

Mid-Century modern in the city

By: Christopher De Bod

Nestled in an established estate in Midrand which boasts flowing lawns and mature trees, this wonderfully laid out family home is where I met the client for the first time on a beautiful summer afternoon. In our initial consultation, we discussed the client's initial need and vision for the space, which was to decorate the living areas of the home to bring warmth and texture into these spaces. The client wanted a mid-century modern look in the space. Once back at the studio, working through the notes of the meeting and reviewing photos of the spaces and looking at the plans supplied, I realised that there was a greater potential for this space than initially contemplated.

The client had mentioned that he loved to cook and entertain friends and family in his home, but the areas were all divided into separate areas, breaking the flow of movement in the spaces, with the kitchen being comparatively small compared to the

rest of the house, and tucked away behind a dividing wall with only a small peninsula that could seat about two to three people, opening to the dining space. The area we were working on also included a closed-in braai area with a cocktail counter. This space was completely under-utilised and the client had no need for an indoor braai area.

We quickly identified an opportunity in these spaces to create an entertainer's dream space. After a quick call and a few sketches of our ideas to open the areas up completely and reorganise them, the client was sold on the idea, and we went to work on developing the design further.

Pulling down the wall dividing the kitchen from the dining room opened a space where we could design a beautifully appointed kitchen, with long runs of bespoke cabinetry to accommodate all the client's desired storage requirements. After closing up two windows on one wall, we were able to install banks of



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an integrated microwave, and a fridge nestled against the wall which previously housed the stove and prep bowl. The stove with an integrated extractor, prep bowl, and related cabinetry was moved to a position that was previously located in the dining room.

A 3.2m island with a quartz top and waterfall side on one end, and counter seating for six people on the other end, was positioned in the middle of the space, finishing off the new kitchen area. Features like a power tower in the island creates an opportunity for the island top to be used for food prep and other activities that require power for appliances and kitchen gadgets.

The wall cabinetry in a mid tone grey colour with brass bite knobs is distinctly modern and sleek, was off with white quartz tops and a slim white tile placed in a vertical stack pattern for the backsplash. The same top used on the island, with cabinetry in a textured wood finish, introduces warmth to the space and acts as an introduction to the finishes that follow in the adjacent spaces. The finishes in the new section of the kitchen were pulled through to the wash-up and laundry areas as well.

The introduction of a large built-in wall unit with shelving for books and a display of the client's personal items and objects, constructed in a warm wood tone to complement the kitchen island, creates a focal point in the lounge and houses items like the TV and other tech equipment. The cupboards and drawers at the bottom provide storage for those items that never seem to have a place as well as concealing the essential inverter system.

We reused the client's existing sofa, updated it with a beautifully textured fabric, and paired it with custom ottomans in the same fabric. We manufactured a copy of the client's existing armchair to match and added a custom-designed swivel mechanism to both of them. All these items are carefully paired with rugs, tables and lamps to create a warm, luxurious update on the mid-century modern look.

The design moved the dining area to the previous indoor braai area, where we removed the indoor braai and converted the space into a storage cupboard for the pool towels and other items that previously had no dedicated space. The cocktail bar was updated with the same cabinetry finish as the kitchen. We introduced an organic dining table manufactured from

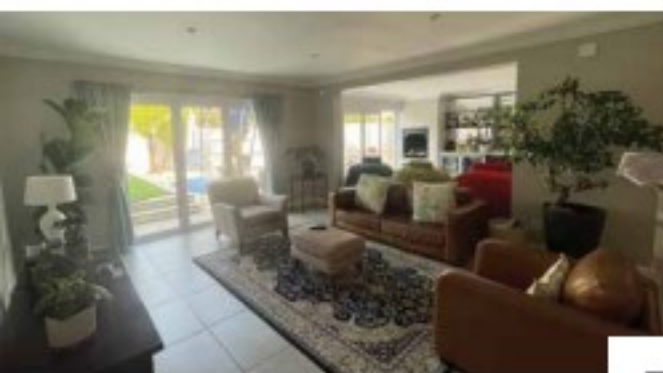
reclaimed timber. We cut the legs shorter and added castors to the table making it easy to move it around as desired. Bench seating in the same reclaimed timber creates adaptable seating in this new dining space. Upholstered cushions fixed to the benches with leather straps again add a level of luxury to the space.

The windows are dressed in single-layer wave tape curtains in a textured woven sheer fabric to add depth and warmth, while not being too heavy.

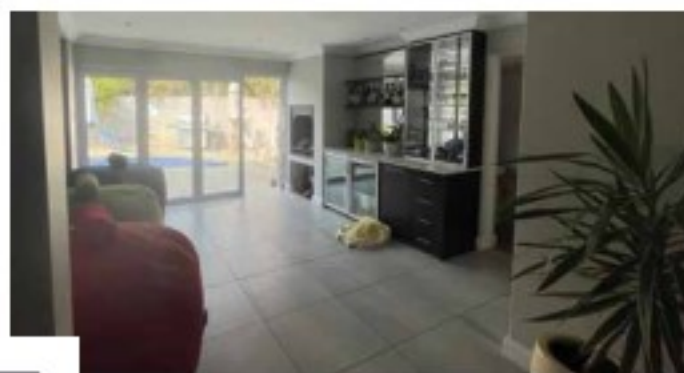
The completed installation is warm and inviting with a coherent story throughout. The expansive kitchen offers all the space the client desires to cook, entertain and visit with his friends and family while they enjoy the adjacent spaces. With just the right balance of luxury and functionality that the client enjoys.

Christopher de Bod is a proud member of the IID and serves on the IID's marketing and communication committee. The IID is committed to the development of the interior design industry by working with members and consumers to facilitate an elevated level.

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Before



After

