

SA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL MAGAZINE

CELEBRATING LOCAL TALENT

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THE BRAVE,
BOLD AND
COLOURFUL
SUMMER
ISSUE

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DECOR DIRECTIONS POWER OF YELLOW, LIGHT AS ART, MODERN CLASSICS

WHEN RENOVATING HER WATERFRONT APARTMENT, PROPERTY DEVELOPER KARIN DE KLERK FUSED HER LOVE OF MINIMALIST ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN WITH THE NEED TO CREATE A HOME THAT FEELS WARM AND WELCOMING.

PHOTOS PARIS BRUMMER PRODUCTION ANNEMARIE MEINTJES WORDS PALESA KGASANE



THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE
In the foyer, a subtly moody atmosphere is created by a marble-clad wall and floor-to-ceiling mirrors, which contrast with the slatted-wood ceiling and wall near the stairwell.

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visi | Waterfront Apartment

RELOCATING FROM PIETERMARITZBURG TO CAPE TOWN in 2018 was something homeowner Karin de Klerk had always dreamed of doing. But it also provided the perfect opportunity for her as a developer, working with her daughter Elzanne le Roux-Preis – who is an interior designer – to mastermind a light-filled sanctuary in which to live. From the start, Karin says, it was all about striking a balance – between light and dark; sophistication and ease; minimalism and richness – and this is something this top-floor, three-bedroom apartment in Cape Town’s V&A Waterfront has definitely managed to do.

Undertaking the total revamp of her newly acquired apartment was exciting yet a trifle daunting, says Karin. “I knew I just wanted a place I could feel relaxed in, something modern that shows off my love of minimalism,” she says. She and her daughter had to start from scratch on the interiors, but collaborating with Elzanne was something that “made sense”, Karin says – and doing so has certainly produced spectacular results.

Entering the foyer of the apartment, you’re immediately enveloped in the subtle, moody atmosphere created by a marble-clad wall and floor-to-ceiling mirrors, contrasted by a light, slatted-wood ceiling as you move to the stairwell . . . to heaven. At the top of these stairs is the main attraction: drenched in light, you are immediately surrounded by panoramic views of Cape Town. Here, everything feels illuminated.

This is the centre of the home, a spacious living room with a fireplace embedded into slatted-wood wall cladding. The adjacent kitchen is where you get a feel for Karin’s taste for the finer things; it includes a dining table and chairs paired with a contemporary pendant light, as well as stunning marble countertops with matte-black accents for balance. “I love the colour black, and I wear grey and black often. Much of the interior is inspired by these colours,” says Karin.

White-painted walls play a role in enhancing the feeling of spaciousness and creating an uninterrupted, easy flow from the lounge to the main bedroom and bathroom. In minimalist style, most of the walls are kept free of art, but the slatted-wood cladding used on accent walls and ceilings adds a feeling of warmth, and gives the home a bit of an Eastern feel architecturally. Throughout, sliding glass doors and expansive windows provide unobstructed views. Combine all this with the careful detailing in every space, and the apartment exudes a seemingly effortless charm.

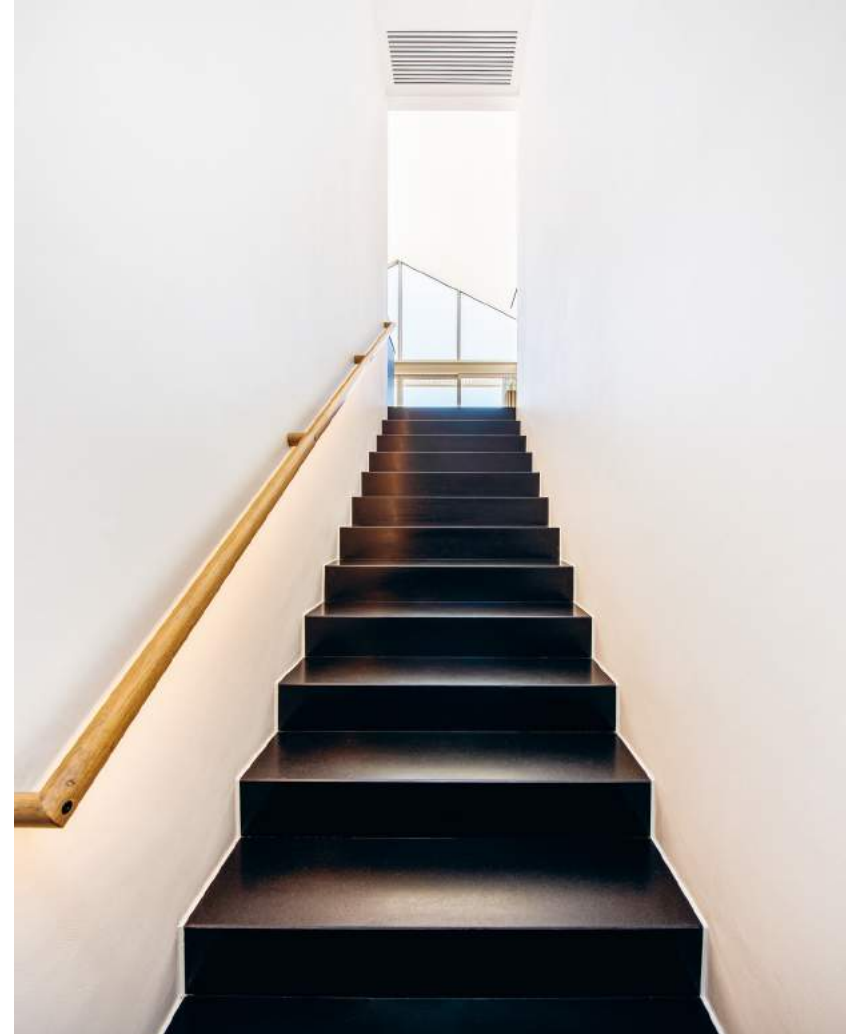
Karin’s personal haven is the master suite, which is understated yet stylish. The glass façade means that spending time here feels almost as though you’re bathing in light. Even the shower offers a view of the sky and ocean.

The interiors of the apartment project an overall sense of calm, the rationale being that there is so much to look at outside that the indoor spaces should remain as tranquil as possible. In keeping with this theme of simplicity, the main feature on the large balcony is a long wooden table with a bench and chairs – designed by Elzanne – that speaks both to simple design and the convivial meals shared here with family and friends.

Combining modernity and minimalism with light, warmth and sheer good taste – the soundtrack on the day we visited was provided by the smooth, soulful sounds of Sam Cooke – Karin’s sanctuary is a tranquil haven from the constant buzz and bustle of the V&A Waterfront and the city beyond.

THE INTERIORS PROJECT AN OVERALL SENSE OF CALM.

OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT White walls are repeated throughout the home, creating an easy flow and sense of space; panoramic views of the city and ocean can be taken in from the wraparound balcony; at the heart of the home is a light-filled living room with a contemporary fireplace and TV embedded in the slatted wall; a dining set designed by Elzanne le Roux-Preis takes pride of place on the balcony.



"I KNEW I JUST WANTED A PLACE I COULD FEEL RELAXED IN." - OWNER KARIN DE KLERK

Clean lines, Asian-inspired architecture and minimalist elements are central to the apartment's look and feel. It's modern, yet it still feels welcoming.



THIS PAGE Considered design and an eye for detail have resulted in a sophisticated kitchen that's laid-back enough to entertain guests. **OPPOSITE** Matte-black surfaces, furniture and accessories are offset by the light wooden slats and modern light fixtures.



THIS PAGE Although colour is not a prominent feature in the apartment, this guest bedroom introduces a slight contrast with a leaf-printed carpet.

OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Bathed in light, owner Karin de Klerk's no-frills master suite is a sanctuary; a luxurious oval soaking tub maintains the minimalist theme; the guest bathroom combines all the elements present in the rest of the home, from wood to marble; stylish and functional, the slatted walls conceal a guest lavatory.

