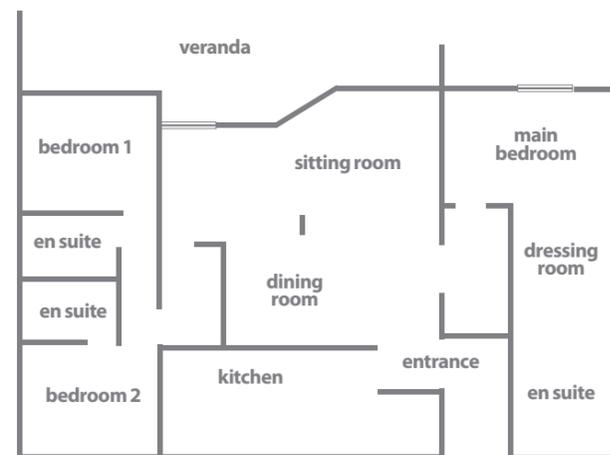




To create a more casual mood, the dark mahogany top of the dining table was given a stone-washed look and the classic chairs were left untreated. The wrought-iron chandelier adds a touch of elegance. The painting is David Wheildon's *Coral Tree*. ▷



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: ● Shutters were used to screen off a part of the large living area to create a more intimate feel yet still retain a sense of lightness. The ornately carved table is from Out The Box Trading. ● Natural fibres and textures in muted shades give a tranquil feel to this practical holiday home. The white shutters from Mediterranean Shutters allow the sunlight streaming into the apartment to be regulated without blocking out the view. ● This area is furnished with a combination of styles. The contemporary daybed is upholstered in Chocolate Canvas Broad Stripe from The Silk and Cotton Company and the 'sculpture' in the corner is a hollowed-out coconut palm.





They chose white shutters in the living area to reflect the tropical surroundings. Floor-to-ceiling glass doors slide back opening up the entire living area onto a wide balcony. Here Bruce and Kelsey used contemporary outdoor furniture to make this area an extension of the sitting room.

“Although this is a holiday home at the coast, the apartment is furnished as a primary residence, with some sentimental pieces the family wanted to keep as well as a fantastic art collection that gives the home soul,” explains Kelsey. Contemporary classic furniture, mostly slip-covered or covered in raffia, gives a very laid-back feel. The fabrics are mainly plains or stripes with the occasional botanical print and the colours are muted sand and stone with highlights of green. Accessories tend to be oversized or placed in collections to make bold statements. Art by people such as Coral Spencer Domijan, Buchner and Wim Rautenbach are combined with raw timber and natural accessories.

In the spacious living area there are distinct groupings of comfortable armchairs, sofas and a daybed which work for entertaining or just unwinding with a book. As it’s such a large open space Bruce and Kelsey made it a little more intimate by using a shutter screen to partially close off one section.

The dining area has a decidedly organic feel with untreated wooden chairs upholstered in raffia, a raw wooden server and large woven baskets complemented by a painting in warm glowing colours of the coral tree. The bedrooms are all subtly decorated to explore the themes of nature, with plants, colours and people being the main inspiration for the individual rooms and en suite bathrooms. **GH**

ABOVE: A fresh green and white colour scheme was chosen for the guest bedroom. The headboards are slip-covered in Design Team’s Pomegranate, colour Lime, the throw is a multi-coloured kikoi from Cécile and Boyd’s and the cactus prints are from the Elizabeth Gordon Gallery.

SOURCES

Bruce Fyfe Interiors 031 764 5931 or 083 665 5553
Cécile and Boyd’s 031 303 1005 or 021 425 5110
Design Team 012 653 1973
Elizabeth Gordon Gallery 031 303 8133
Flower Fusion 031 764 2801
Mediterranean Shutters 083 253 8382
Out The Box Trading 031 764 5931
The Silk and Cotton Company 011 448 2578