

PROPERTY

Tranquil TIME

THE RESIDENTS SOUGHT THE SOUNDS OF
NATURE ON A PEACEFUL ESTATE



F-ARCHITECTURE 083 286 8652

The home owner asked F-Architecture to design a luxury home, flooded with natural light. The slope of the site allowed for the entertainment and kitchen area to have a higher ceiling volume than normal. The internal courtyard also allows in the natural light. The architect chose a neutral, earthy colour palette with dark accents.



BY MELANIE FARRELL • PROJECT CONSULTANT MONIQUE RANKINE
PROPERTY COORDINATOR NOSIPHO KWEYAMA • PHOTOGRAPHER CHRISTOPH HOFFMAN



Tranquillity was key in this build, and the home owner found a plot on an estate that ticked this box, complete with a small stream and abundant wildlife.

"Our previous house was much bigger than this one, but the area lacked the tranquillity that we were after," says the owner, a banking executive who shares the house with her husband and two daughters, 12 and 14.

"We wanted to be able to sit at home and hear water flow past, and the sounds of birds and animals," she says.

The architect designed a luxury home flooded with natural light, taking advantage of the site's slope to incorporate plenty of windows. There is also a central courtyard.

"The design has a lot of glass that helps retain heat, reducing the electricity bill and lowering the energy consumption. It also allows more natural light during the day – an added health benefit," she says.

There were challenges during the build when the price of building materials escalated due to inflation. >

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There was also an interruption to the supply of furniture due to COVID-19, and then the Russia/Ukraine war.

The owner was able to overcome these problems "in a beautiful way, sourcing locally and falling in love with South African products".

"This is the way to go and to grow economic activity in South Africa," she says.

The build took 12 months, with later additions of a borehole for water and a solar power system.

"We enjoy our open-plan kitchen, which leads to the patio and garden. We can cook and bake and still connect with guests and family, making for easy entertaining," says the owner.

Fitness is important for the family who makes the most of the estate's lifestyle offerings, including walking, mountain biking and an in-house gym.

"The house overlooks beautiful, natural bush, and you can enjoy the view from every room," she says. "The therapeutic impact of nature truly has no limits. It's like being on holiday every day." ■

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