



BAYSIDE UPDATE

A CAMPS BAY BUNGALOW HAS BEEN REINVENTED AS A CLEAN-LINED VILLA WITH A STATE-OF-THE-ART ENTERTAINMENT DECK

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PHOTOGRAPHS **ADRIAAN OOSTHUIZEN**

FROM LEFT The view from the pool deck was what clinched the deal for the new owners of this Camps Bay home, Evelyne and Florian. Evelyne walks through the dining area, which has Eames DAW chairs around the dining table. An Arne Jacobsen 1958 Egg chair stands next to the revamped fireplace.



The entire renovation of this slick Camps Bay villa – formerly a 1950s bungalow – was managed from Europe by a property developer who has been in love with Cape Town ever since she worked here as a model years ago. Evelyne and her partner Florian originally met in the city, and it’s where they have spent every summer for the past 15 years.

It thus made perfect sense for them to seek out a semi-permanent home. ‘We both agreed there is only one place to be, and that’s Camps Bay’s wind-sheltered area, the Glen,’ Evelyne says. ‘When we first saw this property’s huge west-facing pool deck we immediately decided it was the best in Cape Town.’

The whole reconstruction took eight months. The couple only visited the city once during the building process. ‘We had great preparation drawings done by our architect, and an excellent reporting system.’

‘The entire thing was done on Skype,’ says the Cape Town architect Renato Graca of Gsquare. ‘I kept sending visuals of what we were doing and Evelyne would respond.’

What made the revamp challenging from the outset was the fact that the plot was steep and the house situated about 15 metres above the street. Landscaping and redesigning of the site was necessary.

‘Since the brief was to take a page out of the modernist book of Austrian-American architect Richard Neutra,’ says Renato, ‘we stripped the house down to the bare brickwork and concrete, and used that as a canvas, creating clean lines and removing everything that did not have a function or real aesthetic merit.’

Simple changes were made to improve the flow of the place. The kitchen lacked dialogue with the rest of the house, so the wall dividing it from the dining room was removed and a beam installed to retain the roof structure. Striking black marble was put in as a splashback to contrast beautifully with the wood of the cupboards, and used on the bathroom walls as well.

Floors throughout, including on the pool deck, were replaced with a durable fine-textured Vianelli coloured screed, and new ceilings with insulation and air-conditioning installed in all the rooms. The wooden front door was replaced by a pivot glass door >



BIG IDEA #1

POOL DECK CANOPY

‘The feature that really changed the character of the house is the huge roof extension we added over the pool deck,’ says Evelyne. The massive canopy was also the trickiest bit of the renovation. ‘We didn’t want any columns blocking the uninterrupted sea views and creating unnecessary obstacles on the pool deck,’ she says. ‘So the architect and the structural engineer found a great steel structure solution that let the roof extension almost appear as if it is flying over the deck.’ Architect Renato Graca calls it an engineering feat. ‘We used a cantilevered steel clip-on. It looks wonderful and really creates the dramatic feel of this raised deck.’

The plants surrounding the pool deck not only obstructed the view but were difficult to maintain. They were removed and instead the architect ran a seat with hidden lighting along the edge of the deck, which works brilliantly when there are lots of guests.



FROM LEFT In the kitchen designed by the architect, overhead cupboards have been removed and visible appliances concealed behind streamlined storage cabinets. Instead of wall tiles, black marble makes a striking splashback; the transformation of the 100m² pool deck included the installation of several hi-tech features in the extended roof deck.



to bring it in line with the glass doors in the living area. To handle the glare from the sea, SolarVue glazing was put in.

However it was the enormous pool deck – all 100m² of it – that underwent the most striking transformation. ‘We put every possible feature into the roof extension that we added,’ says Evelyne. ‘A misty water system for hot days. Heat strips for cold evenings. LED light strips for a spectacular evening atmosphere. Four integrated loudspeakers. A curtain rail holding white linen curtains. And inside the pool, simple lighting so that it becomes the focal point of the deck at night.’ The result is a glorious outdoor entertainment area with never-ending views of the Atlantic coastline. In the day time the canopy gives shade and during the late afternoon it lets the sun in before it dips into the sea.

In the house itself the interior design was team work between Evelyne and Renato. ‘We were aiming at a 1950s feel with an African touch,’ says the architect. The furniture pieces he and Evelyne chose are all icons of that era’s interior design. An Arne Jacobsen 1958 Egg chair stands beside the fire place. In the dining area Poul Hennigson’s multilayered Artichoke lamp

designed in 1958 hangs over the table, and around it are Eames DAW chairs from 1950. The master bedroom has a memorable collection of furniture and decor accessories, among them Eero Saarinen’s 1948 Womb chair and ottoman, and Verner Panton’s 1964 Shell Pendant lamp.

Africa pops up here and there. A black-and-white shot of elephants. A protea wall lamp. A large and beautiful African pot. African prints bought by Renato when he was doing a job in the Congo, which make colourful cushions on the built-in sofa in the living room. ‘I thought they were an apt gift,’ he says, ‘for a couple in love with Africa’. [The villa is available for short-term rentals, via fortyfive.co.za](http://www.fortyfive.co.za)

LITTLE BLACK BOOK

Architect Renato Graca, Gsquared, 082-781-7755, gsquared.co.za
Builder LA Developments, 021-553-3617 **Doors** Crawford Joinery, 021-638-1131 **Fireplace** Beauty Fires, 021-461-9821 **Glass** (SolarVue) PG Glass, 0860-03-03-03 **Kitchen design** Joos Joiners, 021-949-1776 **Landscaping** Alan Dawson Gardens, 021-712-1826
LED lighting Eagle Lighting, 021-511-2640 **Pool** (fibreglass relining) Wayne Greenfield, Suburban Pools, 021-703-4474 **Sauna** Sauna King, Philip Weaver, 021-797-4196

FROM FAR LEFT To bring the kitchen into the rest of the house, the wall dividing it from the dining room was removed, and a low counter added. Timber cladding was put on one wall section to provide warmth. Poul Hennigson’s Artichoke lamp hangs above the dining table; timber cladding on the wall of the guest bedroom acts as a headboard; Evelyne wanted the house to have a sauna and the ideal place to put it was as part of the guest suite; a high slatted steel gate was designed to tie in with the rock wall. Steps were constructed leading up to the house through a redesigned garden on different levels. Old palm trees were retained, and cacti and frangipani put in.