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25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

BRIGHT & LIGHT

OPEN UP YOUR HOME

Window, door and
roof light ideas

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with wow factor

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inspiration

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From pretty pastels
to dreamy darks

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transformations finished to perfection





Broadening horizons

A contemporary extension helped Lynne Harris bring an old cottage right up to date – and it all suits her growing family perfectly

FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM | PHOTOGRAPHY ELSA YOUNG/BUREAUX

EXTERIOR

The veranda at the front of the house provides the perfect sunspot. Traditional single seater handwoven cane chair, £290, Hadeda, has this look

SITTING ROOM

This black-framed glazing is modern but also has a traditional feel. Bespoke rug made from Indian saris, Herringbone



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY A

Victorian detached cottage
LOCATION Oranjezicht
in Cape Town, South Africa

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-
diner, study, four bedrooms
(one en suite), two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2007

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We were living in an apartment in
the Gardens district,' says Lynne.





The Victorian home of Lynne Harris and her husband Gavin Whitfield is situated in the suburb of Oranjezicht, at the foot of Cape Town's majestic Table Mountain. 'Ours is one of the oldest buildings in the area and when we bought it in 2007, it was a very run-down, single-storey cottage,' recalls Lynne. She continues, 'At the time, we were in our early 20s so we were only able to undertake a modest renovation, although during the project, the insulation in the roof caught fire and so we had to replace the entire roof as well as the ash floors.'

It wasn't until six years ago that the couple decided to take on a much bigger refurbishment of the house. 'By this

point we were expecting our third child and we needed extra bedrooms as well as more living space,' recounts Lynne, who as an interior architect knew exactly what she hoped to achieve. 'I gutted the entire house and extended the kitchen right up to the boundary wall,' she explains. She also converted the loft to create a bathroom and two bedrooms for their daughters Libby, nine, and Audrey, seven. 'We already had three bedrooms on the ground floor, which now serve as a study, our master suite and a bedroom for our five-year-old son, Harrison,' Lynne adds.

For the interiors, she favours a pared-back aesthetic. 'I'm not keen on overly decorated spaces and, instead, I like to create a simple canvas that can be added to over

KITCHEN-DINER

Oversized rattan shades emphasise the room's impressive ceiling height and are the perfect foil to the monochrome palette.

Cape table, from R40,000; Quaker chairs, R6,000 each, all Gregor Jenkin. Try the woven basket lampshades, from £64 each, Design Vintage. Oak bar stools, R2,100 each, James Mudge. House Doctor shelves in brass and Mormor green marble, £77.90 each, Connox





BEDROOM

A bedspread handwoven by a South African social collective lends vibrancy to this otherwise neutrally decorated space.

Vrou-Vrou bedspread, from R3,315, Mungo. Lithograph, John Moore. Similar Hay black metal tray table, £155, Amara. Jute Big Bouclé carpet, £39.40sq m, Alternative Flooring, is similar

time,' she explains. Colour comes in the form of predominantly dark hues, including a rich greenish-grey for the cabinetry and walls in the kitchen. 'Rather than bright colours, I like moody shades that add a sense of intimacy,' affirms Lynne, who had all the hues mixed by colour specialist Freya Lincoln, who Lynne describes as 'brilliant with historical buildings'.

The living spaces and ground-floor bedrooms wrap around a beautiful inner courtyard and here, Lynne opted to paint the boundary wall forest green. 'This is a trick I've used a lot as I discovered that if you paint a garden wall a dark colour, you only see the greenery in front of it and what is beyond effectively disappears.'

she notes, adding, 'The courtyard is one of my favourite spaces as it feels like an oasis in this inner city plot.'

Lynne and Gavin's furniture choices include wooden pieces by contemporary South African designers such as Gregor Jenkin and James Mudge. 'I'm happy to invest in these designs as they should last forever,' Lynne explains. 'I don't spend lots on upholstered pieces as they take a lot of wear and tear and I don't want to be too precious about them – the slip covers on the sofa and armchair end up in the washing machine pretty much once a week.' She adds, 'For me, a house must be a home and that means not worrying too much about it. Here, it doesn't matter if there are 10 children over – everything is pretty robust.' 25

MASTER BATHROOM

This slender space, which features a waxed concrete finish on the walls, has just enough room for an elegant free-standing bath.

For a similar wall finish, contact The Micro Cement Company. Try the Arezzo matt white solid stone bath, £1,099.95, Victorian Plumbing. Astonian Deca tabletop basin, £282.54, Aston Matthews, has a similar look

