

# A COLOURFUL CANVAS

This newly built Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired family home in Oranjezicht brims with a contemporary art collection that tells the story of the owners' passion for beautiful things.

PHOTOS MARK WILLIAMS PRODUCTION TRACY LYNCH WORDS ALMA VIVIERS

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- 01 A detail of *Kill the Lights!* by Matthew Hindley, which the owners bought from iArt (now Brundyn + Gonsalves).
- 02 Decorator Tracy Lynch with XXXXXXXX. The sculpture is by Sam XXXXXXX, an artist the homeowner regularly supports.

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If I could, I would purr

01 A horse by Frédérique Morrel presides over the quirky chairs from Jimmie Martin. The large canvas by XXXXXXXXXXXX makes you look twice. Other works include the xxxxxxxxxxxx on the wall, the small oil by xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx and Frank van Reenen's xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. The yellow chairs are from Wunders and the sofa from Sofaworx.

It holds a place of honour. At the centre of the house – where the staircase, living area and study meet – hangs the Fred Page painting that started it all for this art lover and collector, who grew up with it looming large in his parents’ dining room in Port Elizabeth.

Today the accountant-turned-property investor has a private collection of more than 250 pieces from across the globe. There are works in every corner, from the bathroom to the children’s rooms and the kitchen.

It was also through art that the homeowner and his wife connected with decorator Tracy Lynch and her husband, artist Frank van Reenen. “He collects Frank’s work and commissioned him for a special piece when the couple’s twins were born,” Tracy recalls. “They got to talking about what I do and he gave me a call.”

When Tracy first met with the owners, the house was still a concrete shell. “We immediately connected on how the house had to be a canvas to display the art,” she recalls.

As a point of departure, Tracy looked at the collection and soon realised this was really what the house was about. She

therefore decided to keep the furniture quite low key and to introduce colour themes to tie everything together.

“When I first presented my mood boards with the colourways and furniture layouts, they thought I’d gone completely mad,” Tracy laughs. “I said we should walk through the house so I could explain how it would feel.”

The owner admits that this was an area where Tracy added enormous value: “We never considered colour because we wanted the art to be the focus. I always thought the art would pull the house together, but it isn’t the same as a gallery where all the works are displayed on white walls to form one story. The pieces I have collected are not from the same story.”

The owner’s discerning eye isn’t limited to art alone. He regularly sources furniture from high-end brands to flea-markets and online bargains. He also shops for his wife’s prized shoe collection and even for porcelain ware.

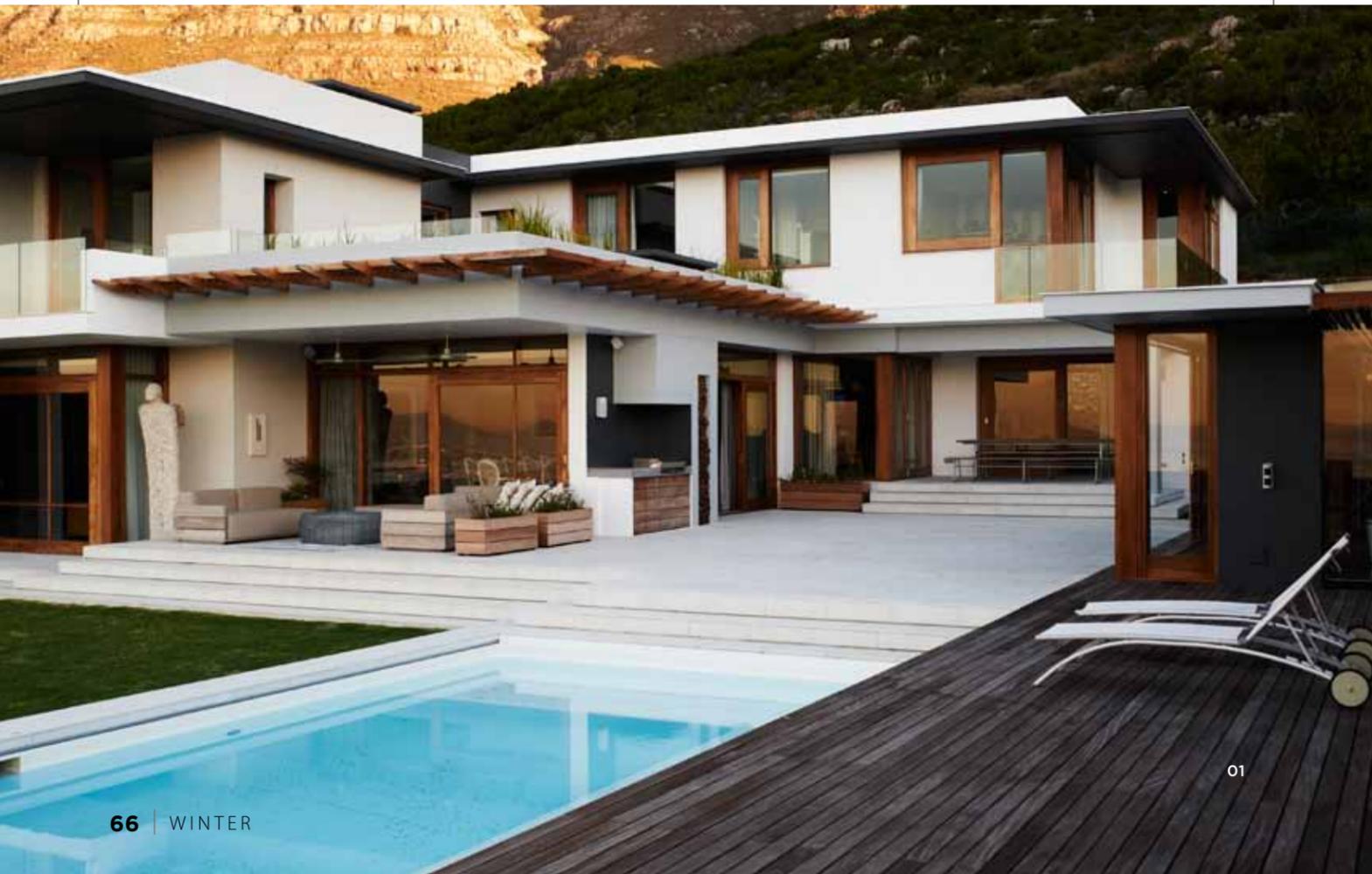
“I recently found a beautiful tea set designed by Paola Navone for Reichenbach, an old German porcelain manufacturer,” he says. “Instead of bringing home one set, I obtained the licence to import it.”

Other brands that find their way to our shores courtesy of his passion include Frédérique Morrel, the French duo whose tapestry work is popular locally, as well as Lola Glamour furniture from Spain. “My import business, Lusso, is not a retailer and our clients are mostly decorators. It’s more of a hobby than a business,” he says.

He was also very involved in the design of the house and worked closely with Gavin Mitten of Design 360 Architects. “I’m not the easiest client because I have my own ideas,” he says. “I knew I wanted to walk from the garage into my office and the kitchen. I also knew we wanted a maximum of two storeys and, although the house is generous, we didn’t want too much accommodation. The final result bears testament to Gavin’s talent.”

Asked if he would ever consider a career as a designer, the owner chuckles: “I get to play at it without it being a burden.”

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- 01 The outside of the house is finished in a pigmented aggregate Comet coating that sparkles in the afternoon sun.
- 02 One of the three boys’ rooms. Another work by Frank van Reenen.
- 03 The play and study area upstairs. The sideboard was a Gumtree find spruced up with zesty stripes. The painting is by yxxxxxxxxxxxx.
- 04 Another piece by Frédérique Morrel in the formal dining room. The unique ceiling light is a forest of plastic leaves by Heath Nash. The charcoal of historic Donkin Street in Port Elizabeth, the owner’s home town, is by XXXXXXXXX.





01 The bar stools at the kitchen counter are by Andrew Dominique, who did a lot of joinery at the house and collaborated with the owner to create the outdoor furniture from Eroco wood. Another large piece by Matthew Hindley. The imported Reichenbach tea set takes centre stage on the table.



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- 01 An 18th century tapestry the owner bought back from Paris decorates the wall in the main bedroom.
- 02 The fabulous piece from Lola Glamour is adorned by a quirky piece carved from wood from Michaelis graduate XXxXXXXXXX as well as a painting by xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx and a pen sketch by Sam Ellerton.

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