



SEAMLESS ASSIMILATION

location: Camps Bay, Cape Town
architecture: Kotlowitz Marais Architects
interior by owner
photography: Neil Corder, Dubai

NESTLED IN THE AMPHITHEATRE OF CAMPS BAY, THIS NEWLY RENOVATED THREE STOREY HOME SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATES 360° DEGREE VIEWS OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN BELOW AND THE TABLE MOUNTAIN RESERVE ABOVE TO THE REAR. TWO FRONTAL PERSPECTIVES ASSIMILATE SKY, SEA AND SURROUNDS. ►

below: The curved patio with its rim flow pool blurs into the horizon.

bottom: Wide openings maximise sea vistas while the textures of stone cladding offset polished travertine floors and crisply detailed ceiling planes.

opposite: Textures and planes are juxtaposed for maximum effect and lighting is placed to highlight the gold leaf effect on a Deziree portrait.



After purchasing the house in 2001, the owners have evolved this enviable fixed asset through three incarnations. The result bears testimony to the maxim that location is everything. What was an eyesore in the area has now become one of the most enhanced spatial experiences.

Ocean panoramas are captured via the use of glass doors on the western sea frontage, while oversized windows fulfill this function with the mountain vistas on the eastern elevation. Minimalist décor reflects a palette of cream and white with added tones of gold, rendering a tranquil interior and effecting total focus on the exterior landscape.

Ben Kotlowitz, of Kotlowitz Marais Architects, says: 'Views are this perfectly located home's most valuable asset and mandated the design and décor.' There is not a single room in the house without a view; the six generously sized bedrooms access wrap-around patios, through sliding doors, to overlook the infinity pool and the Atlantic. Five en suite bathrooms

were inspired by the sea and mountain vistas and the master bathroom enjoys 360° views from a custom-designed glass corner shower.

Walls of shell stone, imported from south Asia, serve to synergise the three incarnations, ensuring that the levels appear to have been designed as one. Shell stone, a predominantly white natural stone with crushed shells, was used as a cladding accent in the entrance, sitting room, stairwell and patio. This complements polished travertine

previous pages: Classic proportions re-interpreted in a thoroughly contemporary fashion. The 'tripartite' division of ground floor, centre and top are given fresh meaning on the sea-facing elevation.

below: An interesting spatial experience is the rare juxtaposition of sea and mountain, through the mirrored wall in the penthouse.



below: Seamless glass corners enable views to the en suite bathroom and panoramic shower. The overall sense of space is very evident.



floors and walls that are common throughout the house, creating a rich contemporary canvas.

The pebble-lined entrance invites natural flow through the dining area to the uninterrupted views of the ocean beyond. Philippe Starck chairs flank custom-made white tables in a dining room that is overtly minimalist. Gil Pearce original paintings are carefully positioned to extend the lines of Camps Bay beach and the Atlantic.

A distinguishing feature of this contemporary home is the layering of patios. Serving to extend interiors and envelop outdoor living space, these spaces provide a palpable architectural solution to assimilating sky, sea and surroundings.

The lower level patio accesses an unusually large 12 metre infinity pool that echoes the curved ring beam on the

upper balcony, the similarly shaped expanse of lawn and the elliptical horizon. A large expanse of water, cascading under cerulean lights, adds drama at dusk.

The two upper levels house open lounges, expansive bedrooms and luxurious travertine-clad bathrooms. Floor-to-ceiling mirrors were used to enlarge already sizeable spaces and, to mirror-image views. The most intriguing spatial effect of all is the unique juxtaposition of sea and mountain, through the mirrored wall in the penthouse; 360° views can be enjoyed from a single vantage point. Décor here is uncluttered and employs natural finishes; says the architect: 'Over-furnishing would detract from the limitless, uninterrupted views, which rightfully take precedence.' Enfolded by nature, and unassuming luxury, this residence is a celebration of seamless assimilation. ■