

MARAIS 4 ARCHITECTS
087 942 2647

As an architectural firm, Marais 4 prides itself not only on the design of new buildings, but also on the more challenging alterations and renovations of existing ones. Commissioned by the owner to renovate and modernise a Tuscan-style residence, bought mainly for its location in an exclusive golf estate, project architect Marius Marais ensured the focus was not only on the drastic transformation of the exterior, but also to remedy interior design flaws. Which compromised not only the entertainment areas and liveability of the house, but also energy efficiency. After the facelift, this project has proved to be the perfect marriage of form and function.

TUSCAN CONTEMPORARY

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Four years after purchasing a house with unobstructed views of the fairway and river, in an exclusive golf estate to the north of Johannesburg, the owners are finally enjoying their family home to its full potential.

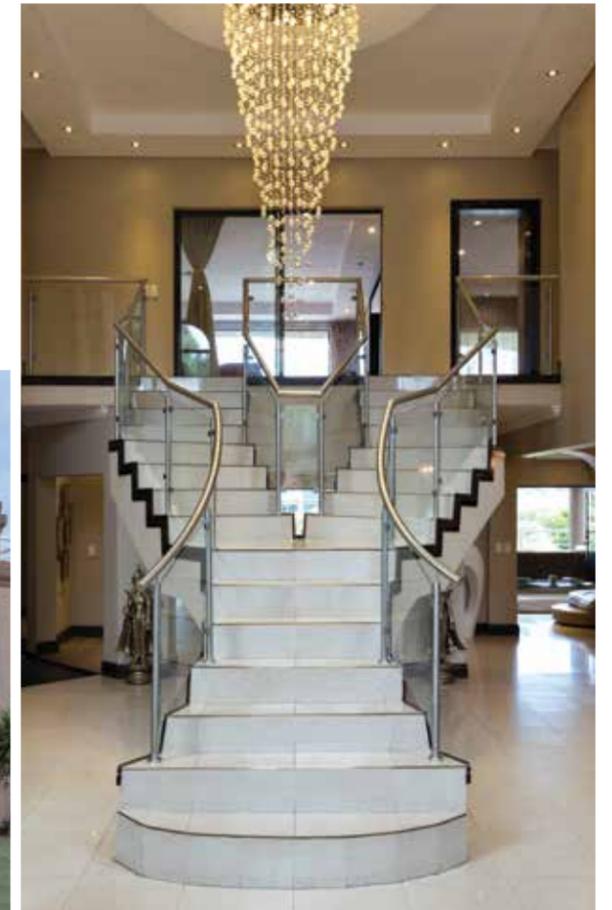
"We chose the area primarily because of its central location and proximity to work, school and other amenities," the owner explains. "We chose this particular estate because of its sheer beauty and country feel. Being a golf estate, everything is green and spacious. And we have the privileged position of being on both the fairway and river, which gives one the feeling of living on a holiday resort."

The original house was a classical Tuscan design with several Zen features and elements – ones that were commissioned by the original owners, who had the home custom-built for them, but never lived in it. "However, being a young family, it did not fit into our lifestyle, and was not an accurate reflection of our modern, young and vibrant personalities."

Thanks to the addition of the new built-up entertainment area and expansive glass doors, the entire home can be accessed easily and efficiently.

Despite having a clear idea of what their dream home should be, it would be a few years before the owners would find an architect able to make their vision a reality. "During one of our first consultations, we were told that what we wanted would be almost impossible, and expensive, to achieve, that we would be better off building a new house from scratch."

Another year would pass before the owners would find an architect with the ability to work with the golf estate's signature Tuscan aesthetic in a uniquely modern way. And the result would be worth the wait. >





A love for modernity is evident in the interior decor, with a mix of glass and chrome throughout.



"My wife and I are both medical doctors, and, after a long day at work, we want to return to a home where we have all the amenities we need, and can relax and unwind with family and friends. Braais on the patio, movie nights in the cinema room, working out in the gym, swimming laps in the pool and having sundowners on the patio are some of our favourite activities now."

Turning their stuffy, old-fashioned 600m² Tuscan villa into a 900m² vision of modernity meant waving goodbye to the home's classical pillars, in favour of more angular ones, and incorporating sharp, undulating curves of stainless steel and glass in the exterior design.

It also involved making the garden accessible from the entertainment areas of the house, which included the addition of a covered patio and a lap pool.

"The renovation essentially focused on the fairway-facing living areas of the home," the owner reveals. "The original home was built around the pool, which unfortunately compromised the flow in the living areas on the ground floor. It also resulted in the pool, as well as the adjacent dining room and patio areas, being smaller in size. The original entertainment area was also built separate from the home, which made it rather impractical and limited its use."

Now, thanks to the addition of the new built-up entertainment area and expansive glass doors, opening out towards the fairway from every room, the entire home can be accessed easily and efficiently, with the stand itself used to its maximum potential. >





THE DIGITAL EXPERIENCE 011 465 1466

LEFT: For the past 17 years, The Digital Experience has been offering premium audio, visual and photographic brands to customers in South Africa. In this home, the company supplied and installed user-friendly and superb-quality audiovisual equipment, including Yamaha amplification, B&W loudspeakers and an Optoma projector, to produce the ultimate home cinema experience.

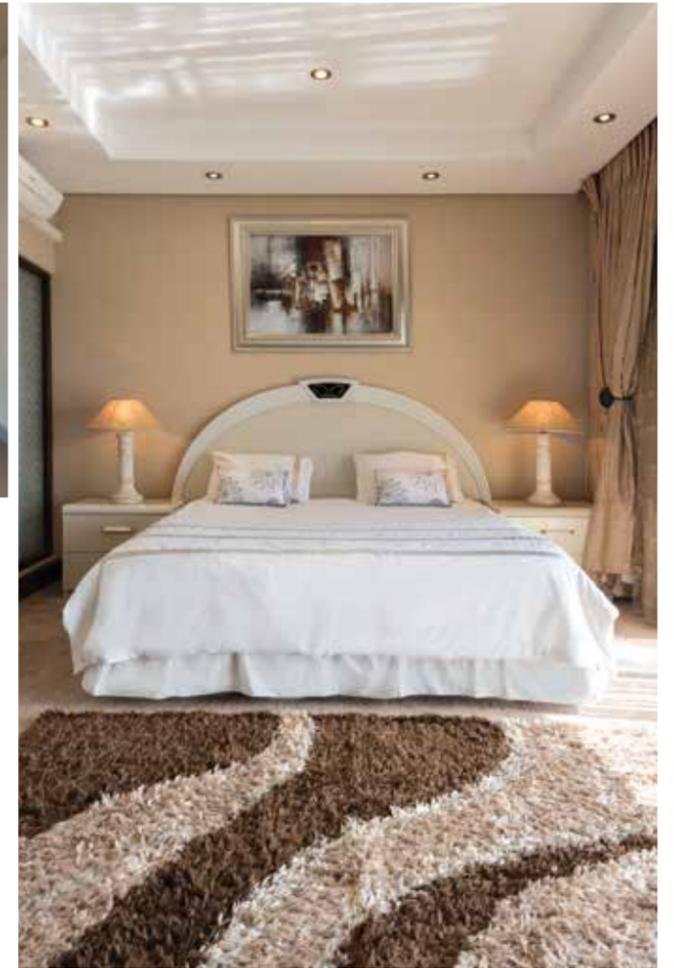
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“Even though the gymnasium is at the lowest level of our home, it is warm, bright and airy, and looks directly onto the fairway.”



“The old pool area was converted into a new large dining room and bar area, which flows naturally from the kitchen and breakfast area. The dining and bar areas in turn lead onto a guest lounge and a large covered entertainment area, which is now on the same level.

“The space below the entertainment area has been ingeniously converted into a large basement gym that is easily accessed through a spiral staircase. Even though the gymnasium is at the lowest level of our home, it is warm, bright and airy, and looks directly onto the fairway.”

A love for modernity is evident in the interior decor, with a mix of glass and chrome throughout, while wood and earth tones add a necessary warmth to keep the space from feeling clinical.

It may have been a long road to get here, but the owner wouldn't have had it any other way. “I am glad that we had a chance to live in the original home before renovating it. Living in that home gave us an opportunity to discover more about what we wanted and how we could customise the home to meet our needs.” 🏡

