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SOUTH AFRICAN

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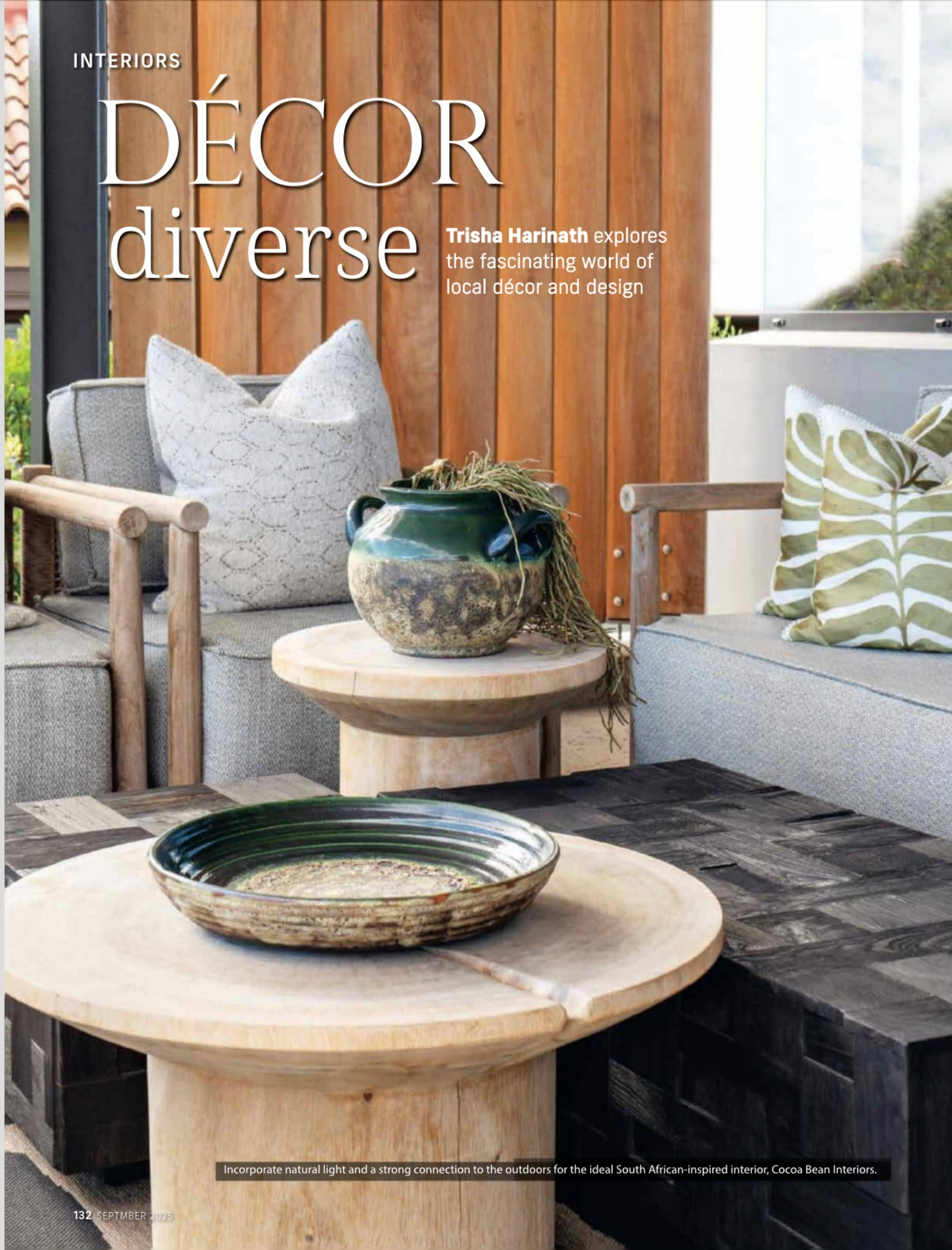


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A SHOWCASE OF LUXURIOUS PROPERTIES

DÉCOR diverse

Trisha Harinath explores the fascinating world of local décor and design



Incorporate natural light and a strong connection to the outdoors for the ideal South African-inspired interior, Cocoa Bean Interiors.



A neutral and natural colour palette grounds a space, Urban Blend Interiors.

GO LOCAL

"Materials like raw timber, clay, linen, seagrass and handwoven fibres are perfect for grounding a space. Even something as simple as a woven basket or hand-poured candle can add depth and a proudly local touch." – **Cara Harmse, The Home Quarter**



Laundry baskets from The Home Quarter serve as functional and decorative pieces.

The beauty of living in South Africa is the ever-changing, ever-evolving landscape that presents itself to us on a daily basis. From province to province, coast to coast, each landscape offers something unique and eye-striking and this, too, applies to the way we design our interiors.

Lisa Swart, CEO of Oksijen, sums up the essence of South African-inspired décor impeccably. "Just like our food, we do not have one single aesthetic to call South African. Our diverse society is reflected in our interior design choices. The individual freedoms we enjoy in our country are not limited to our public lives but find expression in our homes, too. From the humblest of dwellings to the most opulent mansion, every home is a reflection of its owner. We are not bound by tradition but by celebrating aspects of our own culture and borrowing from others what resonates with us, we create something uniquely ours." Our rich tapestry of heritage, colour, texture and nature ensures our spaces are as vibrant as the day and yet still tranquil as the evening sun setting in the majestic African sky. >

EMBRACE MEANING

"South African-inspired interior design is not about mimicry – it's about meaning. It listens to its landscape and the people who live in the home. If you are designing or refreshing your home, begin by asking 'What do I love about where I live?' Then let that guide your materials, palette and pieces. The result will be both timeless and truly yours." – **Deanne McBride, Cocoa Bean Interiors**

Casablanca and Casablanca Windows Collections from St Leger & Viney.





Sesotho pattern wallpaper from MoTSO DeSIGNED Interiors.



Vase with eucalyptus stems from The Home Quarter.

"Each space reflects the heritage, textures and rhythms of our environment," – Kgomotso Malope

REFLECTING THE LANDSCAPE

When considering incorporating local décor and design, it is imperative that your choices honour the cultural and natural landscapes through intentional design. "Our work, for example, is rooted in storytelling. Each space reflects the heritage, textures and rhythms of our environment," explains Kgomotso Malope, interior designer and owner at MoTSO DeSIGNED Interiors.

Renthe Geyer, owner of House of Interiors, says that she takes her cue from nature. "Our coastlines, veld, bush and deserts are reflected in my choice of tones and textures. I also use local materials, support South African artisans and include décor that feels personal, handmade and grounded in our culture."

According to Bulelwa Jordan-Tati, founder of Urban Blend Interiors: "A South African-inspired interior is characterised by an earthy colour palette and intricate patterns. It typically features warm hues such as burnt oranges and deep red, often contrasted with grounding tones like browns and natural beige." To bring in and reflect the landscape around us, natural materials like stone, wood and greenery are commonly found in our spaces, grounding the home in texture and warmth, she adds. >



Texture and a variety of materials are essential for this look, Urban Blend Interiors.



Ewe Olive fabric from St Leger & Viney.

"Locally sourced materials offer not only sustainability, but also foster a deep connection to the land." – Bulelwa Jordan-Tati

DESIGNER SOUTH AFRICAN SPACES

If you are looking to get a designer and curated look, follow the tips below, provided by our industry specialists:

- Include South African art and find pieces that resonate with you.
- Layer textures with intention – contrast smooth and rough surfaces.
- Incorporate natural light and a strong connection to the outdoors.
- Mix traditional patterns with modern design for a balanced look.
- Aim to strike a balance between practicality and style.
- Avoid clutter and ensure there is enough room to move around comfortably.
- Don't forget your setting – the interior should speak to its place, not imitate elsewhere.
- Don't use cultural symbols without understanding their significance.
- Don't stick to just one style, mix and match to keep things interesting and personal.
- Don't be afraid of bold colour or bold choices – these are part of what makes SA interiors vibrant and alive.
- Don't forget to include storytelling – each element should have a connection.
- Don't sacrifice comfort for style – South African homes are lived-in and warm.



Art that is reminiscent of the South African landscape adds a unique touch, Cocoa Bean Interiors.



Locally crafted ceramics instantly add a South African feel to a space, Cocoa Bean Interiors.

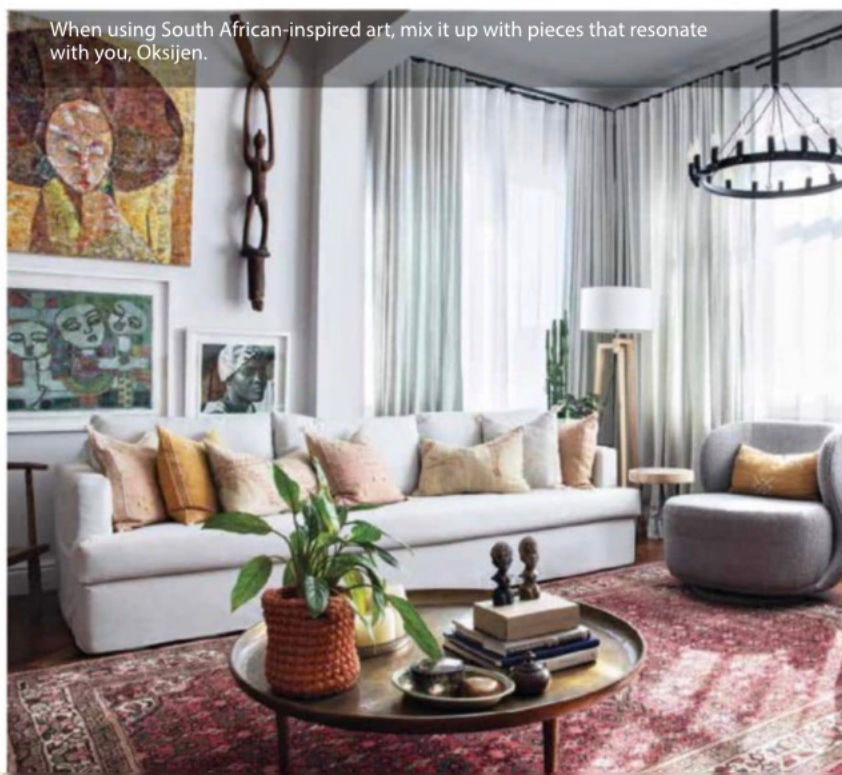


The use of natural materials is key, House of Interiors.

PERSONALISE IT

"Consider incorporating deeply personal art, books, heirloom pieces (whether you own them or carefully acquire them), something exquisite that doesn't quite match and a well-curated collection of anything – objects, artefacts or curiosities."

– Lisa Swart, Oksijen



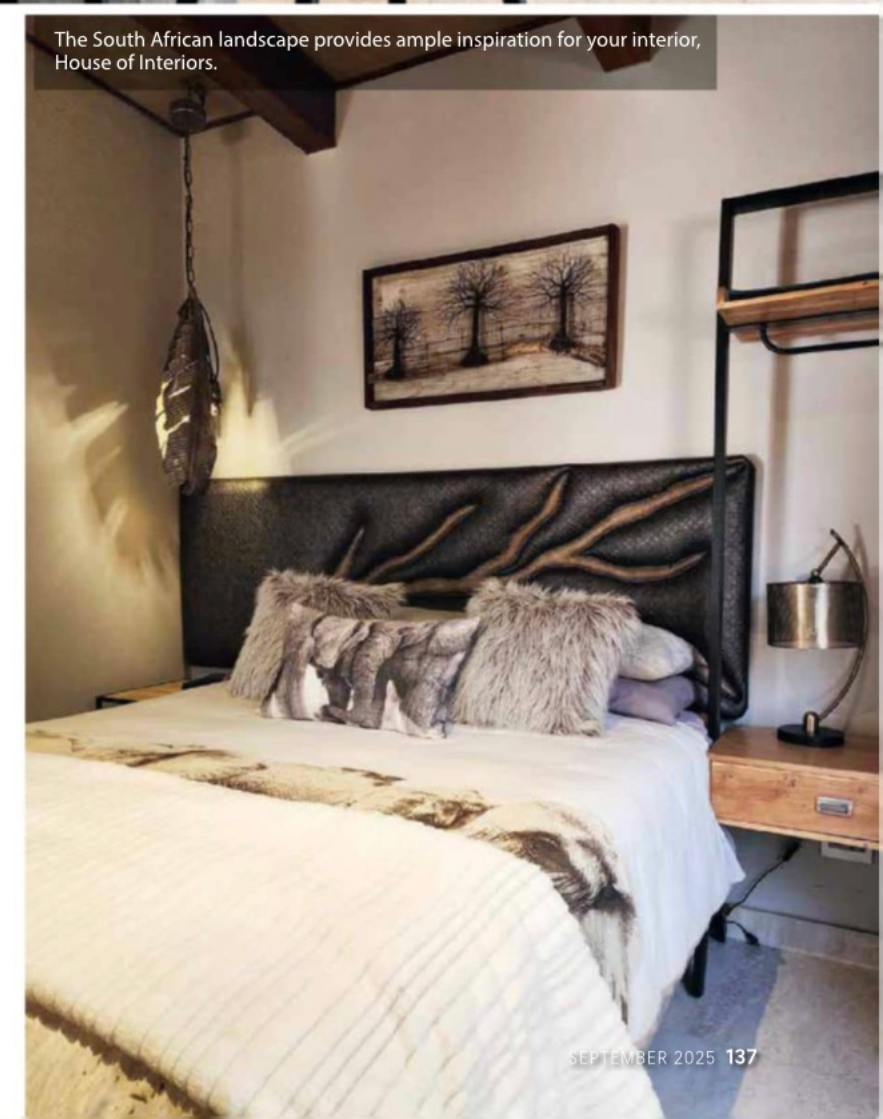
When using South African-inspired art, mix it up with pieces that resonate with you, Oksijen.

WHAT TO INCLUDE TO GET THE LOOK

You don't have to go too far to find inspiration or to achieve the look of an interior inspired by local décor and design. The essentials to include vary, but the most common elements will be natural materials like raw wood, leather, clay and woven fabrics; handcrafted pieces such as ceramics, beadwork or carved furniture; statement pieces that could be brought in with a gorgeous scatter in green or pink zebra print, or a throw in a blue leopard print, says the team from St Leger & Viney – Case Van Der Touw (head of operations and marketing), Jordan Sardinha (marketing co-ordinator) and Tomika Maritz (marketing assistant). They add that indoor-outdoor flow is also essential. "South African spaces often embrace nature, so create open, light-filled rooms with greenery indoors."

Deanne McBride, founder and principal at Cocoa Bean Interiors, mentions adding art, artefacts and texture, and places importance on craftsmanship. In terms of texture she says, from rattan and woven grass to clay plaster and rough-hewn wood, tactility is key. "When it comes to craftsmanship, incorporate handcrafted items like beaded décor, carved stools and Zulu baskets. And when looking for art and artefacts, use local photography, abstract African art or heritage-inspired textiles, which will all add soul to the space." >

"Our coastlines, veld, bush and deserts are reflected in my choice of tones and textures," – Renthea Geyer



The South African landscape provides ample inspiration for your interior, House of Interiors.



Monochrome Ndebele art-inspired wallpaper from MoTSo DeSIGNED Interiors.



Mix vintage pieces with modern designs for a layered look, Oksijen.

Cara Harmse, founder and head of brand at The Home Quarter, stresses the balance of function and feel, which she says is key in getting the look right. "We love pieces that are beautiful and purposeful. Embrace textural contrast, layer natural light and neutral tones, and include locally relevant accents like baskets, artisanal pieces or greenery throughout."

MATERIALS TO CONSIDER

A wide variety of materials can be considered to achieve the SA-inspired look. Natural stone, granite, brick flooring, rammed earth walls, locally made wall cladding, including lightweight cement or breeze blocks, dark and light natural wood, Malian mud cloth, locally woven handcrafted fabrics, terracotta tiles, ilala palm, kiaat, blackwood, Nguni hides, wool and mohair – all can be used for an authentic and impressive look. "Locally sourced materials offer not only sustainability, but also foster a deep connection to the land. Whether used in furniture, rugs or decorative accents, they help create an interior that feels both authentic and rooted in place," explains Jordan-Tati. On including local artists, the team from St Leger & Viney suggests looking for small, South African businesses that can make items for you, such as crafted clay pottery or tiles, bespoke furniture from kiaat or oak or baskets and furniture from river reeds. 🏡

With thanks to Cocoa Bean Interiors, House of Interiors, MoTSo DeSIGNED Interiors, Oksijen, St Leger & Viney, The Home Quarter, and Urban Blend Interiors

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