

cape family home

# PERFECT *Symmetry*

Behind the understated French façade of this family home in Paarl is an elegant interior where sparkling crystal and glass bounce light across pretty wallpapers and plush fabrics

Owner Nicolette Jonas used symmetry – two identical steel and glass cabinets, black occasional tables and table lamps – in the living room to create a calm coherent feel. The chandelier, scatter cushions and furniture are from Interior Concepts.

TEXT AND STYLING MARIAN VAN WYK PHOTOGRAPHS GREG COX

The house was designed by architect Hanlie Boooyens of BE3 Architects.



## Who lives here

Decorator Nicolette Jonas, her husband Leonhard, and their two toddlers, Leonardo (3) and Nicole-Ann (2).

## The house

A newly built 420m<sup>2</sup> double-storey house on a private estate outside Paarl; it has three bedrooms and a large open-plan kitchen-dining-living area. The master bedroom upstairs has a walk-in dressing room that leads into the master bathroom. The patio overlooks the pool and garden, as well as the Boland mountains. ▷



The gorgeous, light-filled home decorator Nicolette Jonas shares with her husband, Leonhard, and toddlers, Leonardo and Nicole-Ann, defies all misconceptions anybody might have about child-friendly decor. “I simply like an uncluttered interior and the open-plan layout works very well with toddlers,” she laughs. “However, I’m also a romantic. I can’t resist a sparkling crystal pendant, I love my vintage art and I always have flowers in the house.”

Aside from her interior decorating business, Nicolette also owns the Stellenbosch decor and furniture shop Interior Concepts, which imports French-style furniture, bathroom vanities and decorative pieces. She started her career at the well-known Laura Ashley group in London after graduating from the Pretoria Technikon as top student with a diploma in Food, Clothing and Textile. In 1998 she founded Interior Concepts. “This is why my own home remains an on-going project. I never get too attached to anything, because I often end up selling my own furniture!” And low and behold, during the course of our photo shoot an assistant is seen carrying a console table from Nicole-Ann’s nursery...

This is the first home that Nicolette and Leonhard, who runs his own construction and project management business, Guardian Projects, have built together and it was completed in December 2012. “We took six months to finalise the plans and we had a lot of input from our architect, Hanlie Booyens of BE3 Architects,” Leonhard says.

“The estate guidelines, site, climate and brief made this a challenging project,” Hanlie explains. “The idea was to create a ‘backbone’ to which spaces link and interact. Something strong, yet simple that enhances the flow and brings a wow factor to the home.” ▷

**THIS PAGE, ABOVE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** ● In the dining room Nicolette went for a dramatic look with oversized chairs that complement the proportions of the house. The Sanderson Woodland Fern wallpaper is from St Leger & Viney, the chairs from Chair Crazy and the table and chandelier are from Interior Concepts. ● Positioned between the living room and the dining areas, the kitchen features black and white cabinetry, fitted by Prins Woodwork, and classic marble tops. The Pierre Frey Ming wallpaper, colour Pewter, is from Mavromac. The bar stools are from @homelivingspace.

Designed to maximise the views of the Boland mountains, the patio is where you will find Leonhard and Nicolette early in the morning with their coffee. The furniture is from Weylands. The pouffes and cushions are from Interior Concepts.



In the tranquil **master bathroom** colour is limited to a pop of royal blue. An ornate occasional table and crystal pendants add a touch of glamour. The bath is from Victorian Bathrooms.



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of this house.

Her solution was a series of five arches, some of which are prominent in the living areas. “Constructed on the north-south axis, these invite guests into the heart of the home, give access to the first floor, define spaces and finally lead the eye to the view of Paarl Mountain. The design was a contemporary interpretation of the more classical French look of the estate,” Hanlie elaborates.

When it came to decorating, Nicolette took her cue from their travels to France. “I love the romance of Paris and the vintage markets in the countryside, and I appreciate the understated elegance of French interiors. It’s such a diverse style – it can be country chic or elegant and contemporary.” This versatility is seen in her home, where the living areas are pure French elegance, while the bedrooms range from country style to classic.

“Symmetry is also very important to me,” Nicolette says, indicating the two glass and steel cabinets that flank the French doors in the living room. “It creates balance and tranquillity. I tend to start with a neutral palette and then add pops of accent colours, like the royal blue sofas and splashes of yellow in the living room.”

Asked whether they generally agree on finishes and design details, Leonhard says that a beautiful design

and functionality are equally important to them. “I’m very comfortable with Nicolette taking control of the finishes. She understands how to create stylish, unique spaces with a coherent feel.” Nicolette laughs: “Leonhard has a brilliant eye for detail, so I always ask his opinion, but then he leaves the choices up to me.”

Describing herself as a real homebody, Nicolette’s favourite rooms are the kitchen and living room. She enjoys baking cakes and desserts, reading, and the odd game of squash. A keen runner, cyclist and swimmer, Leonhard enjoys the patio deck and braai area. “We’re surrounded by so much natural beauty here. It’s quite a rural setting; many homeowners keep horses on the estate. Our children can play in the streets, just like we did as kids,” they say. ▷

**THIS PAGE, ABOVE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** ● Warm brown accents and heavy velvet curtains enhance the cosy ambience in the romantic **master bedroom**. The furniture, pendant lamps and accessories are from Interior Concepts. The Vintage Damask wallpaper is from Hertext. ● This country-chic **guest bedroom** is a nod to Nicolette’s love affair with Paris. The Esprit Boudoir wallpaper is from Hertext. The furniture, accessories and striped curtains are from Interior Concepts.

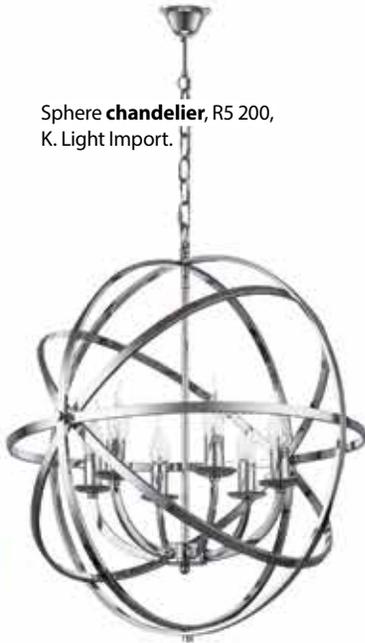
# Get the look

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## SAVE



Iron stool, R995, Weylandts.



Sphere chandelier, R5 200, K. Light Import.



French-style table, R9 895, Trade Secret.



Chenille Baroque scatter, R159,99, Mr Price Home.

Semi-antique patchwork rug, R3 000/m<sup>2</sup>, Gonsenhauers Fine Rugs.

## SPLURGE



Gyro chandelier, R54 995, Weylandts.



Deja Vu stool, R7 396,67, Crema Design.



Dominique French grey table, R15 378, The Gatehouse.



NicAKiss Bleu Toile de Jouy scatter, R499,90, Shop Scoop.

Harvest rug, R30 762,53, Stepevi.

**SOURCES** @homelivingspace home.co.za **BE3 Architects** be3.co.za **Chair Crazy** chaircrazy.co.za **Crema Design** cremadesign.co.za **Gonsenhauers Fine Rugs** finerugs.co.za **Guardian Projects** guardianprojects.co.za **Hertex** hertex.co.za **Interior Concepts** interiorconcepts.co.za **K. Light Import** klight.co.za **Mavromac** mavromac.co.za **Mr Price Home** mrphome.com **Prins Woodwork** 021 862 8288 or 083 627 1878 **Shop Scoop** shopscoop.co.za **Stepevi** stepevi.co.za **St Leger & Viney** stleger.co.za **The Gatehouse** thegatehouse.co.za **Trade Secret** trade-secret.co.za **Victorian Bathrooms** victorianbathrooms.co.za **Weylandts** weylandts.co.za

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