

# AT HOME WITH THE HARTMANNNS



ABOVE (from left to right) In Scandinavian style a welcoming wreath hangs on the door all year round. An old rocking chair with a needlepoint cushion makes a comfortable spot to watch the world go by. The table set for tea on the veranda.  
OPPOSITE PAGE The house was built in the American clapboard style with verandas on both storeys. Anne has taken the garden beyond the fence scattering forget-me-not seeds to create a blue carpet.

Building and furnishing their family home in Johannesburg  
was a labour of love for Anne Hartmann

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"My home is my passion," says Anne Hartmann of the house she and her husband Robert built two years ago. "With three small boys we wanted a house that was classic, timeless and would mellow over the years becoming a real family home."

They chose the American clapboard style and Anne took her ideas and plans to Aldo Trombetta, the designer of many of the furniture ranges manufactured by Hartmann & Keppler, who translated them into building plans.

All the bedrooms upstairs open onto a balcony running the length of the front of the house with views across the reeds and the stream to the park. Downstairs all the rooms open onto a wide veranda and the charming garden created by Anne.

It's a comfortable, relaxed home where faded denim jackets and straw hats live side by side with inherited antiques and the Hartmann's own beautiful handcrafted furniture. Robert and his

RIGHT Anne uses potted plants as accessories on the veranda.  
BELOW An attractive garden 'house' was custom made by African Sundecks to store tools and pool equipment.





brother Reinhard run the well-known furniture company Hartmann & Keppler. Its very much a family business and Anne and her sister-in-law Bronwyn are responsible for the fresh new look of the showroom, as well as overseeing the many company promotions.

With her choice of beautiful handcrafted furniture you would imagine this to dominate in her house. But that's not Anne's style at all. "I don't think a home should have only one 'look'. A home should have its own unique personality. Buy a few good pieces – an amoire, a wing back or a dining room table – and then introduce your own antiques and accessories."

Anne loves to scour the antique and second-hand shops in Kensington for vintage fittings. The light fittings in the dining room were a Kensington find and the chandelier was discovered under a table in The Country Barnyard Antique Store in Honeydew. ▶

LEFT Anne on the upstairs veranda. The balustrading was crafted by Jannie Snyders.

BELOW Wicker furniture on the veranda overflows with comfortable cushions in florals and checks. Striped awnings offer protection from the hot afternoon sun.





"I don't like things to look too new. Signs of wear show that a room is being used and loved. The floors here are in American oregon pine in keeping with the classical look of the house. Robert keeps hinting that we should sand and seal them, but I love the worn, matt look."

The theme of the house is floral with fabrics, prints and paintings echoed in the pretty garden flower arrangements which fill the house. Lashings of white offset crisp checks giving the kitchen and family room a very definite Scandinavian feel. "I wanted the house to look fresh and young for my children," she explains.

The house is a delight to live in due in part to its practical aspects. With three boys - Wesley (9), Thomas (6) and Rupert (3) - and two dachshund puppies, Anne has to be organized. Pull-out basket drawers in the counter between the kitchen and family room are labelled with each boys name and this is where their daily projects and toys are stored. A coat closet next to the hall stores jackets and school bags. An ingenious idea is the laundry shoot near the boys bedrooms so that dirty clothes can be dropped directly into a large laundry basket near the kitchen below. Their bathroom has two basins, a separate toilet, plus another toilet and basin combo so there is no queuing for the bathroom in the mornings. And a playroom near the pool has a shower so that the boys and their friends can shower and dress without running through the main house with wet feet. A large cupboard outside stores towels and pool accessories ▶

OPPOSITE PAGE Wesley and Milo the dachshund puppy on the sofa.

RIGHT Sofas in hardwearing blue and white checks from St Leger & Viney and an upholstered ottoman (fabric from Halogen International) make for comfortable seating in the family room. The floral pictures are from Heaven Sent. The desk was handmade by one of Hartmann & Keppler's retired master craftsmen.

BELOW LEFT As they entertain frequently at home the dining-room table was specially made by Hartmann & Keppler to accommodate large numbers. To soften the expanse of wood Anne added chairs upholstered in 'Cumberland' from Mavromac. The light fittings are from a shop in Kensington and the chandelier from The Country Barnyard Antique Store in Honeydew.

BELOW RIGHT The kitchen and family room are open plan. Sash windows set low with window seats below let in lots of light. The antique cabinet on the right was discovered in the Hartmann & Keppler factory building.





"What I learned while building this house was to stick to my guns and insist on the things I wanted. I learned to trust my instincts. Fashion changes. Your own personal style doesn't. We invested in basics and slowly collected memorabilia. A home takes time to put together," says Anne.

Although it's only two years old, the house already has a comfortable aura about it. It's the combination of the design and fabrics, furniture and accessories put together with a great deal of love and care. Anne's parents live nearby and friends and family are often popping in to curl up on the window seat in the kitchen to chat, or to enjoy a cup of tea and a freshly baked muffin on the veranda or in the pretty English-style garden. ▲

**Sources:**

Furniture and fabrics are available from

**Hartmann & Keppler**

(011) 807 4810

**African Sundecks** 082 485 9

**Jannie Snyders** 083 377 95

Lashings of white offset crisp checks, florals and toiles



OPPOSITE PAGE A blue and white John Wilman toile from Chelsea Harbour was used to line the walls of the main bedroom. "It's my favourite room, but I don't get to spend enough time in it," says Anne.

ABOVE Crisp white woodwork offsets the stripes and toiles in the en suite bathroom.

RIGHT (from top to bottom) Flowers and candles add to the romantic atmosphere in the bathroom. The boys' bathroom has a nautical theme. Old portholes were turned into mirrors.