

HOUSE & GARDEN[®]

SOUTH
AFRICA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020 R60,00 (INCL.VAT)
OTHER COUNTRIES R52,17



THE DESIGN ISSUE

JOHN JACOB · KELLY HOPPEN · PETER MARINO
KIM STEPHEN · DONALD NXUMALO · ROGER BALLEEN
KELLY WEARSTLER · HUBERT ZANDBERG
MARY MAUREL · OTOBONG NKANGA · TIAAN NAGEL



Finders keepers

With a major renovation and design overhaul, this family home exudes the same eclectic charm as the busy streets outside

TEXT EDWAIN STEENKAMP
PHOTOGRAPHER INGRID RASMUSSEN

AMONG THE FEATURES IN THE LIVING ROOM ARE VINTAGE MARKET FINDS

VINTAGE ITEMS, SUCH AS THE ITALIAN PENDANT LIGHT AND WALL LIGHTS, ADD UNDENIABLE CHARM

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This was a project very close to my heart,' says interior designer Hubert Zandberg about this family home on Portobello Road in Notting Hill, West London. Having spent a large part of his life living in the area, he understands this unique borough – and the people living in it – better than most. 'I would call it an extreme melting pot of cultures and nationalities,' he says, 'where you will find every type of person imaginable, from young and rising Hollywood stars to immigrants from around the world – and all of them are drawn to the particular eccentricity of these streets.' With the added array of markets, retro and thrift stores and the annual Notting Hill Carnival, this rather small borough attracts throngs of people, both visitors and would-be residents. So finding a family home big enough for five people is not only challenging, it's almost impossible. 'And my team made the impossible happen,' says Hubert.

To realise the brief of creating a functional home for a young family, the inside of the house, all the way up into the attic, had to be redone entirely. 'And not just redone,' he adds, 'but broken down, reconfigured and rebuilt completely, from the floors and ceilings to the walls.' This was to ensure that each one of the rooms remains completely functional for the daily activities of a family while remaining spacious and comfortable.

All that remains of the original structure, Hubert adds, are pieces of the stairwell, which was eventually extended to go all the way into the attic. The Hubert Zandberg Interiors team used clever techniques throughout the house to further maximise on space. A strategically placed shelf, for instance, helps divide the living areas, without enclosing any part of them, or obstructing the precious natural light coming in through the windows, while the placement in the master bedroom saw the bed moved to the centre of the room to allow for a narrow dressing room behind it. The inclusion of some of the more

fixed features, such as the corner sofa and the kitchen table, can be both intimate and familial, while also being suitable for many guests to congregate. For these features to be as dynamic and impactful as they are, everything needed to be custom made for the space. 'No corner could be left to chance,' says Hubert. 'So taking the restraints into consideration, and what we needed to achieve, we custom made almost every piece in the house.'

With the new layout of the house complete, Hubert was able to breathe a new visual identity into the space, which was as considered and curated as the architectural renovation.

Taking a visual cue from the markets outside, the team paid special attention to the different cultural and international influences prevalent in the area. 'Knowing the area as well as I do,' he adds, 'and just experiencing what happens out on the streets, it was almost inevitable that all of that would express itself in the interior design.' While the homeowner came with several pieces of furniture and art – which were carefully incorporated into the new layout – most of the decor was sourced at Notting Hill's markets. 'And in doing so,' says Hubert, 'I hope that I was able to capture something special: a feeling of stepping off the street and into a home's interior that reflects the colourful world outside.'

'It was easy to arrive at this eclectic style because of the homeowner,' says Hubert. 'She's fearless in her style choices, and has an avant-garde taste and a playful sense of humour. I was really able to play around with different styles and epochs, and that also spoke to her unique taste.'

He's quick to admit what a pleasure it was. 'I am a collector at heart and I love finding unique items from around the world. Bringing them all together in a home as special as this was a remarkable experience.' ■

Hubert Zandberg Interiors hziinteriors.com



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: SMALL SOFA UPHOLSTERED IN METAPHORES 'PANAMA CREME' FROM ABBOTT & BOYD; CARPET RUNNER BY SINCLAIR TILL; CURTAINS IN DOMINIQUE KIEFFER 'PATCHWORK' FABRIC FROM RUBELLI; CUSTOM SOFA BY HUBERT ZANDBERG INTERIORS



CUSTOM DESIGNED KITCHEN
WITH KITCHEN SINK MIXER BY
BERT & MAY IN A BRASS FINISH



JEAN PROUVÉ FOR VITRA
'STANDARD' DINING CHAIRS, ZINC
TOP TABLE BY ANDREW NEBBETT
AND ACCESSORIES BY HUBERT
ZANDBERG INTERIORS



'I was really able to play around with different styles and epochs'

HUBERT ZANDBERG

SMALL MOMENTS OF GLAMOUR WERE ADDED IN THE FORM OF TEXTURAL ELEMENTS

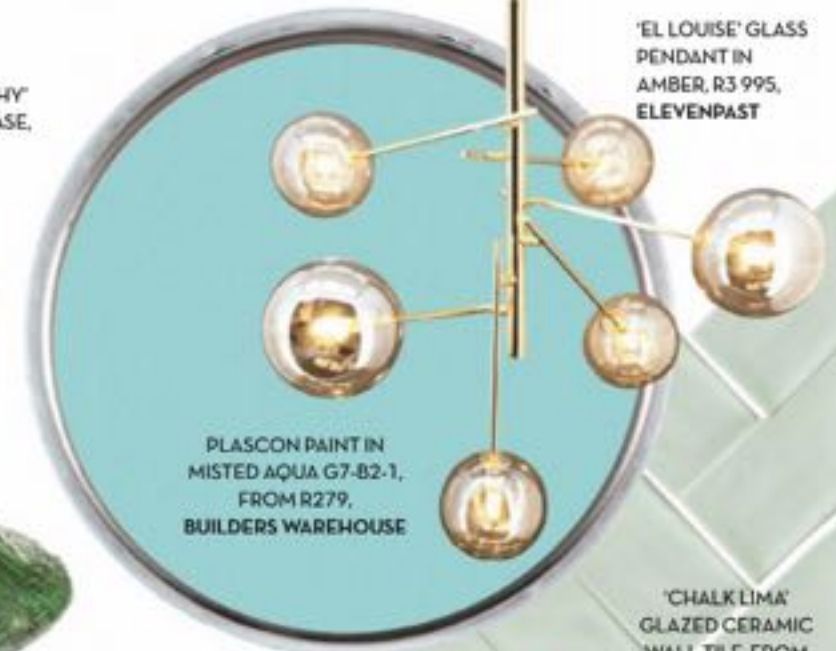
DESIGN NOTES



'SISI WAM TROPHY' TERRACOTTA VASE, R5 100, BIELLE BELLINGHAM



'RICCI' VASE IN GREEN, R6 400, LA GRANGE INTERIORS



PLASCON PAINT IN MISTED AQUA G7-B2-1, FROM R279, BUILDERS WAREHOUSE

'EL LOUISE' GLASS PENDANT IN AMBER, R3 995, ELEVENPAST



'ORBIT' ROUND MIRROR, R299, DECOFURN FURNITURE



CARA DAVIDE FOR UNIQA 'ROTONDA' DECORATIVE OBJECTS IN TAN BROWN, 2019, POR, CARA DAVIDE



SIXTH FLOOR 'REED' WOVEN RUG, R1 299, SUPERBALIST

'NIGEN' HAND EMBROIDERED CUSHION, R695, WEYLANDTS



'HASKELL' UPHOLSTERED 4-SEATER COUCH, R11 999, CORICRAFT

'CRUDO RUSTIC' WOODEN FLOORING IN CHOCOLATE BROWN OIL, FROM R675, OGGIE

PHOTOGRAPHS: SUPPLIED, PRODUCTION: JAKH ADELEY LANDMAN