

Local LUXE

The owner of Cara Saven Wall Design and founder of interior design firm Blush Affluent share their thoughts on local design and tips to transform a home's interior



CARA SAVEN

Owner of Cara Saven Wall Design

South African design has to be up there with the best design in the world. From our fabrics and furniture design to the quality of our interior designers and decorators, the whole industry really has taken its place on the global stage as one of the leading countries in all forms of design. I think what makes local design unique is the stories we weave into our work. Because of our history, every single designer has a story to tell and each of them is finding ways of bringing that through into their work. Our local design has a depth to it that is hard to find elsewhere in the world.

I love the craftsmanship of Houtlander and David Krynauw. I am in awe of true craftspeople – the ones who take hours and hours to hone their craft. I am the opposite of that so I guess that's why these types of people fascinate me. I am mad about ceramics and think the work of Martine Jackson is incredible. I also think we have some unbelievable interior designers out there. I can't mention names because many of them are our clients and it's not fair to play favourites but there is talent on these shores in spades.

Wallpaper is becoming a staple in people's homes. We have done homes where there is wallpaper in every room and while you might think that is overkill, it makes each and every space completely unique. Wallpaper can be used to create spaces that aim to avoid clutter (think wallpaper, a few key pieces of furniture and a rug – done) or it can be used to layer a space thereby creating warmth and texture. The trend is towards expressing your unique self in interiors; wallpaper is the perfect tool to do just that.

If you are a wallpaper virgin, start with your guest loo. It's the place in your home that everyone sees and is the perfect place to have a little fun. If you are already a wallpaper aficionado, try using it in unexpected places like the kitchen or a breakfast nook and watch how those spaces come to life. A good tip is to find an area in the house that you don't love – wallpaper it and watch it become your new favourite spot. www.carasaven.com

