



A Place Called Home

Silk curtains, crystal lamps and chic, contemporary styling come together beautifully in the Ferguson family home in Umhlanga. Chia Kougianos chatted to Design Ahead interior designer **Stacey Vermeulen** to find out more.



Originally a holiday home, the Umhlanga penthouse had to be converted into the official 'family home' when the owners decided they liked it so much in Umhlanga that they wanted to move here permanently. According to designer Stacey Vermeulen, her aim was to create a glamorous yet comfortable home for the family.

Photographer: Rylie-Jade Chelin

CREATING WARMTH AND ADDING TEXTURE

In an attempt to make the penthouse comfortable for every member of the family, Stacey says each room has its own unique theme. The main bedroom is very rich and warm, with silk curtains, textured wallpaper and scatter cushions in many different fabrics. Crystal bedside lamps and a chandelier finish the room off beautifully.

"The little girl's room was a lot of fun to decorate!" But, with loads of stuffed toys and dolls, Stacey says coming up with a unique way to store her toys was a challenge. "I designed a big frame with 12 smaller frames inside (that way each frame could hold one of her Bratz or Barbie dolls)." Stacey designed a perspex chain that hangs from the ceiling, for her to hang her teddies on. All the dolls and teddies are now beautifully displayed and form part of her bedroom's décor.

According to Stacey the pub/entertainment area was a challenge to decorate, because the whole area is made up of glass windows (to maximise the view) and the walls and windows have many different angles. "I had a couch custom-made to fit the angles and space." To create warmth and add texture to the room, Stacey clad the feature wall with split face travertine. The scatter cushions and ornaments bring a splash of colour to the room.

PERSONALISED ARTWORK

When it comes to artwork Stacey opted for the realistic and more personal mood achieved by using framed photographs instead of paintings. "For the guest bedroom I framed black and white photographs of the Umhlanga beach and lighthouse, taken by Rylie-Jade Chelin. That way, when guests arrive they will already catch a glimpse of the beauty that awaits them on the beach." In the study Stacey enlarged and framed a photograph of the owner's airplane. "It adds a personal touch to the room where he'll spend a lot of his time."

