



Darkly DELICIOUS

Set in a secluded wooded hideaway, this holiday home is akin to stepping into an intimate six-star boutique hotel. It's stylish, it's sophisticated and it's extraordinary.

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When Schanè Anderson and Debbie Steinhobel of Olàà Interiors met the home owner, they sensed immediately how to enhance the connection between owner and property, and how to create a holiday home which would, as he requested, "be a sumptuous, almost escapist, getaway from city life". The owner expressed clear thoughts on what he liked and, as Schanè recalls, "his immaculate dress sense provided a strong clue as to how the design should unfold. He was stylishly, faultlessly tailored, underplayed, never over the top, but he made a bold statement." That's just how Schanè and Debbie approached the decor and



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OPENING SPREAD: The formal lounge is rich with saturated navy velvets, standing pyramid lamps and full-hide high-back chairs, all custom manufactured for this luxurious home.

2. The curated library with its comfortable seating for those leisurely reading days.

3. First impressions count and, here, an open piano, like an invitation (flanked by Moooi's iconic Construction Lamp) is the hint of culture to come. It nudges the library space, while up the stairs, a magnificent portrait by Sarah Danes Jarrett overlooks all.

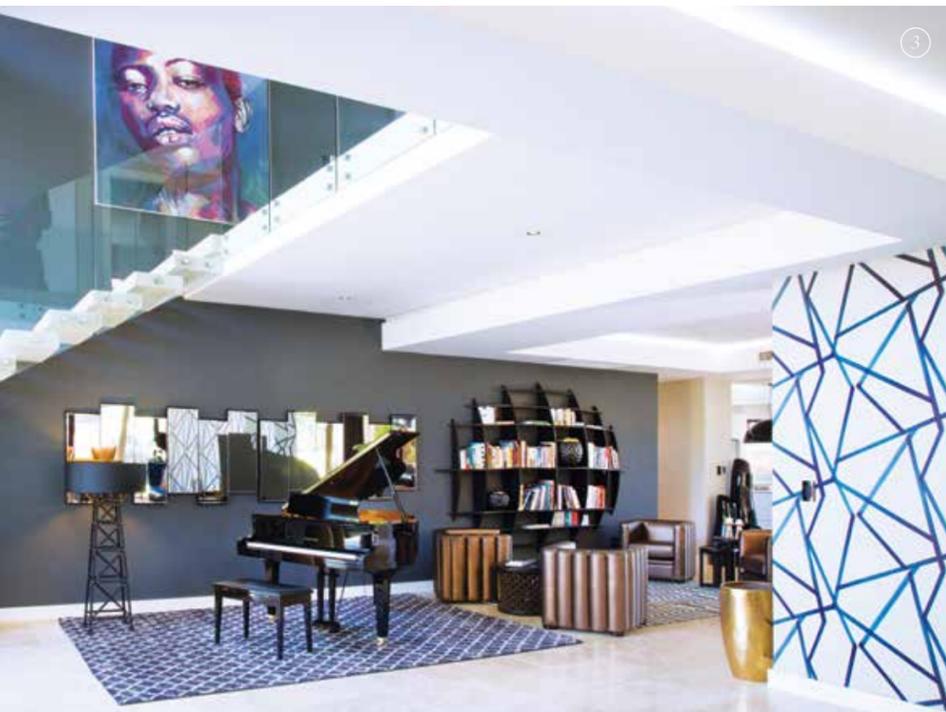
4. The quiet, understated

entrance hall is simple, but speaks volumes. A decorative server and wooden wall-hung sculpture play with the idea of earthed opulence.

5. The elegant lounge has minimal detailing, simply showing off the effective use of neutral contrasting colours and textures.



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design of this home. The construction was 99 percent complete when she met the owner on site. He wanted an interior that echoed strong luxurious masculinity, edged with dark colours, very structural and linear, and the only colourful and playful room would be in his little daughter's bedroom.

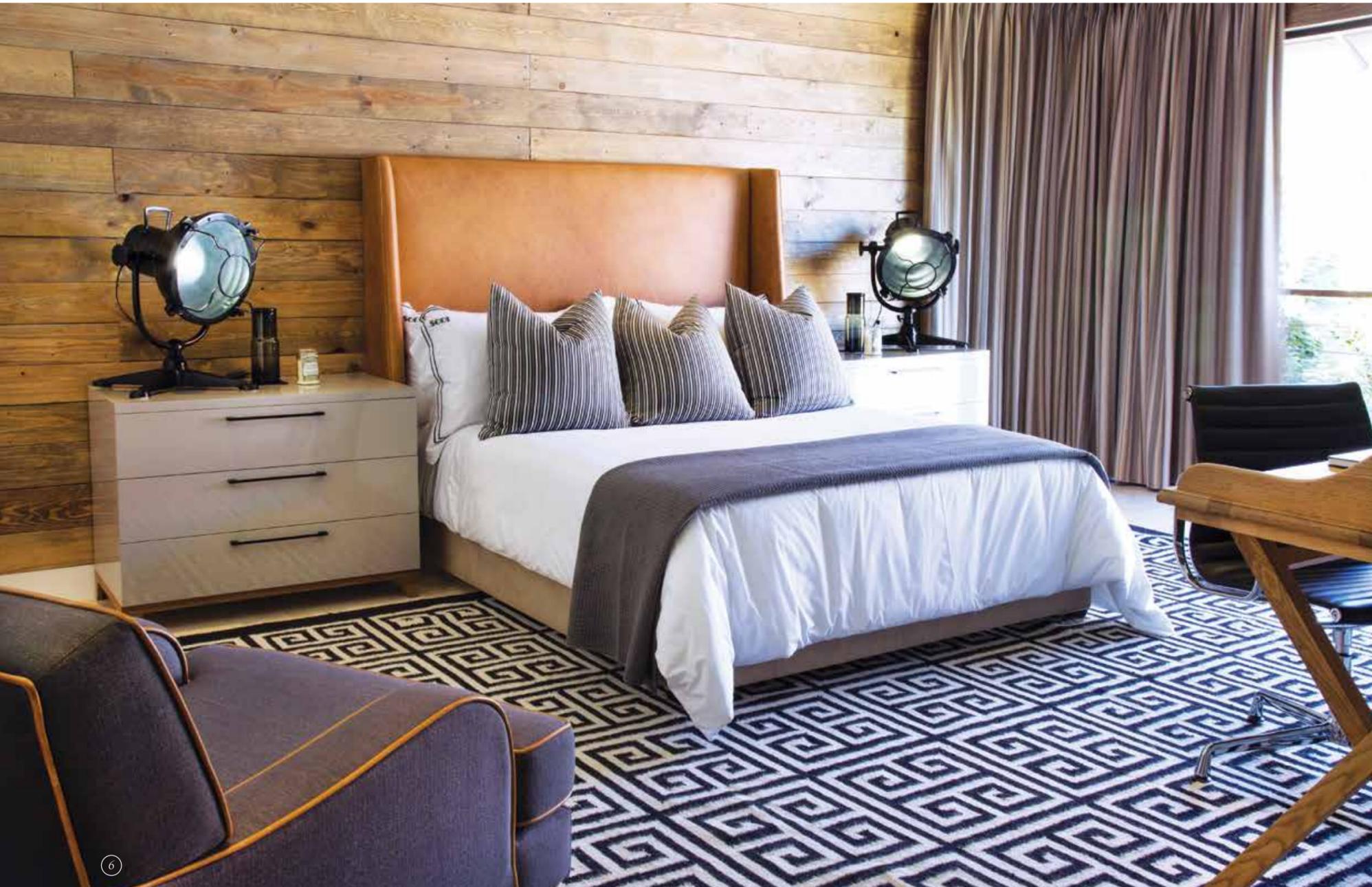
Olalà designs and manufactures furniture, so many of the pieces in this home were custom designed and made – essentially one-off works of art, with extraordinarily beautiful grain or detail. There's no decoration on these surfaces, because they speak for themselves and need no enhancement.

Step into this house and you're immediately struck by the vastness of the double volume space and the deliberate continuity between downstairs and up. There's room to breathe and, although there are innumerable arresting cameos and elements which draw the eye – the glossy black piano, the extraordinarily bold portraits on the upper level – there's no sense of being

overwhelmed. It beckons more like a journey than a destination.

The lower level of the house is almost entirely open plan, so Schané selected design mechanisms for demarcating spaces without shutting them off, so they worked together visually. For her, geometric designs are not only bold, attractive and masculine, but they make strong statements. She's used them cleverly on the floor as rugs, on feature walls as wallpaper, and even echoed geometric shapes in furniture such as dresser mirror doors.

Dark charcoals, greys and blacks feature prominently in the home – on fabrics and wall coverings – but there's always a counterpoint, a warmth introduced subtly in a matt gold touch or a stylish light-fitting spilling a warm glow, or snow white couches and standing lamps. This is the Yin and Yang of stylish decor, which takes the house from a showroom to a real, liveable family home.



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- 6.** The guest suite is grounded with reclaimed timber wall cladding and a full hide leather headboard, then given a contemporary twist by the geometric rug and oversized bedside pedestals and lamps.
- 7.** The luxurious and elegant master bedroom, with its silks, velvets and high-gloss bespoke custom-made cabinetry, is further softened by the luxurious underfoot bamboo silk rug.
- 8.** Pretty in pink and reds – a fairytale bedroom – a little girl's place to dream.
- 9.** The playful guest WC doubles as powder room, glammed up with imported wallpaper and an oversized chandelier.



As always with open plan, flow is critical and Schanè has mastered that in this home. You're led seamlessly from one space to the other, with a few tempting side roads. Beyond the perfect piano – the first cameo you encounter – you could choose to be diverted into the wonderful little library area. The invitingly quirky and comfy dull-gold chairs are tailor-made for curling up alongside the eclectic selection of books, from Mandela through to timeless children's tales. The chairs' linear appeal, like all the decor elements, is entirely deliberate and, once again, forms an integral part of the bigger picture.

This home may favour dark over light in its decor, but the vast expanses of glass – together with the innovative designs and use of mirrors to reflect light and views – provide a perfect balance. The bedrooms are light-filled, unfussy,

yet ultra-luxurious. The little girl's bedroom is every girl's fantasy with a single wall of sheer magic and sweet elements of red, pink and prettiness.

Textures play a strong role in this home and there's a distinctly sensual appeal of the natural tones, blacks and browns which run through the living and bedroom areas. From velvets and corduroys to sheens and cottons and then, always, a surprise – a painting, a sculpture, an iconic light fitting.

Nothing has been left to chance and the decorators have taken the architecture of the house into consideration as much as the owner's preferred colours and, of course, lifestyle. This is a holiday home, for sure, but – contrary to many holiday homes – it's not pared down in any way. It's almost the reverse. It's luxuriously curated and staying here is flying first class – exactly as the owners wanted.

10. Angles, shapes and textures are the mark of this home, an exterior which only hints at the remarkable cameos, sumptuous comfort, and clever detailing to come.

11. Outdoors on the deck, a custom made solid hardwood table and durable outdoor chairs are screened from the world by dense greenery of the natural forest boundary.

12. Schanè Anderson of Olàà Interiors helped create this exceptional holiday home.