



INDUSTRIAL INFLUENCES

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WYATT & BAKER ARCHITECTS 082 378 2278

ABOVE: Co-founders Mike and Derry of Wyatt & Baker Architects are driven by their passion for designing beautiful buildings that fulfil their clients' aspirations. This home is a good example of Wyatt & Baker's objective to produce creative homes that "live well" and respond sensitively to their contextual surroundings.

From the outset, the owners of this family home, set in the prestigious Cotswold Downs Estate in greater Durban, had a clear vision of how their home should look and feel. Favouring the Manhattan loft approach, they impressed on their architects their desire for a home that would offer similar appeal.

"I have always loved the look of a New York loft, of abandoned warehouses with old brick walls, concrete floors and towering windows letting in light and views. This was always my main influence, and I chose specific materials and textures to fit in with that look," explains the owner.

Careful not to stray from the estate's colour and design ethos, the exterior tones ensure that the home blends with neighbouring properties. Fortunately, the overall look of the exterior has qualities similar to those

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RIGHT: 3D Rock KZN was brought on board to supply the concrete pavers and driveway cobblestones that would finish off the outdoor landscaping. The company takes pride in its manufacturing process, working to a rigorous methodology and only with top-quality materials, to guarantee longevity and peace of mind.

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3D ROCK KZN 031 769 2668

of an old warehouse: red brick walls, oversized windows finished in charcoal framing, industrial grey-painted render and a raw concrete feature wall.

Step inside and the theme continues into statement polished concrete floors that provide instant light reflection for the contrasting interior elements, such as the midnight-painted walls and ceilings in the kitchen area.

"The dark ceilings were something of a risk, and contrary to what people do, but that was the whole idea. As we have high ceilings, it can actually give a feeling of more space, and not one of closing in. Just think of a clear night full of stars."

In the main dining and living area, the ceiling has been left exposed; white clapboard and dark-stained rafters bring a sense of drama, especially when lit up at night.

Continue on into the entertainment area, and you find yourself under a brick barrel-vaulted ceiling, yet another strong architectural feature. The bricks are authentically old, carefully positioned to replicate traditional wine cellars found in the Cape. They also set the scene for the ample-sized pine wine rack set in a chevron format, offering a modern edge.

"The interior reclaimed brick walls are 1935 coronation red bricks that were found in an old railway home in Pietermaritzburg that was being destroyed. >



IMPRO MOBILE WELDING 031 766 7077

LEFT: Impro Mobile Welding was responsible for the manufacture and installation of the pergolas, balustrades and exterior staircase in this home. The company works together with the client to create designs that meet their specific needs. Here, the steelwork was galvanised to protect against rust, then polished down, ready for painting.



LE GRANGE CARPENTRY 072 622 4426



LEGRAND 011 444 7971

ABOVE: The owners chose the striking Arteur range of switches in graphite and magnesium, by global brand Legrand, to add style to function in their home. From light switches and home automation to power and data products, Legrand offers complete solutions for all residential, hospitality or commercial projects.

A solid kiaat and charcoal steel staircase speaks more of an industrial influence, softened by a cascade of decorative black lights.

ABOVE: Throughout the house you will find unique and inventive joinery pieces by Le Grange Carpentry. The dining table, benches and bar counter were crafted from laminated plyboard, while the statement staircase is solid kiaat. Le Grange also built the pine wine rack that reaches to the brick barrel-vault ceiling.

"This is my favourite part of the house," the owner reveals. "The barrel-vault ceiling was an idea I got from visiting the wine farms in the Cape. Many of the cellars incorporate such designs, and I fell in love with the atmosphere it creates."

In the living areas, a contemporary-industrial setting is created through materials such as OSB board and plywood, which feature alongside vintage-style Edison lightbulbs set on a maze of surface-mounted steel piping. The dining table and benches, as well as the bar top, are made of sandwiched ply turned on its side, a tactile finish that works well with its surroundings.

All of the living spaces share ample amounts of natural light through the oversized picture windows and doors, and in turn offer beautiful views over the KwaZulu-Natal countryside.

Special attention has been paid to lighting. Strip lighting in specific areas highlights select items of furniture, creating visual interest and bringing warmth to the hard materials. A solid kiaat and charcoal steel staircase speaks more of an industrial influence, softened by the cascade of decorative black lights hanging directly above. >





SHERWELL CUPBOARDS 031 765 4241

MAXIMA SOFTWARE 011 083 5968



GRANITE SOLUTIONS 031 579 3506

OPPOSITE, TOP: The kitchen was designed and installed by Larry Matthews from Sherwell Cupboards, a KwaZulu-Natal company with more than 30 years of experience. Working with the very latest technology from Maxima Software, Sherwell was able to produce photorealistic renders, as well as accurate cutting lists, costings and board optimisation. The owners were instrumental in the design and selection of materials. The end result is rich American walnut veneer base units, paired with white high-gloss acrylic wall units, complemented by a stone quartz top.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: The countertops were supplied and installed by Granite Solutions, which offers a wide and varied range. For the past six years, the company has specialised in kitchens, vanity tops, bar counters and staircases. Opting for Pro Quartz in the colour known as Cobble, Granite Solutions worked with the kitchen designer to produce a seamless installation, with feature sides to the kitchen island. The mottled quartz was chosen to complement the texture of the concrete floors and cabinet fronts.



The colour palette has been kept the same throughout the home, a formula that brings a harmonious flow from space to space.

The bedrooms have been treated to light, neutral carpets for comfort, but this is the only change you will find here. The colour palette has been kept the same throughout the home, a formula that brings a harmonious flow from space to space.

What is clearly evident is that the home has stayed true to its main influence – the Manhattan loft – even down to the caramel-coloured leather sofas. It's the perfect place for entertaining friends and relaxing after a busy week at work. 🏡

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