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A fresh START

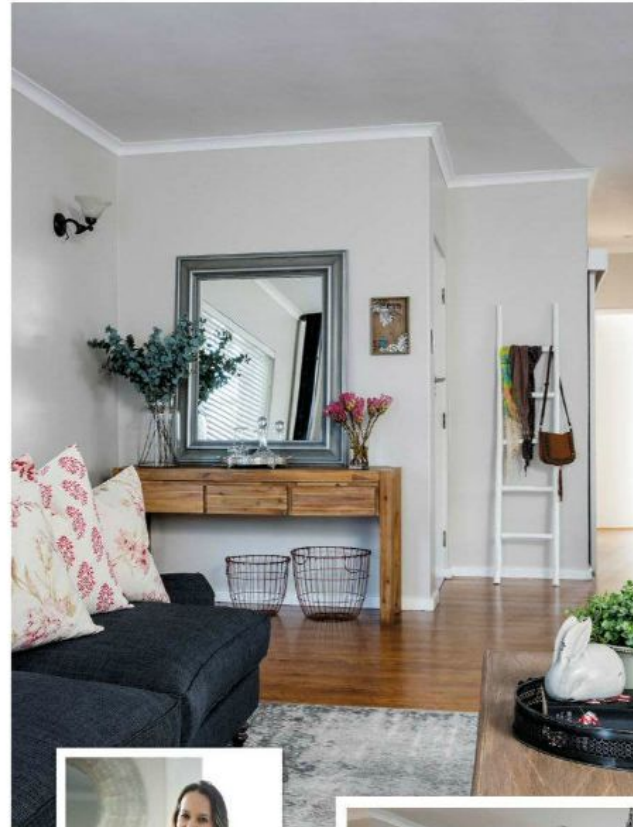
A few clever, inexpensive changes were all that was needed to transform a dated Paarl house



The walls in the living room were painted with Plascon Major to create a soft fresh feel. A rug from Hertex pulls together the sofa from Supreme Upholstery and armchairs from Block & Chisel. The wooden stools from Weylands act as side tables.



TEXT NATALIE BOROVKA PHOTOGRAPHS KARL ROGERS



Who lives here

Marcelle (pictured) and Bertus van Niekerk and their two cats.

The house

A three-bedroom home built in the 1980s, previously renovated to establish an open-plan kitchen and living area.



When first-time home buyers Bertus and Marcelle van Niekerk viewed this Paarl house, they instantly saw its potential. "The location was excellent, it was just the right size, had beautiful wooden floors and best of all, it was in our price range," they recall.

Built 30 years ago, it was, however, in need of a revamp. While the Van Niekerks wanted to modernise it to suit their style, they could only afford cosmetic changes at the time, and these had to be done on a budget of R30 000!

Interior decorator Salomé Knijnenburg took up the challenge. "The first thing we did was paint the walls," says Salomé. "The existing colour absorbed most of the natural light making the house dark." >

THIS PAGE, FROM TOP: ● A server from Coricraft dressed with an existing mirror creates interest on an empty wall. ● A coat of Plascon Velvaglo transformed the kitchen cabinets. The pendant light fitting is from @home.



HOW THEY USED THEIR BUDGET:

Venetian blinds	R9 500
Ironmongery (door and cupboard handles), light switch and plug point covers and labour	R6 617
Ceiling repairs and lighting installation	R4 145
Paint for interior walls, cabinets and dining area floor and labour	R5 985
Sliding doors for bathrooms and labour	R4 590
TOTAL	R30 837



The Van Niekerks now use the sunroom as a dining room and furnished it with rustic chairs and a country-style table on castors. The floor was painted with Showfloor Platinum from Duram.

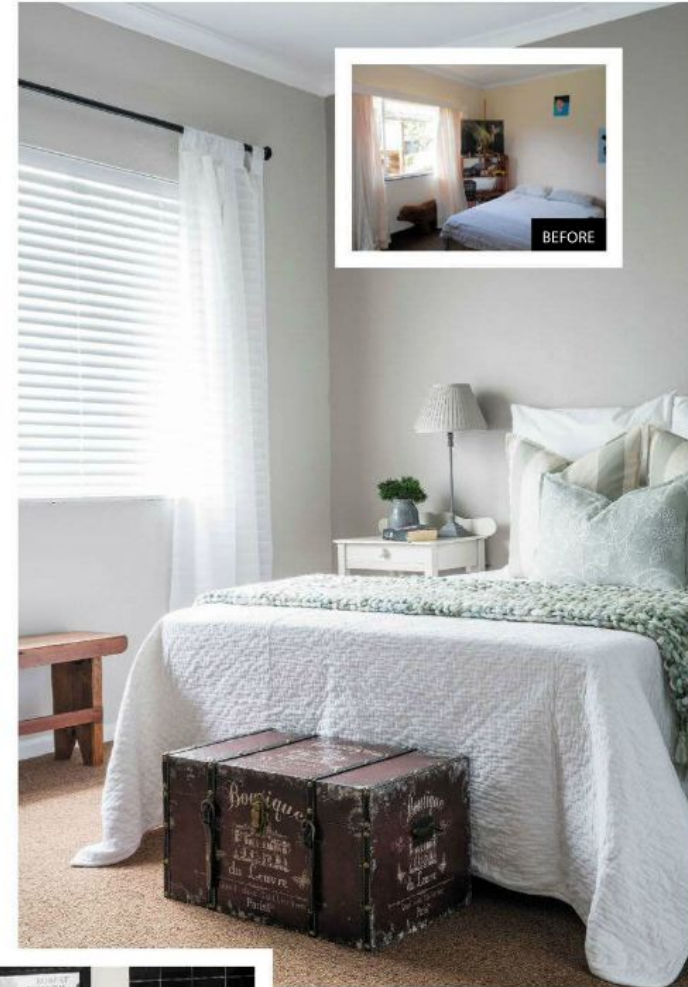
All the door and cupboard handles were replaced with brushed steel ones and new light switch and plug point covers fitted. "This was easy and made a huge difference. It freed up money that we could use to repair the ceiling and install Venetian blinds and downlights," says Marcellé.

The area that needed the most attention was the kitchen, where the yellowing pine cabinets were an eyesore. Fortunately they were in good condition, so Salomé had them sanded down and painted white.

The sunroom, which has a fireplace and braai and functions as a dining area, didn't require much. The window frames were left unpainted to complement the furniture, and to soften the concrete floor, it was painted with a light grey polyurethane paint.

"The bathrooms were very small and opening the doors was difficult," recalls Salomé. "To remedy this, I replaced them with sliding doors fitted to a rail made from the old curtain rails we removed from the windows. The dated mirror tiles were removed and the walls were skimmed and repainted."

"We went over the budget slightly but it just goes to show that with a little ingenuity, small changes can make a big difference," says Marcellé.



THIS PAGE, FROM TOP: ● Venetian blinds softened with sheer drapes from Mr Price Home replaced the old-fashioned curtains and pelmets. ● While the original black tiles were retained, the vanity was updated with handles from Handles Inc.

SOURCES @home home.co.za **Block & Chisel** blockandchisel.co.za **Coricraft** coricraft.co.za **Duram** duram.co.za **Handles Inc** handlesinc.co.za **Hertex** hertex.co.za **Mr Price Home** mrphome.com **Plascon** plascon.co.za **Salomé Knijnburg Interiors** salomeinteriors.com **Supreme Upholstery** supremeupholstery.co.za **Weylandts** weylandts.co.za