

CONDÉ NAST

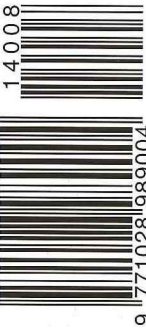
House & Garden

SOUTH AFRICA'S FINEST DECOR MAGAZINE

AUGUST 2014 R49,50 (incl. VAT)
OTHER COUNTRIES R43,42

LIVING SA STYLE

INSPIRING INTERIORS



design now!

SPECIAL PREVIEW

100% DESIGN
SOUTH AFRICA

THE ULTIMATE
DECOR
EVENT

GARDENS

- Chelsea's Stars
- Indigenous Appeal



**TRENDING
KITCHENS**

Surfaces
& Storage
Solutions

the gold standard

SA-BORN DESIGNER HUBERT ZANDBERG COMBINED LUXE FINISHES AND FRENCH ANTIQUES TO CREATE THE ULTIMATE TOWN HOUSE

TEXT TRISTRAM HOLLAND
PRODUCTION MICHAEL REYNOLDS
PHOTOGRAPHS SIMON UPTON

When Shirin Elghanayan says that she now has her dream house, she does so in a way that leaves no doubts – though it took her and her husband nearly 20 years to achieve.

Learning of their plans finally to revamp their London home, a friend recommended interior designer Hubert Zandberg, who joined forces with architectural designer Jan Swanepoel, a longtime collaborator and fellow South African, to make manifest the couple's vision.

Rebuilt in the 1920s, the gracious old Georgian town house has endured a varied history. While the façade is protected ▶

Imposing mirrors and artworks by Victor Vasarely overlook the room's sofas, which were custom made by Hubert Zandberg in silk mohair. Hubert also designed the fire screen



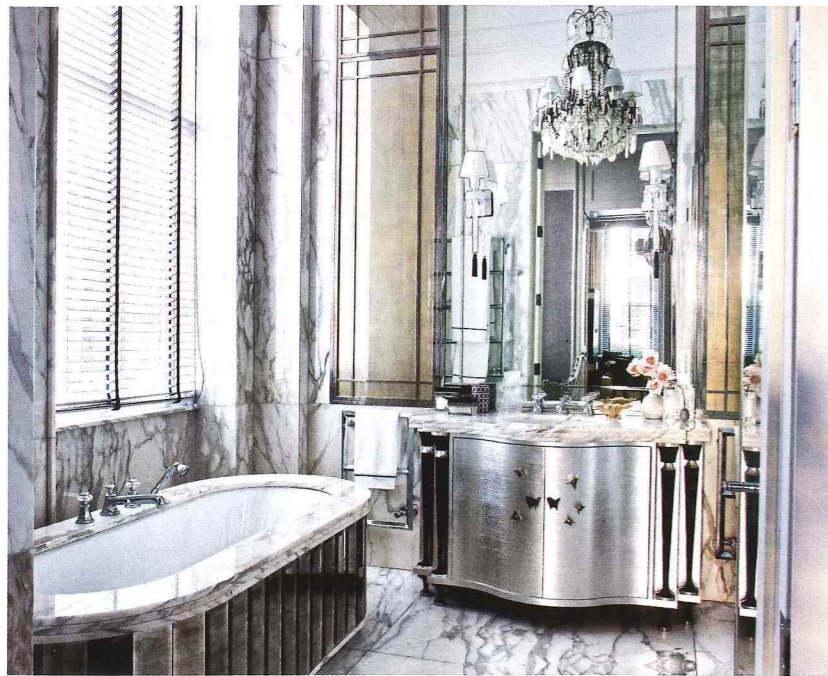


CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Feature lights hang above the island; Hubert designed the sofa and the ottoman; Jacobean-style panelling lines the dining room, which is anchored by a bespoke rosewood table. The sconce is by Hervé van der Straeten, the 1970s table sculpture is by Jean Camuset and the drawing over the fireplace is a Matisse

from alteration, the Elghanayans were free to make extensive changes within. In the end, the staircase, an elevator and a study lined in Jacobean-style panelling were all they kept. The roughly 660-square-metre residence was reconfigured into zones, with the street level dedicated to the entertaining spaces, the floors above containing the bedrooms and the partially subterranean basement accommodating a casual family room, bar, guest room and gym.

On the ground and bedroom levels, Jan devised an elegant yet disciplined shell that combines generous skirting boards and orderly architraves with simple Georgian-style cornices. To realise more modern spaces, Jan increased the height and width of key doorways. Enhancing the effect is the continuity of the pale walls and dark floors, the ebonised oak planks in the reception room blending seamlessly with the kitchen's slate pavers.

The kitchen is very much the heart of the house. 'Cooking is a passion of mine and we eat at home at least a few days a week,' Shirin says. With its opulent Calacatta-marble surfaces and meticulously crafted cabinetry, the kitchen is as striking as it is welcoming. The same could be said for the dining room – formerly the study – whose richly carved panelling was restored, painted grey and accented with sleek, sculptural sconces and artworks by Matisse and ▶



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Accented with Baccarat-crystal sconces, Shirin's bath boasts a mirrored tub surround and a silver-painted vanity; Hubert designed the master suite's four-poster. The silver-leafed-bronze table lamps are by Hervé van der Straeten; the master suite's study area is outfitted with a Jansen armchair in a Zoffany flame-stitch fabric. Adding to the elegance of the space are satin curtains



Mustafa Hulusi. Although a fraction of the size of their previous dining room, it has an intimacy that suits the couple, who like to entertain informally.

Shirin worked with Hubert on the decor throughout the residence and the two settled on a broadly 1940s French aesthetic, partly because it amalgamates so easily with other styles. For the reception room, Hubert designed a pair of gently curving sofas, two tufted ottomans and a boldly patterned

glass fire screen, grouping them with 1940s French armchairs, Gio Ponti-style consoles and elegant gesso-and-silver-leaf mirrors. With its rich variety of furnishings, the space emanates a sense of sumptuous ease, reinforced by the pared-down palette and graceful architectural framework. Many of the elements used on the ground floor – antiqued mirror, glossy surfaces, subdued colours and bespoke furniture – can also be found upstairs.

The master suite, once the building's grand salon, is now an inviting retreat. Hubert installed a magnificent laser-cut metal screen to delineate a soigné study space – furnished with silver-tone bookcases and a Louis XV-style desk – from the rest of the bedroom, which is anchored by a lavishly curtained four-poster. At the foot of the bed, he created a sitting area highlighted by a Jansen sofa and matching inlaid-Macassar-ebony cabinets, one of which

conceals a television. It's little wonder that the bedroom is the space Shirin loves most and that she calls it her 'sanctuary'. His-and-her dressing rooms and baths complete the suite. While Hubert admits to adding a 'heavy dose of bling' here, he is right, too, that it 'shouts craftsmanship'. Indeed, at every turn, this house reveals masterful skills, its lyrical interiors a hymn to artisanal virtuosity. ■ *Hubert Zandberg Interiors*
www.hzinteriors.com