

Bringing the house DOWN

Finding the perfect stand was the biggest challenge in the creation of this elegant colonial-inspired home in Johannesburg

The wide veranda on the second floor of their new home is a nod to the colonial style the Bernhards love. The house was designed by Dallas Brims Architectural Designers and built by Cast Projects.

TEXT: LELANIE SLATER PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTOPH HOFFMANN

Wild orchids, rustic blue ceramic pots from The Gatehouse and a carved console table from Amatuli give the entrance hall an exotic edge.



WHO LIVES HERE

Daryl and Sally Bernhard, their daughter Jade (15), sons Taine (13) and Matt (8), and their two dogs.

THE HOUSE

A newly-built, double-storey home in Fourways Gardens, Johannesburg, with a sociable open-plan layout that's perfect for relaxed family living and entertaining.

When Daryl and Sally Bernhard set out to build their dream home, finding the right stand proved to be a tougher challenge than they'd anticipated. Firm believers in the golden real estate rule of 'location, location, location', they changed their plans – instead of looking for a vacant plot of land, they bought an old house in their ideal residential estate, Fourways Gardens, and decided to knock it down and create something wonderful in its place.

The property they purchased included an out-dated thatched abode and a large, old-fashioned pool that dominated the small garden. To make better use of the available space, they decided not only to demolish the house, but to relocate the pool to one side to create an expanse of lawn where their children, Jade (15), Taine (13) and Matt (8), and their dogs could play.

Together with Dallas Brims Architectural Designers, the couple then finalised the plans for their new double-storey, colonial-inspired home. "I have always loved the understated grandness of colonial style," Sally explains. "As we lead a busy lifestyle and have three active children, it was important that our home be practical and well suited to easy family living too."

As the Bernhards are keen entertainers, the ground floor has been designed with parties in mind and features a large open-plan kitchen and living area leading on to a generous covered patio; tall glass doors allow this space to be opened up to or >

This sofa, covered in Cassemance Beaver Creek from Hertext Fabrics, has been thoughtfully positioned to help divide the open-plan living area into different zones – this more formal lounge and the TV room beyond.



Sally Bernhard in her kitchen.



ROBIN'S TIPS FOR MAKING THE MOST OF AN OPEN-PLAN SPACE:

- Open-plan rooms have to cater for several different activities all at once. To facilitate this, divide the room into separate zones each dedicated to a specific function, for instance dining or watching TV.
- Use furniture like sofas and console tables to create a visual barrier between the various zones.
- Rugs are a great way to define each separate zone as well as to ground the various groupings of furniture.
- To create a harmonious look and feel, use the same colour palette and flooring throughout.



Good idea

A coffee table with a shelf below keeps the surface clutter free.

The sunny covered patio is Sally's preferred reading spot. A rose print in unusual earthy tones, Bianca Floral from The Silk and Cotton Company, links this space to the garden beyond and complements the room's peaceful neutral scheme. The wooden Villa lounge chairs are from La Grange Interiors.

DECOR INSPIRATIONS

What works best for these homeowners is their covered patio

"We love that the glass doors and shutters make this sunny space so flexible – it can be opened up to the garden in summer and closed off to keep it cosy in winter. It's also great for entertaining because it can comfortably accommodate a crowd."

Make it work for you

If your patio's weather protected, treat it as you would any other indoor living area and use upholstered furniture, rugs and lamps to make it comfy and inviting. Set the tone for relaxation by choosing a calm neutral palette, then add a floral print to echo the garden surrounds.



▲ Grey pompon cushion, R269, @home.

▲ Prado mirror, R2 999, La Grange Interiors.

◀ Siena dining chair, R3 265, Pezula Interiors.

▶ Floral Ikat, R1 190/m, The Silk and Cotton Company.



◀ Hammered champagne tub, R290, @home.



▲ Michelangelo coffee table, R10 761, Leonardo Design.

COMPILED BY CANDICE DOS SANTOS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER WHITFIELD, DYLAN SWART AND SUPPLIED



The chairs on the covered patio were slip-covered in two different fabrics: Bianca Floral from The Silk and Cotton Company and Mattress Ticking from St Leger & Viney. The dining table is from G2 Furniture.

closed off from the garden so that it can be enjoyed year-round, no matter what the weather.

Large interlinking rooms like these can be daunting to decorate as they need to incorporate several seating and dining areas without ending up looking like a furniture showroom, which is one of the reasons why Sally enlisted the help of decorator Robin Widdop. "I wanted the colonial feel of the architecture to be carried over into the interiors," Sally says of her decorating brief. "I spent months paging through magazines and compiled a scrapbook filled with ideas to illustrate the look I was after."

Following Robin's suggestion, furnishings were cleverly used to divide the living area into two distinct zones: a more formal lounge and a more casual TV room. "Two sofas were positioned with their backs facing each other and we placed a console table topped with lamps between them to create a visual barrier. We then added wool rugs to ground and define each setting," Robin explains. Rather than having a separate dining table for casual meals, a table was added on as an extension to the kitchen island – it's perfectly positioned so that Sally can chat to her family and friends while preparing a meal.

The covered patio has been designed to accommodate a crowd when the Bernhards entertain. There's a contemporary, clean-lined bar, a stylish dining area and a comfortable seating area, which is where Sally loves to read and relax. On the whole, she's delighted with the way her family's new home has turned out. "We love it," Sally enthuses, "it's such a warm, sunny and happy house – it's everything we dreamt of and more." ▷

Rather than a conventional breakfast bar, Sally opted to have a table added on as an extension to her kitchen's long island – its wooden finish warms up the predominately white kitchen making it feel friendlier and more inviting. ▷



“As we lead a busy lifestyle and have three active children, it was important that our home be practical and well suited to easy family living too”

3 STYLISH HEADBOARDS

◀ Queen white lacquer headboard, R2 900, from @home.

▶ Panel headboard, R1 650 (excl. fabric), from Peace River Trading.



◀ Crete headboard, R2 495, from Coricraft.



COMPILED BY MONICA MTSHEMLA PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

Fifteen-year-old Jade's bedroom has a distinctly glamorous look. The Villa Nova Yoshino Eucalyptus wallpaper and Warwick Glitz Opal fabric on the scatters are both from St Leger & Viney. The headboard is in Halogen International's Inca Tecno.



Matt (8) won't easily outgrow the earthy palette used in his bedroom. The ottomans are covered in a map print, Hertex Fabric's World Lino. ▶



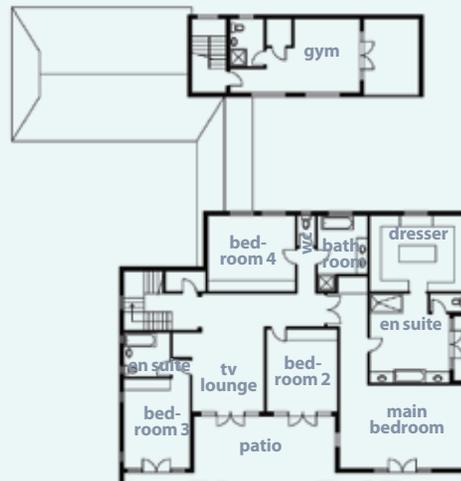
Good idea

Use ottomans to store extra blankets and sports gear.

GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



Daryl and Sally's bedroom is an inviting sanctuary. The tall headboard, covered in Halogen International's Malabar Tricola, creates a focal point behind the bed. The rug is from YC Carpets.



Good idea

Place a rug over carpeting for an ultra-luxe look.



LEFT: The en suite master bathroom is an oasis of calm. Positioning the oval free-standing bath in the centre of the room frees up plenty of floor space, making the bathroom feel even more spacious. A crystal chandelier from Le Château and gilded mirror from Marceau De Mantel add a luxurious touch. **G2H**

SOURCES

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Robin Widdop Interiors 082 323 2683 or
robinwiddopinteriors.co.za

St Leger & Viney stleger.co.za

The Gatehouse thegatehouse.co.za

The Silk and Cotton Company silkco.co.za

YC Carpets 011 262 2760