

**A NATURAL CONNECTION**  
SUSTAINABLE WOOD DESIGN

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JUNE / JULY 2021



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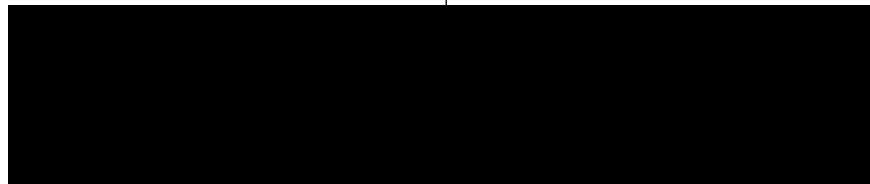
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APARTMENT AT THE ONYX, CAPE TOWN

# LOCAL LOVE LOCAL CUR

**LOCAL DESIGN SHOUTOUT** ALWAYS WELCOME X MANIÈ RIBANE • LIM • HALDANE  
• WIID DESIGN • TFEURBANATIVE • BENBEN

**...AND ART TOO** NEW WAVE OF SA ABSTRACTION • GEORGINA GRATRIX RETROSPECTIVE



PRODUCTION ANNEMARIE MEINTJES

PHOTOS PARIS BRUMMER



WORDS BIDDI RORKE

FOR ENTREPRENEUR MARTI HEYNS-FOSTER AND HER BEAGLE GARÇON, HOME IS A TIMELESSLY ROMANTIC VILLA IN THE HEART OF FRANSCHHOEK.

**RENCH CONNECTION**

A unique entrance hall sets the tone for owner Marti Heyns-Foster's interiors. When walls are crisply white, carefully selected eccentricities such as a Gothic birdcage and a wreathed bust on a tall marble plinth don't seem like clutter.



It has been a 21-year-long labour of love. Marti Heyns-Foster admits that, when she first moved into her corner home on a shaded street in the Winelands, it wasn't her dream abode. But it had good bones, high ceilings, original wooden floors and plenty of natural light, and the young mother knew she could work with the basics. Over the following two decades, with her sharp eye for the quirky and the unique, Marti lovingly curated a sanctuary filled with French-inspired decor and *objets*.

"In my opinion, a home should evolve over time, reflecting your changing tastes as you develop as person," she says. "A real home is a representation of how all the members of the household live and grow."

The property is set far back from public view, at a jaunty angle. In front, a formal French garden spills out towards the road, the result of a visit to a château in the Loire Valley that overlooked a striking landscape. "My friend, designer André Carl van der Merwe (author of *Moffie*), was there with me to celebrate a friend's birthday, and he sketched out the garden for me, creating an illusion of symmetry." Today, dominated by two ancient white stinkwood trees, Marti's indigenous rhus-hedged garden is not yet two years old – and is a genteel alternative to the white pebbles that filled the space before.

In stark contrast to the dramatic liquorice-black exterior with snow-white trim, the interior of the three-bedroom home is light and bright. Over the years, tweaks and updates have happened when necessary, but although a few walls have been removed to open up spaces, the enclosed oval veranda has remained, echoing the circular elements of the statement garden. Inside, imported pieces speak of Marti's ongoing love affair with all things French, while carefully chosen curiosities and eccentricities – think a wall of mirrors (à la Versailles), taxidermy mounts, and crosses – demonstrate her innate avoidance of the clichéd and the expected.



"I am absolutely *fascinated* by crosses," she says. "I understand that they hold religious significance for many people, but for me, the appeal lies in the elegance of their lines. There is a purity and integrity to this visual simplicity that dovetails perfectly with my personal aesthetic."

Marti is well-known as the creative force behind Masquerade, a boutique homeware brand with outlets in Franschoek and Constantia. "I appreciate the beautiful and the unusual, and both my home and my business reflect that," she says. "I value craftsmanship and authenticity, and I hope our throwaway society will keep moving back to a place where manufacturing integrity is honoured and detail is acknowledged."

In keeping with this ethos, Marti's home is a celebration of antiques, custom pieces and designer items. "I usually travel to France and other countries in Europe at least once a year on buying trips, and I particularly enjoy the classic and subtle aspects of the French aesthetic," she says. But this certainly doesn't mean her space is subdued. In between the Rococo-inspired couches and the crystal chandeliers, Marti brings an effortless element of playfulness to each room. As she says, "Your home should reflect who you are." [masquerade.co.za](http://masquerade.co.za)

**THIS PAGE** The front formal French garden - complete with topiaries - creates a manicured entrance, and complements the Gothic-style pool in the back garden. **OPPOSITE** Marti's whimsical collection of vintage and antique mirrors, sourced at auctions, acts as a focal point in the living room.

"I APPRECIATE THE BEAUTIFUL AND THE UNUSUAL, AND BOTH MY HOME AND MY BUSINESS REFLECT THAT" - Marti Heyns-Foster, owner





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**THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE** A custom-made French-style cabinet houses crockery for entertaining; counters of Carrara marble add warmth and patina to the kitchen; the hanging pot rack and apothecary storage unit in the open-plan space are oh-so-French. **OPPOSITE** Marti's boutique homeware brand, Masquerade, is known for its fragranced candles. Her favourite scent at present is passion fruit: "It's tart, sweet and nostalgic."



**THIS PAGE** An imported corduroy sofa is a bold centrepiece in the "kitchen lounge". Above a "three wise men" collection of vintage portraits, a taxidermy mount of a green parrot adds an unexpected twist.  
**OPPOSITE** Marti's much-loved beagle, Garçon, feels quite at home in the symmetrical spare room. The wall art was created by a friend.





**THIS PAGE** The impressive walnut bed was sourced in northern France, and displays the region's strong Germanic characteristics. A 150-year-old French hunting chair holds the corner space. **OPPOSITE** Wall panelling and classic black-and-white flooring ground the glamorous bathroom, while diaphanous drapes and a pendant chandelier add femininity.