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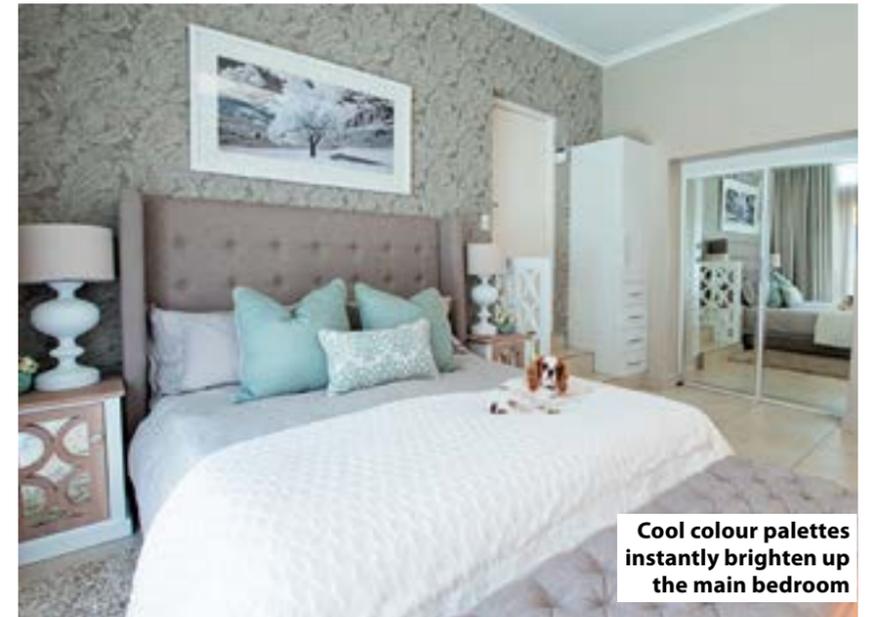
# HANDLE WITH FLAIR

If you're itching to hit the refresh button on your home . . . welcome to the club. Thankfully, we've got Bryanston interior designer Joy Liedke on our side – and you can trust that she's got all the top trends, tips and tricks up her sleeve to spruce up your space in a snap!

**A**dmit it . . . when we think 'home facelift', never-ending headaches come to mind . . . not to mention way too many trips to the hardware store. But Joy Liedke of self-titled interior design company Joy by Design proves that refreshing your home doesn't have to be a complex undertaking. She believes that simple ideas are often the best ones . . . as are the easy changes you can make yourself. And trust us – it shows in the subdued yet elegant Bryanston home she shares with husband Shaun, daughter Evangeline AKA Eva the Diva and four fur children, Rolo the Jack Russell, Ferrero the dachshund and Cinnamon and Ginger the cats. We took a peek into one of Joy's latest projects – a 1930s Parkhurst home she revamped for a young family – and got the inside scoop on how you too can bring character to your space with a few simple tweaks . . . no demolition necessary!

## Never, ever neglect the golden thread!

'I believe in continuity and something called 'the golden thread'. There should be a flow from one room to the next,' Joy explains. 'It's natural to pay a lot of attention to the things that make each room in your house layered and unique, but a home with nothing tying its spaces together can feel haphazard or, even worse, uncomfortable! The golden threads in this modern organic-style home are colours like grey, green and coral, and vases of fresh, blooming proteas. Your golden threads don't have to be colours or flowers, though – they can be materials or even finishes. Just make sure you apply these key choices throughout to bring unity to your space.'



Cool colour palettes instantly brighten up the main bedroom



Pot plants and fresh proteas throughout the home create a sense of unity

## Trends should be followed ... but at a distance

'I always tell my clients they should never buy something merely because it's on trend. While I love trends and I know they play a major role in interior design, what's more important than being trendy is having a functional living space that makes you happy. For example, you simply can't go for white linen couches if you have a toddler!' Joy stresses. 'And remember that trends come and go. Just because mint green is hot on Pinterest right now doesn't mean you should change your entire living room to that colour. Instead, bring in a lamp or chairs in mint green, as I've done in the lounge,' she suggests. 'Three trends I think are really worth following right now are marble, rose gold and pastel pink. I think they're going to stick around for some time.'

## Colour can seriously affect your mood

'Pinches of blue, green, coral, pink or purple can make any room an engaging and energetic space. I love pairing them with neutrals like white, grey, black or brown to switch the ambiance from dark and dated to lovely and light,' Joy says. 'You don't have to go and paint your walls in these bright colours ... I totally understand that most people (including me) are afraid to do that! You can add wonderful pops of colour through accessories – think scatter cushions, rugs and vases. Start in small increments by perhaps bringing in a brightly coloured lamp. Then you can add a beautiful vase or a lovely blanket. When you're ready, start tackling bigger areas,' she suggests. 'I had loads of fun bringing coral into the nursery with throw pillows. I also swapped dark and muted hues for bright, floral and patterned pillow designs in the lounge to instantly enliven the room.'

## Remember, decorating isn't like marriage ... you don't have to commit for life

'So why be so serious about it? There are so many wonderful textures and furniture pieces that you can play with. Right now I'm in love with coral, rose gold, velvet, natural wood, suede, leather and raw silk. You should never be afraid to try something different – you can always change it,' Joy assures us. 'For the nursery I got very creative by pairing coral and duck egg. The clients love proteas and their garden is very water wise, so I translated



**Don't be afraid to play with out-of-the-box colour combos like coral and duck egg!**



**Splashes of mint green give this lounge a trendy edge**

that into loud coral cushions and pieces of flamingo art. At first they thought the design might be a bit too bold, but they absolutely adore the room now!

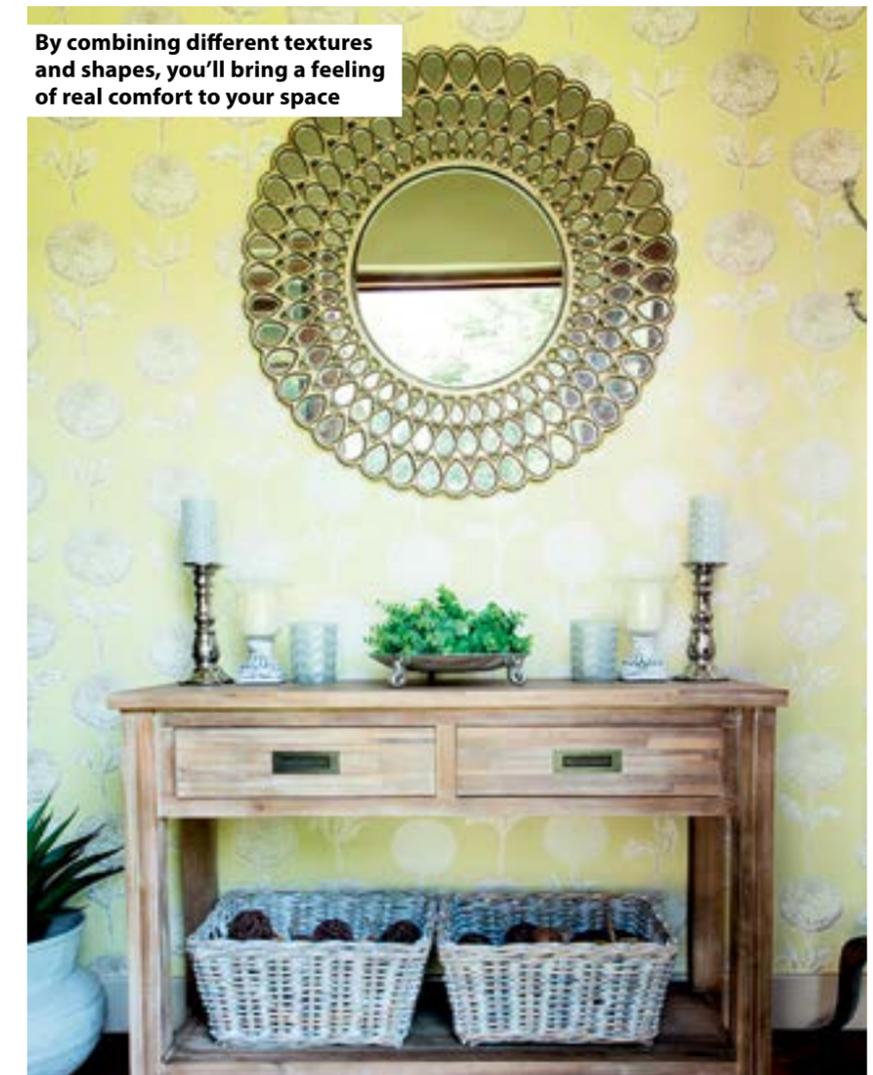
## One man's trash is another man's treasure

'I repurpose existing items myself for clients. It really gets my creative juices flowing! I think it's amazing how you can breathe new life into something as simple as a shelving unit or an upholstered chair by giving it a lick of paint,' Joy says. 'In this home I upgraded some items with a slick of glossy lacquered paint and lightweight fabrics with tropical motifs,' she elaborates. 'I appreciate history, but at the same time feel that you need to bring your own experience into the rooms in your house, so I like to mix accessories with new and old, which is what I've done in this home. Careful ... repurposing could become

your next big obsession!' **Comfort is just as important as style!**

'I think all designers can agree that making a home a comfortable space is essential. It doesn't really matter what your personal style is – whether you're minimalist, classic, eclectic or Bohemian – your home needs to be liveable,' Joy explains. 'One way to warm things up is to layer, which is what I did in the main bedroom. By combining different textures and shapes, I was able to bring a rich comfort to the space. We had a shaggy rug, silk curtains and framed art boasting organic lines that was translated into the furniture. Together this gave the room a rich feeling of comfort ... and a simply gorgeous look!'

*Details: 082-520-0125 or visit [www.joybydesign.co.za](http://www.joybydesign.co.za)*



**By combining different textures and shapes, you'll bring a feeling of real comfort to your space**

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