

WE PUT OUR STAMP ON IT

Building a house in the heart of the Cape Winelands gave Salomé and Mark Knijnenburg the chance to improve their lifestyle, and create a bespoke home

‘The house needed to have a classical character, in keeping with the estate’s French-country style’

and mistakes that crop up when you’re rushed into making decisions during the building process.”

Although Mark and Salomé loved the idea of a modern open-plan living area, they wanted to create a few smaller, more contained spaces. “In our previous house, we had large, open spaces that echoed and were impossible to heat or cool with any great effect,” says Salomé. They also asked Louis to incorporate a spacious outdoor entertaining area, with a pool sheltered from the Cape’s relentless wind.

The final result is a north-facing U-shaped house layout, and while the TV room, formal living area, kitchen, and dining area lead off from each other, they essentially occupy separate spaces. The U-shaped configuration means the courtyard within, with a pool and patio, is protected from the wind. “I love the way the rooms have been arranged,” says Salomé. “When we entertain, we open all the sliding doors so that guests can spill out onto the patio. But when it’s just the two of us, we can easily create a cosy, intimate space by closing off the TV room.”

Finishes played an integral role in the success of the home’s seamless design, most noticeably the large-scale floor tiles from Natural Stone Warehouse that link the interior living space with the patio and pool surrounds. In the study and bedrooms, wood-look vinyl flooring was used. To further enhance the harmony, and >>



CONTEMPORARY CLASSIC The kitchen blends classical and modern styles with traditional cabinetry and arched-window architrave, alongside industrial-style pendant light fittings from Glo Lighting & Living



Five years ago, Salomé and Mark Knijnenburg were living in the suburb of Durbanville in the Cape when they visited, and fell in love with, a beautiful housing estate in the Winelands near Paarl.

They instantly knew they wanted to live there, even if it meant a longer commute into the city for work each day. But for Salomé, who’d grown up in the town of Wellington nearby, it felt like coming home. “The Boland’s majestic mountain and wonderful open spaces really make you feel at peace,” she says.

The estate has a French-countryside feel, so the couple enlisted the help of

architect Louis Phillips to create a contemporary yet classical look that fitted in with the houses around them. They spent hours researching what they wanted, providing Louis with a disc of architectural and decor images and ideas, along with a detailed brief that he could reference throughout the design process.

Their hands-on approach meant they selected most of the fittings, such as the sanitary ware from Waterstone, well before construction began. “Spending time and energy finding the finishes we really wanted, and giving ourselves enough time to do so, helped us stick to our budget and avoid the costly problems



DINING IN STYLE A wooden table and upholstered chairs from Weylandts provide interesting textures, without detracting from the calm neutral palette of the open-plan living space



TRANQUIL TONES To establish visual interest in the living area's soft colour scheme, Salomé brought in texture with a wooden coffee table, and a sisal rug

SAVVY SPACE A space beneath the staircase was cleverly turned into a smart walk-in wine cellar, within easy access of the entertaining area. The glass-panelled front and side reveals an exposed-brick wall for an authentic cellar feel. The wooden shelves were installed by MSM Kitchens

maintain a bright and airy environment, Salomé kept the palette neutral with white and shades of brown and beige, while the formal living area and main bedroom both feature a charcoal wall that provides them with a dramatic accent.

The decor is a mix of the classic and contemporary, with new pieces mingling with furniture that's been repainted or re-upholstered to fit in with the scheme. "If you have pieces or accessories in your house that create the impression that you've accumulated them over time, it establishes that comfortable, lived-in quality essential to a warm home."

To further add interest to the neutral palette, Salomé brought in accents of glass, wood, pewter and chrome. In the guest bedroom, old farm doors, discovered in an antique shop, are attractively used as a headboard. "I believe that if you see something you absolutely love, you must absolutely buy it," she says. "Not only will you find a place for it, but it will be a feature you never tire of." **w&h**



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Inspirational home

BEDROOM STYLE In the main bedroom, Salomé wanted an elegant feel, so she repeated the neutral palette and dramatic charcoal accent-wall of the living area

'A charcoal wall in the main bedroom provides a dramatic accent against the neutral palette'



SERENE ESSENCE The bath takes centre stage in front of double doors that open out onto a balcony, with beautiful mountain views

