

cape holiday home

Let there BE LIGHT

A reflection of the owners' love for understated style and clean-lined design, this light-filled modern Cape home proves that simplicity needn't be sparse

The deck is furnished with wicker chairs from Weylandts and a stool from Home Concept.

Who lives here

A retired German couple who spend their holidays in South Africa.

The house

A light-filled 300m² modern house in Somerset West with two bedrooms, and an open-plan design with views over the Helderberg Mountains and False Bay. ▷



The sofas in the **living room** were custom-made to suit the clean-lined design, while the 100% linen curtains by Divine Decor Designs allow natural light to filter through. Designer Evi Elsner bought the stainless steel table at an auction, and the occasional wooden-top side tables and wooden-base table lamps are by Home Concept.



“MAKING THE MOST OF THE VIEWS WAS THE STARTING POINT FOR THIS CLEAN-LINED, OPEN-PLAN STRUCTURE”

Space and light are two great luxuries – especially when you live in Europe where the winters are long and grey and space comes at a premium. For the German owners of this holiday abode in Somerset West, these two elements represent freedom and a lack of boundaries, a place where they can be swept away by the views on their doorstep and enjoy a round of golf every now and then.

“Before buying the property, the owners had been holidaying in South Africa for 15 years. Although they wanted to buy a house, they never found something they really loved, so we proposed that they build one,” recalls Evi Elsner, co-owner of the architectural design firm Home Concept, who managed the project.

Swayed by the idea of building their dream home, the couple bought a plot of land in Somerset West and handed it over to Evi and her husband, Jochem. “We were given carte blanche on the project which was quite exciting and a lot of fun,” says Evi.

Having never so much as seen a plan for the house the owners arrived in South Africa to a newly built and fully furnished home, and loved it. “In fact they loved their home so much that they stayed for four months,” laughs Evi.

The owners’ only brief to Evi and Jochem was that they wanted a modernist two-bedroom design and interiors in a calm, muted colour palette. “The one owner dreamt of a place where he could play his grand piano while overlooking False Bay,” says Evi. And so the grand piano and making the most of the views was the starting point and design directive for this clean-lined, open-plan structure.

During the planning phase, Evi and Jochem spent a lot of time deciding how they would go about optimising the plot. “It was a rather natural, organic design that took shape around what you wanted to see and what you didn’t want to see,” explains Evi, adding that the sight lines were designed to include the striking vistas,

but mask other less-imposing aspects. The building’s U-shaped design proved to be a smart choice as it also provides shelter from the gale-force south-easterly winds that often hit False Bay.

The designers decided on an unpretentious aesthetic for the interiors. Neutral screed floors, exposed roof trusses and walls painted in white and grey create a backdrop for furniture and finishes in equally pared-back tones, something the owners love. “The walls create a soothing, cocooning effect. ▷

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● Throughout the house, walls are painted in Dulux’s Rich Matt in two shades for interest. The mirror is from Home Concept and the shell bowl is from Pan African Market. ● The minimalist kitchen, designed and installed by Home Concept, is an exceptionally functional space. The SupaWood cabinetry was spray-painted in white. The kitchen counters are granite, while concrete was used for the island.



A restful, neutral palette has been used in the **dining area**. Jochem Elsner built the reclaimed wood dining table and Evi Elsner created the green chandelier by suspending bottles from three-metre-long leather straps tied to the ceiling. The chairs are from Block and Chisel Interiors and the extra-long curtains were custom-made by Divine Decor Designs.



Because the house is open plan, we decided on dual-tone walls as one colour might get lost in the large, open spaces,” says Evi. The result is distinctly European with an African undertone.

“Although the house is practical, acoustics proved to be challenging due to all the hard surfaces,” says Evi. To counter this the house was decked out with carefully selected soft furnishings to help absorb the sound and to create a lived-in look. “When working with a muted palette it’s important to consider the softer design aspects,” Evi points out. “It’s about layering and juxtaposing elements that add interest,” she adds.

While most of the areas in the house speak of understated style, the main en suite bathroom is one area where luxury takes centre stage. “We wanted to create a spa experience for the owners. Because it’s so expensive to build there, Europeans usually have smaller bathrooms, so we decided to surprise our clients with a ▷

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT:

- The minimalist **master bedroom** is all about the views, says Evi Elsner. The bed was custom-made by Divine Decor Designs, while black Fez floor lamps from Weylandts are used for bedside lighting.
- Layered with discreet details, subtle texture and irregular shapes, the **en suite bathroom** was designed to create a spa-like feel. The bath is clad in SupaWood, the sisal carpet is from Jambo Imports, the rugs are from Mr Price Home and the ladder towel rail is from Ananas Interiors.
- The **en suite bathroom** reflects the rest of the house’s clean-lined aesthetic with a rectangular wash basin and architectural his and hers taps.



large 4m² shower.” But even here, clean lines and earthy tones dominate.

They say a minimalist environment leaves room in life for creativity. Now the husband can live his dream of playing his grand piano surrounded by ocean vistas, while the wife relaxes in the living room. Indeed, this characterful home proves that simplicity doesn't have to feel stark. In fact, it's a master class in carefully considered design in a serene and uncluttered space. **GH**

RIGHT: Pops of black, like this focal wall in the **guest loo**, are a recurring theme.



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Get the look

Recreate this house's organic, pared-down look with rustic, textural accessories



Laundry **baskets**, from R899 each, La Grange Interiors.



Retro Horlicks jar **pendant**, R450, Weylandts.

Wooden **floor lamp**, R7 120, K. Light Import.



Insert **coffee table**, R12 000, Goet.



Tribu root **stool/ side table**, R12 740, Marlanteak.



Tribu branch side **chair**, R8 000, Marlanteak.

SOURCES Ananas Interiors 021 851 5001 **Block & Chisel Interiors** blockandchisel.co.za **Divine Decor Designs** divine-decor.co.za **Dulux** dulux.co.za **Goet** goet.co.za **Home Concept** home-concept.cc **Jambo Imports** jamboimports.co.za **K. Light Import** klight.co.za **La Grange Interiors** lagrangeinteriors.co.za **Marlanteak** marlanteak.com **Mr Price Home** mrphome.com **Pan African Market** 021 426 4478 **The Lighting Warehouse** lightingwarehouse.co.za **Weylandts** weylandts.co.za

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