



WHO LIVES HERE

Designer Andrea Lindsay-Bowman, her partner Steve Elliot-Jones, and their energetic Jack Russell, Max.

THE TOWNHOUSE

A duplex with a double garage, living room, guest toilet, kitchen and large conservatory on the ground floor and three bedrooms and two bathrooms upstairs.

Conservatory PARTY

By building on a conservatory, interior designer Andrea Lindsay-Bowman turned a compact townhouse into a wonderful setting for a new lifestyle

TEXT DIANA WEMYSS
STYLING JULIETTE ARRIGHI DE CASANOVA PHOTOGRAPHS KARL ROGERS

THIS SPREAD, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ● The conservatory, built by Four Seasons Conservatories, runs the full length of the house and has both sitting and dining areas. ● To make room for the new conservatory, Andrea and Steve demolished the built-in braai and borrowed space from the kitchen garden.

After years of living in large houses in Hout Bay and Llandudno, interior designer Andrea Lindsay-Bowman decided that, with her two children, Tim and Zara, now at university and living in digs, it was time to downsize and look for an easy-to-maintain lock up and go.

What she found was a well-built duplex in Stonehurst Estate in Cape Town. But there were a few drawbacks; the garden had suffered dreadfully during the drought and the living areas were rather cramped. But fortunately, she had a solution in mind and before she signed on the dotted line, made >



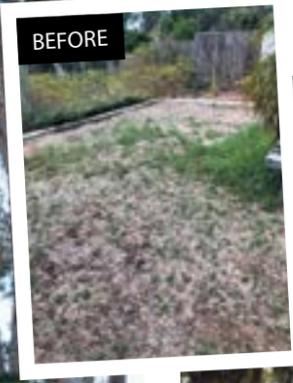
sure that the body corporate would allow her to add on a glass structure.

Before moving in, Andrea and Steve demolished the existing built-in braai separating the patio from the backyard and cast a single slab over both areas so that a conservatory could be constructed on a slightly elevated platform. “This has transformed the house, providing extra living space for a wonderful, easy lifestyle,” says Andrea. “I love cooking and entertaining and having my children over for Sunday lunch. A table that was too big for the living area fits perfectly into one end of the

conservatory so we can look out at the garden and, in the evenings, when the blinds are open, enjoy the stars.”

After the conservatory was built, there was still room for what Andrea terms a ‘cocktail’ pool raised up out of the ground with a granite coping that provides extra seating. The surrounds were covered with artificial grass inset with pavers and a shrub hedge planted as a windbreak and for privacy.

Moving to this much smaller house, Andrea had to get rid of a lot of furniture. “What I have discovered, and what I tell my clients, is that a couple of



key investment pieces are all you need in a small interior, rather than holding onto a lot of pieces that encourage clutter,” she says.

She believes that homes should be stylish, practical and comfortable and not over decorated. Although she loves colour she prefers to start with a neutral base and bring in colour with accessories such as rugs, cushions and paintings. “Good art can lift a home from the ordinary to the outstanding,” she maintains.

Practical slipcovers are one of her favoured decorating tools, another is mirror. This she used lavishly to give depth and a sense of space to the living room. The kitchen also benefitted from a mirrored splashback. Upstairs in the bedrooms she replaced plain dark, cupboard doors with mirrored doors which, in the main bedroom, slide open to save space.

As there are no windows on one of the living room walls, she used two square bevelled mirrors to bring in light and provide an interesting ‘outlook’. ▷

THIS SPREAD, CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: ● Although the dining table was too large for the living area, it fits perfectly into the **conservatory** and is ideal for lunches and dinner parties. The mirror was imported from Indonesia and the pendant is from Block & Chisel. ● To ensure that the small **garden** is easy to maintain Andrea laid artificial grass inset with pavers around the pool. The all-weather wicker chairs are from Block & Chisel. ● The surround of the **plunge pool** was built up out of the ground so it can be used for extra seating. ● Andrea uses this antique sideboard from Cecile & Boyd in the **conservatory** to store tableware.



One of the secrets to successful downsizing is to have sufficient storage space and here Andrea had to be inventive. As there was no designated linen cupboard, she stores hers in a large chest of drawers in the living room. A pretty unit in the entrance hall houses platters for entertaining and a custom-built cabinet in the living room displays all her glassware. In the double garage built-in cupboards on two walls provide extra storage space for larger, less attractive items. “More and more people are living in smaller spaces,” she says, “and every corner and every room has to be used.” ▷

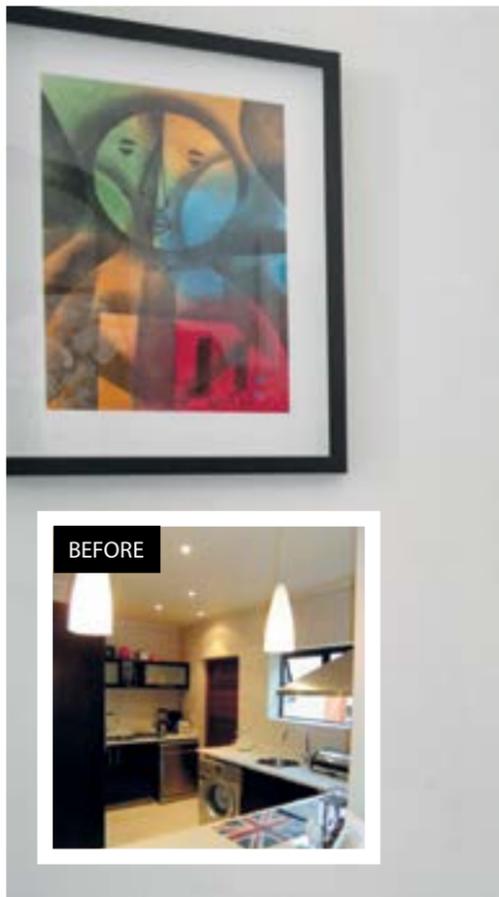


Initially Andrea used one of the bedrooms as her study, but now prefers to work at this desk in the **living room** where she has a view of the garden.



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:

- Andrea cleverly included an attractive unit in the **entrance hall**, which acts as both a hall table and storage space for the large platters she uses when entertaining.
- The wood-burning stove Andrea installed in the **living area** heats the ground floor. The mirror panel creates a new sense of dimension. The picture of the stork is from Pezula Interiors and the lamp from Mavromac & Gatehouse.
- To create a sense of space Andrea mirrored a section of the wall in the **living room**. The display cabinet behind the slipcovered sofa was specially designed for storing glassware.



Get the look
Copy the look of this eclectic conservatory



Habita round **mirror**, R2 877, LaForma Barcelona Living.

Upcycled cardboard **pendant light**, R1 820, K. Light Import.



Hurricane **candleholder**, R259,99, Mr Price Home.



Grey Mara **dining chair**, R2 389, KARE.



Java **tray**, R279,99, Mr Price Home.



Mikasa Azores **dip bowl**, R110, Bespoke Home.

Dragon **tree**, R690, **basket**, R300, Plantify.



Ivy dining **table**, 2 400 x 1 000mm R32 995, Weylandts.

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: ● The opening connecting the **kitchen** and **living area** was retained and now serves as a casual **dining area**. The pendant lights are from Block & Chisel. ● The cabinets in the **kitchen** were sprayed white and additional wall-mounted cupboards added. Artwork adds interest to the entrance. ● In the **guest room**, a striped headboard draws the eye while a faux fur throw adds a touch of luxury.

SHOPPING **MANDY BUCHHOLZ** SUPPLIED PRODUCTS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND PRICES WERE CHECKED AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT. SEE PAGE 4.

THIS PAGE, FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: ● The **guest toilet** features exotic Cole & Son wallpaper from St Leger & Viney and a bit of bling in the form of a gilt mirror. ● The calm atmosphere in the **main bedroom** comes from the soothing neutral shades. The botanical garden theme Andrea loves is carried through in the printed cushions and pot plant.

SOURCES Bespoke Home bespokehome.co.za Block & Chisel blockandchisel.co.za Bowman Interiors bowmaninteriors.com Cecile & Boyd cecileandboyds.com Four Seasons Conservatories fourseasonsconservatories.co.za KARE kare-design.com/za K. Light Import klight.co.za LaForma Barcelona Living laformasa.co.za Mavromac & Gatehouse mavromacandthegatehouse.co.za Mr Price Home mrphome.com Pezula Interiors pezulainteriors.co.za Plantify plantify.co.za St Leger & Viney stleger.co.za Weylandts weylandts.co.za