



Guests are welcomed into a reception area of impressive proportions and contemporary elegance. Skylights inserted into the honed sandstone floors offer a glimpse of the wine cellar below.

To the left hangs a dynamic relief work, one of many commissioned pieces by sculptor Anton Smit.

The Louis XVI fauteuilles are silver-leafed and upholstered in a Jagtar silk by Petit Upholsterers.

An aqua blue, taupe and chocolate scheme is carried through in the gold-leaf ottoman from Classic Revivals (fabric from Hertex) and the custom-made silk on wool rugs from Yossies. The chrome and mirror coffee table was designed and custom-made by Green Monkey Design, along with the oversized mirror above the silver-leafed fireplace. The black tripod standing lamps and the ebony and ormolu Empire table lamps sourced from One on One. The linen curtains were made up by Innovative Curtains.



Paying homage to an era of elegance in architecture, a family home stands resplendent in its breathtaking natural surrounds

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Modern manor on the Highveld

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species of game roam freely – the development truly embodies its philosophy of man living in harmony with nature.

Though the estate ascribes to conservation principles and energy efficiency, Corlia was quite adamant that their home was to be no 'eco bunny-hugging home'.

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Architect Johan Bergenthuin was called on to design a modern version of a traditional country house like those of the Arts and Crafts era, with the elegance of a Sir Herbert Baker design.

'What a welcome relief,' Johan recalls, 'to design a modern house representing an old-world elegance, rather than one that just follows revival styles in architecture.'

Through deft application of certain key architectural elements, Johan achieved what he has termed 'a building transformed into the abstract representation of its historical self'. The well-proportioned, simple solid forms echo those prevalent in homes of the Arts and Crafts era and the heavy stone chimneys reflect the period's observation of a truth to materials.

Johan chose to use natural materials not only for their timeless appeal but also to blend with the exterior environment. 'Copper was used on the steep roofs because it is a low-maintenance, natural material that will over time age to an attractive pale green patina.'

Lest we forget the nature of the structure, the chimneys have been crowned with handmade terracotta chimney pots as a celebration of the symbol for 'house'.

Bearing in mind the Booyens' three daughters – two at university and one still school-going – Johan wanted the house to reflect the uncomplicated,

OPPOSITE AND ABOVE A refreshing break from pervasive architectural revival styles, the house designed by esteemed architect Johan Bergenthuin is a modern interpretation of the grand era of arts and crafts. The Sentinel, a sculpture by Anton Smit, makes a striking yet sensitive addition to the exterior landscape.

RIGHT The veranda proved a windtrap so it was later glassed in, providing a further informal living space. The antique yellowwood coffee table is from Die Ossewa, the dining table from G2 Design and the carriage lanterns from One on One.

