

BORDERS US

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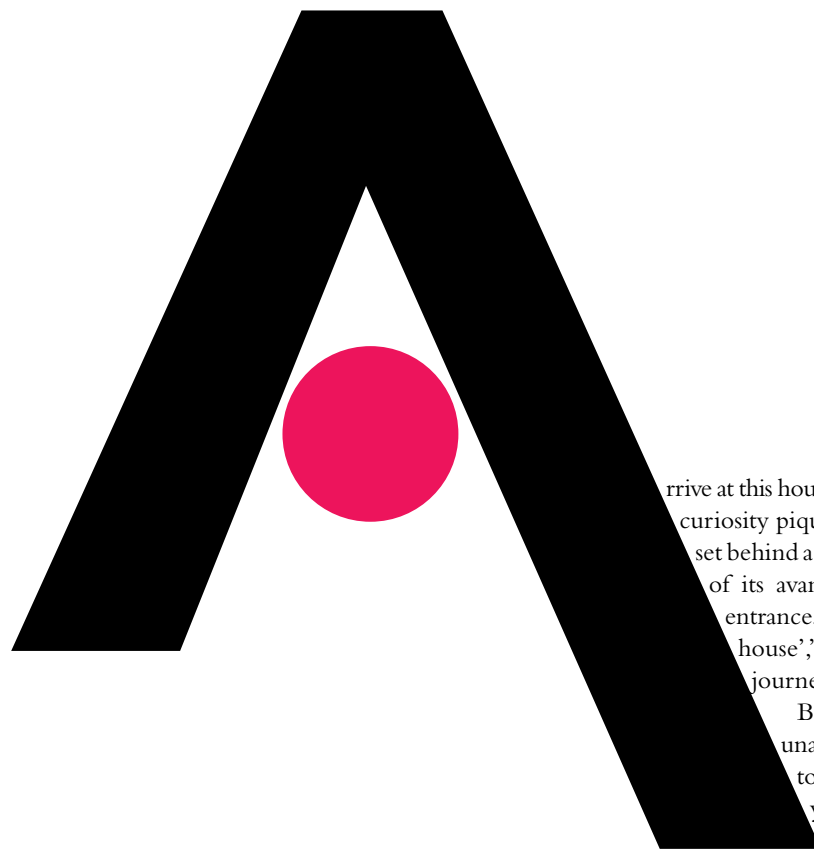
PRODUCTION ANNEMARIE MEINTJES

PHOTOS DOOK

At the top of a leafy street sits a remarkably fresh and bold contemporary home, untamed and unburdened by a need to colour within the lines.



The home's intriguing clay-brick façade is offset by a pink right-angled triangle.



Arrive at this house for the first time, and it is difficult not to have your curiosity piqued by the monolithic façade of clay brick pavers set behind a pink right-angled triangle. Bold and unapologetic of its avant-garde grandeur, it provides an inkling of an entrance. “We’ve nicknamed this house the ‘shape-sorter house,’” says architect Gregory Katz. “Our conceptual journey began with the idea of a cube as an envelope.” Behind this elaborate geometric structure sits an unassuming constricted stretch of entryway leading to an understated front door. Step through it and you’re welcomed into a bright, spacious and airy home flooded with natural light.

Katz describes the play of light created in the space by the asymmetric windows as the gift that keeps on giving. The space is open and barrier-free, with each area flowing seamlessly into the next. Natural light sweeps through two stately half-moon cutouts on the ground floor. These wide half-cylinder openings frame views of the entire garden, breaking the barrier between indoors and outdoors.

Much like the assertive façade of the house, the interior boasts its own kind of confidence. It is a consciously eclectic mix of brightly coloured shapes, with a clean and minimalist aesthetic that serves as a canvas to showcase the homeowners’ green thumb and quirky art collection. “The house has Bauhaus features but is more post-modernist in character, emulating an unconventional, less serious, more playful standpoint on design principles,” says Katz.

All of the spaces meet in unison at the bottom of a diamond-shaped double-volume skylight that ties the upper and lower levels together. An impressive collection of hanging plants soaks up the sunlight above the balustrade, peering down to the lower level.

Climb the staircase clad in forest-green PVC floor mats, and you’re met by an eccentric, oversized, luminous-pink security gate. Every inch of this home is given its moment in the sun, with all the door frames painted an exquisite pastel pink, the column a gleaming luminous yellow, and the double-height void a jewel-tone teal. The colour scheme serves to affirm Katz’s passion for experimentation. “The bedrock of my design philosophy is to explore materiality and deploy materials in unexpected and uncommon ways,” he says. “We strive to move away from generic design.”

Set in a glass box and slightly elevated from the bedroom, the master bathroom is as much a statement as the rest of the house. A mix of emerald-green and white tiles clads most the wet area, accented by sleek matte-black mixers and paired with an opulent brass-plated basin that gives the bathroom an air of glamour and luxury.

“The success of the house was largely due to our open-minded and creative client’s willingness to experiment,” says Katz. And you certainly get a strong sense that the home is a shared vision between the designer and the client’s lifestyle, resulting in a brave and bold collaboration. gregorykatz.co.za

IT IS **DIFFICULT**
NOT TO HAVE YOUR
CURIOSITY
PIQUED BY THE
MONLTHIC FAÇADE.

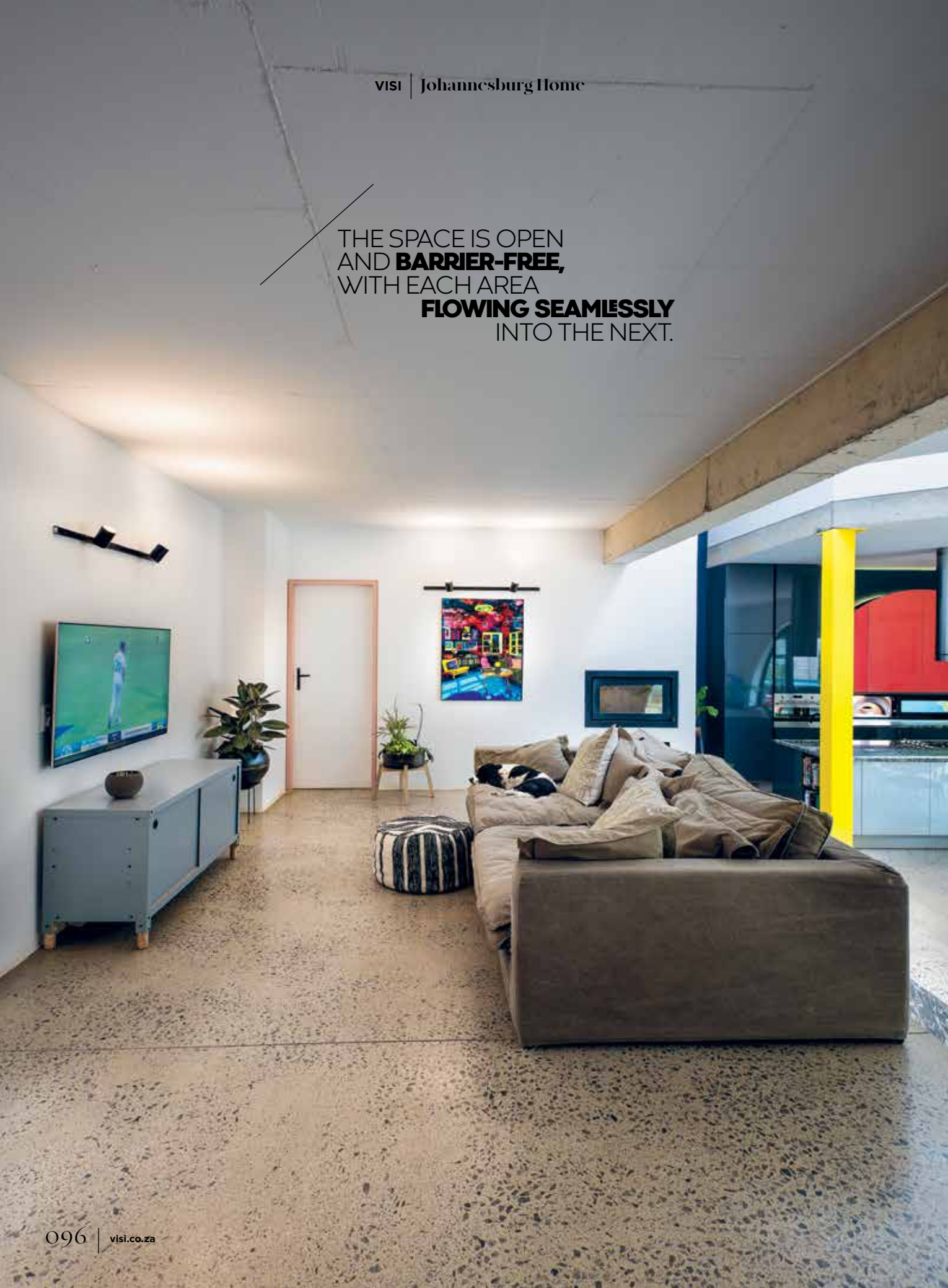
A saunter through the tunnelesque entryway builds the intrigue of what lies behind the concealed front door.



THE **PLAY OF LIGHT**
CREATED BY THE
ASYMMETRIC WINDOWS
IS THE GIFT THAT
KEEPS ON GIVING.

A jagged, irregularly shaped double-volume marks the centre of the home, where all the spaces meet. The profile also works as an invisible separation between the different spaces. **OPPOSITE** Materials are deployed in unexpected yet practical ways. The staircase, clad in LEGO green PVC floor mats, is in keeping with the design vernacular, and provides a much-needed non-slip surface for the kids.

THE SPACE IS OPEN
AND **BARRIER-FREE**,
WITH EACH AREA
FLOWING SEAMLESSLY
INTO THE NEXT.



Aptly named the “the shape-sorter house”, the home is reminiscent of a children’s toy comprised of brightly coloured shapes with corresponding voids in a cube. The colours make each shape a feature in its own right. **OPPOSITE** A less-is-more standpoint is apparent throughout the space. The furniture, decor and greenery are understated, and appear carefully considered in both placement and purpose.

Two windows peer down to the ground floor and soak up sunlight from the diamond-shaped skylight. **OPPOSITE** In keeping with the overall design, the decor is sleek, complementing the architectural canvas.



EVERY INCH
OF **THIS HOME**
IS GIVEN
ITS **MOMENT**
IN THE **SUN.**





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE The client's green thumb is a prevalent motif throughout the home. Above the balustrade is the beginning of an indoor vertical garden, reaching up to the sunlight that filters down from the skylight; a window set above the bathtub frames a view of an old oak tree, introducing texture and tranquillity into this glass box; there is a consistency in the inconsistent positioning and scale of the window openings. **OPPOSITE** The monolithic cube with irregular geometric cutouts gives the house a stately edge.

