

In architectural discourse, there are certain words used to describe a space, and these same words are also suited to conceptual art. People outside the architectural or art communities wouldn't readily call upon words such as 'free-form', 'movement' and 'ethereal' when telling friends or colleagues about an expansive, beautiful home. But when visiting a home such as this one in Clifton, which overlooks the stretch between Glen Beach and Camps Bay, you begin to realise the aptness of such descriptions. Because what Michael Dennett, director of DV8 Architects, has created is, without a doubt, a work of art.

'In all the projects we take on, we aim to create movement with the architecture – how one moves through a space, how spaces or rooms in a home are linked and how the space changes as someone moves through it,' says Michael. 'The client wanted the open-plan-living nature of the top floor, which had organic and curved lines, to follow through to the lower two floors. This was his brief to us, as well as wanting these two floors to be extended out to create more space.' Instructed to 'run with it', Michael and his team conceptualised a way 'to capture the moment when the architecture changes from being static to kinetic.' He explains, 'An architect may have an idea of what he wants to achieve, but whether or not others get it is a different story. We wanted to create points of interest in every space, ones that catch you off guard as you move past it or closer to it. To create something that is unexpected.'

Every room has examples of this. For instance, in two of the bedrooms, the bed units housing the mattress are interesting curved structures, but only once you walk around do you realise that the vertical column acting as a headboard curves outwards at the top and becomes a desk surface for the client's children to work on.

Another example is at the entrance to the home: the front door is flanked by mirrored panels on either side, where the one is flat, reflecting a complete mirror image of whoever is standing in front of the door, and the other side is staggered, with pieces of mirror showing a broken reflection that becomes all the more interesting as one moves.

Although the overarching theme in this home is 'movement', a secondary theme, 'nature', is used to illustrate it. There are shapes and nodes with an organic look, from the curved shapes in the ceiling of the open-plan lounge to the weaver's-nest-shaped pendant lights in the kitchen. Then there is the wide range of textures that highlight the elemental feel of the space. In the main en-suite bathroom, there is a tile used throughout the shower that looks like a glossy snakeskin. The curved walnut timber cabinets

**GoCreate Projects** was the main contractor on this project and managed and built the entire build from implementation to completion/handover, working closely with DV8 Architects. It oversaw and used its own selected subcontractors, whom it has vetted and has formed close working relationships with over various projects, to complete all aspects of the build, from structural works, all wet trades, plumbing, carpentry and joinery to mechanical installation and all finishes. GoCreate Projects offers a turnkey solution to all its clients, architects and client's agents, and the business prides itself on its service orientation and on the quality of the finish.



# A HOME THAT MOVES YOU

Words Genevieve Fisher  
Photographs Supplied

*Each room in this luxurious Clifton home has been so carefully considered that it feels like you're walking through a work of art where every detail evokes an emotion*

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in the main bedroom look like some sort of large tree stump, contrasted with a white rectangular bioethanol fireplace. Each of the bedrooms on the bottom floor has been inspired by a nature theme, and with glass walls separating them from the garden and pool area, the indoor/outdoor flow is evident.

Two particular rooms that have the wow factor are the 'Pod' and 'Water' rooms. The Pod Room is built around a pod in the shape of the letter C. It encloses the en-suite bathroom with transparent glass walls that makes you feel as if you are stepping into a clean white encapsulated space while still being

**Top left to right** CDB Kitchens was the sole joiner on this project. Each joinery item was a unique challenge and creation. The team's favourite item in this project is the kitchen, which is made of a combination of over-veneered and solid walnut with genuine leather panels for the scullery entrance and copper accents on the island. All of CDB Kitchens' joinery items are custom created and manufactured at its workshop in Hout Bay. CDB Kitchens has been in operation since 1996 and has grown from a two-man affair into a 12-man-strong workforce. CDB Kitchens has its own in-house spray booth, which ensures the best turnaround time for its clients. An owner-run and -operated business, CDB Kitchens undertakes jobs from kitchen makeovers, bedroom cupboards and TV units to entire housing projects. **Far left** The Modern Group integrated smart home automation solutions, including an Apple iPad that controls the lighting, music and other convenience functionalities. Easy selection of a movie or DVD is done with the iPad, via the media server. Home automation has become an energy-saving trend. In this home, a Creston Controller acts as the interface for the integration of the AV equipment and has been fully integrated with the Clipsal C-Bus Home Automations System for lighting and energy control. **Left** Established by Rod Beck in 2007, Tactile sources and supplies quality and innovative tiling products to the retail, corporate, architectural and design markets, finding individual tiling solutions based on specific project requirements. Tactile imports its tiles from top European manufacturers. This living area, for instance, features the Earth Antique sandblasted tile by Fibonacci, available from Tactile's showroom in Woodstock, Cape Town, and from its distribution centres in Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth.



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within the bedroom – a space within a space. The pod protrudes from the other side of the shared wall, providing a TV and entertainment cabinet in the children's lounge and play area.

The Water Room is Michael's favourite. The floor on the right-hand side of this open-plan bedroom and en-suite bathroom sits above where the pool starts. This area extends over the pool by half a metre, where you stand on glass with the water gushing under you. In front there is a splayed glass wall, and with the flick of a switch, water flows down the glass on the outside, making you feel as if you're standing underneath a waterfall.

What makes all these spaces work so well and creates such bona fide experiences, says Michael, is the dichotomy between linear and orthogonal design elements and organic ones. Michael came to this idea by juxtaposing what is thought of as linear, directional lines, prevalent in what he terms 'Western architectural principles' with those of a circular, organic and free-form shape that he refers to as 'African-inspired design principles'. For instance, the curved wall unit in the open-plan kitchen, living and piano room, which extends across the wall with diagonal linear shelving, sits in opposition to the traditional one-dimensional linear wall on the other side.

He says, 'When I studied my master's degree in architecture, my thesis explored the notion of creating an African identity within a folded postmodern landscape and it explored whether this representation is a literal or implied interpretation. Some spaces, African-themed restaurants for instance, have been created literally. I like to do it in a suggestive and implied way. The thing that excites me about the dichotomy between these two styles is not necessarily their juxtaposition, but the tension it creates.'

It's the tension you feel when walking through this home, oohing and aahing at every detail, and not once does it let up. If life imitates art, then what Michael and his team at DV8 Architects have created in this Clifton home is a space where everyday life is given creative expression. ☺

**Top** This new home gave Eagle Lighting an ideal opportunity to showcase its lighting design ability as well as the opportunity to use its new range of LED light luminaires and Tape Light for effect lighting throughout the home. This new low-energy LED lighting is available from all Eagle Lighting stores in the Western Cape and will help homeowners save on their electricity consumption.

**Above** Hyper Fires supplied the Nøvent flue-less gas fireplace for this project and did the required planning and installation of the gas supply to the fireplace. Nøvent fireplaces have exceptionally low emissions and gas consumption and are the preferred choice in almost all top-end projects that Hyper Fires works on, including the penthouses at One&Only Cape Town, and the Queen Victoria hotel.

#### Suppliers List

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