

your practical guide to beautiful living

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FESTIVE FARE

A special menu for special people

+ Almond meringue
layer cake, *step by step*

Making memories...

Décor ideas with your
favourite holiday snaps

TIME TO RELAX

5 *idyllic* coastal homes

From farmer's cottage to surfer's den • Family home - and a seaside rental
All-white elegance at the beach • Rustic modernism - facebrick can be fabulous!

RENOVATION

FORGIVING FINISHES IN A NEUTRAL SPACE

IN THE GARDEN

Solutions for shady areas
Lush oasis in dry
+ Northern Cape

FRESH IDEAS

We love stripes!

Get the look

Although it needed a major revamp, when tour guide Gisela Piercey discovered this charming heritage home, she knew it was the perfect choice for her!

Love AT FIRST SIGHT

By Haidee Muller-Isaacs
Photographs Karl Rogers
Production Marian van Wyk



The deck, which has a courtyard feel, is perfect for summer gatherings. It was part of a large unused stoep, half of which was enclosed and has since become the brand-new dining area. Two stacking doors lead out from the lounge and dining area onto the deck, creating a lovely indoor-outdoor flow and allowing sunlight to stream into the living area.

WHO LIVES HERE? Gisela Piercey
WHERE Simon's Town
SIZE 120m²

The new dining area has built-in seating and a custom-made oval table – a deliberate, space-saving solution for this compact space. Concrete tiles laid with wide grout lines in between makes for an eye-catching floor surface. Gisela has decorated her home mainly with local art.

Argile Cuadrado concrete floor tiles from Ceramica; Toulon Café chairs from Bijou SA; Franke wall planters from Juliet Eidelman Ceramics

Pendant light from Eagle Lighting; dining table custom made by African Creations; cushions from Yuppeichef and Mr Price Home; seat cushions from Sofas & Chairs; Douglas Jones Autumn Fairy tiles in Ocean Aqua (on built-in seating) from Ceramica; art prints from Adele Grace

This dusty-pink Victorian house dating from 1890 and just a stone's throw from Simon's Town's world-famous Boulders Beach captivated Gisela Piercey the moment she stepped inside. Gisela believes that if you're in the market for buying a home, you should look for a property that 'speaks to your soul'. If it doesn't stir up any emotions, rather give it a miss.

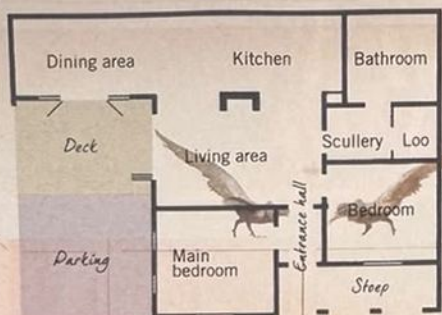
This was the first house she looked at towards the end of 2023 and she felt that there was something special about this heritage home. The Swiss boutique tour guide has lived in South Africa for many years and was looking for a family-friendly home that she could also rent out on a short-term basis, preferably close to popular tourist attractions. "The penguin colony at Boulders is within walking distance, plus there are pristine beaches and so many gems to discover in the area. I knew it was the perfect address."

Gisela bought the house and dubbed it The Dragonfly, after The Dragonfly Inn in *Gilmore Girls*, one of her favourite TV series. >>

PAINT COLOUR

Dulux
Queen Coral

Stools from
Cielo; pendant
lights from
elevenpast;
white tiles from
Studio Masson



PAINT COLOUR
Dulux Prague Purple

To make the living area feel larger, part of the wall between the kitchen and lounge was demolished, creating space for a breakfast bar (see opposite).

KitKat tiles from Ceramica; kitchen design by Mink Interiors; cabinets by African Creations; Bianco Egg 3D splashback tiles from the Studio Masson Gleeze range; black sink from Builders; black tap from Cobra

This little study nook was a great way to optimise a smaller space. Here, Sihan used the same floor tiles, with similar grout spacing, as in the kitchen and dining area.

PAINT COLOUR

Dulux
Prague Purple

Wall tiles from
Studio Masson Mo
range; desk by
Mink Interiors and
African Creations;
chair from Douglas
and Douglas; rug
from Yuppieche



A layout reimagined

The original layout of the tiny heritage house was charming but dated. A couple of walls needed to be knocked out, the only bathroom was in dire need of a makeover, and space had to be created for a second bathroom. The underutilised stoep was partly enclosed and now serves as a dining area leading onto the deck. Architect Timo Smith was called in to assist.

As for the décor, Gisela wanted a contemporary look with a touch of heritage charm, so she enlisted the help of Sihan Wiid of Mink Interiors, who also project managed the revamp. With the necessary paperwork for Heritage Western Cape sorted, the construction team, Ryco Projects, was finally able to get started in January this year, and by June everything – down to the last décor detail – was complete.

Gisela got exactly what she'd set her heart on and today The Dragonfly is stylish and elegant, thanks to Sihan's clever use of colour, texture and well-considered spatial planning.

Gisela says she was overcome when she saw the end result. "Almost 60 percent of the house was completely redone – Sihan is a genius! She transformed it into a tasteful, modern home that feels joyful, and the colours reflect my personality. I feel an indescribable sense of peace here." >>

The cosy lounge boasts comfy furniture, and old prints that Gisela found at an antique shop adorn the walls.

Scatter cushions from Yuppiefchef; coffee table from Cielo; rug from Monn; chairs from Mr Price Home; side table from Decofurn; pendant light from lighting.co.za; custom-made couch by Sofas & Chairs, upholstered in fabric from Sullies Fabrics

The exterior of the house was painted a soft rose-pink, which contrasts beautifully with the white trim and dark roof.



Gisela
Piercey



Sihan designed the vanity in the guest loo (*below left*). The main bathroom (*below right and opposite*) also boasts stylish finishes – and a luxurious bathtub!

Wall sconces from Plumstead Electrical; taps from Trendy Taps; basins from Bathroom Factory Shop and Euro Bath & Tile; tiles from Ceramica and Studio Masson; vanity designed by Mink Interiors and made by African Creations; handles from Handles Inc.



EXPERT ADVICE

A kaleidoscope of colour in a heritage home



Sihan Wiid of Mink Interiors is well known to *Home* readers. Her use of colour and texture is always eye-catching, as is evident in this house.

Gisela's home is a modern feast of colour, bringing loads of personality to all the spaces. "A major challenge was to redesign the home in such a way that it is now practical but also radiates comfort and contemporary elegance," says Sihan.

The heritage zoning in Simon's Town, with its strict regulations, posed an early obstacle. "The original plan was to extend the house upwards with a wooden deck above the kitchen, but Heritage Western Cape's regulations stipulated that the Victorian aesthetic had to be maintained. The design was therefore adapted so that it paid respect to the architectural integrity of the house,

while still providing the modern amenities and flow that Gisela wanted."

The infrastructure of the house also had to be upgraded. All plumbing pipes were replaced to meet current standards, while the electrical wiring, which resembled a "spider web" of old wires, was also modernised.

"Functionality was the most important factor in every design decision. The core of the project was the improvement of the kitchen, now a striking focal point with its dark blue and dusty-pink cabinet doors.

"The completed renovation balances the home's Victorian roots with a vibrant, contemporary aesthetic." >>

CONTACT minkinteriors.co.za

The play of tiles – using different sizes in *soft pastel blue* and *green shades* – sets the backdrop for this luxurious bathroom. – *Sihan*

The old dining room was converted into a stylish main bathroom with a skylight that lets in natural light and offers a view of the moonlit sky at night.

Bathtub from Livingstone Baths; taps from Trendy Taps; pastel blue Douglas Jones tiles from Ceramica; light green tiles from Decobella

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 The Bedroom Shop [thebedroomshoponline.co.za](https://www.thebedroomshoponline.co.za) The Dragonfly [airbnb.co.za/h/dragonflysimonstown](https://www.airbnb.co.za/h/dragonflysimonstown)
 Timo Smith 072 441 0506 Trendy Taps [trendytaps.co.za](https://www.trendytaps.co.za) Yuppiechef [yuppiechef.com](https://www.yuppiechef.com)

Gisela is passionate about nature conservation – the penguin theme evident throughout the house is her tribute to the endangered African penguin.

Blanket from India Ink; wall panels by African Creations; bedside table from Cielo; Beach Resort on White cushions by Art of Curation; artwork by Aimee Kruger



PAINT COLOUR

Dulux Victorian Yellow



PAINT COLOUR

Dulux
Saddle Tan

The bedrooms were designed with short-term Airbnb stays in mind. Panelling was installed on the focal walls and doubles as a headboard. This clever detail eliminates the need for upholstered headboards, which are often prone to stains and wear and tear. The panelling is a hygienic and low-maintenance alternative. 🏠

Stone Blocks on White cushions by Art of Curation; bedside lamp from Elevenpast; bedside table from The Bedroom Shop; blinds made by Milly's Soft Furnishings; lampshade from Spazio; blanket from India Ink; custom-made wall panelling by African Creations painted in pale blue Midas Midacoat Satin