

LEANNE Van Niekerk

Interior designer Leanne Van Niekerk of LVN Interiors loves neutral colours, light fabrics and symmetry in spaces. Pop in, but please don't spill your drinks!
By **Nia Magouliaiti-McGregor**



Kate Rankin Photography

Who I am is an adoring mom of two lively five-year-old boys, a problem solver and a multitasker. I have an eye for detail. I am always on the go and love to travel – especially to places that snow – with my husband. Discovering beautiful homes even as a child was a thrill.

My personal home style includes luxurious interiors in a contemporary or minimal traditional style. I enjoy creating rooms that look impeccable and feel family-friendly.

My home is important to me because it's a reflection of who I am: organised, practical, functional, styled and on-trend. It's a place of calmness. I am a homebody and love being surrounded by the things that I've carefully selected.

I chose it for its location. I grew up in Johannesburg North and wanted to be near my family and friends. We also wanted to live in a gated community and were lucky enough to find a stand with the most beautiful river view.

My aesthetic is bright and clean. I love neutral colours, light fabrics and light furniture and symmetry in spaces. I also love a brass accent. I use repetition of materials and textures. >



The difference between my adult home and my childhood home is now I'm able to organise and style things the way that I would like them to be.

My favourite room in my home is our TV room. We have a custom-made, very comfortable sofa in a high-performance white – yes white! – fabric. Everything is neat and tidy and has a place. The electronics are hidden behind screens so there are no unsightly cables or speakers in view. I have my favourite coffee table books and photographs of my precious family on display.

I'm obsessed with shows that are related to property hunting, flipping homes and home décor. My favourite is *Dream Home Makeover* with Shea and Syd McGee. Another favourite is *The Home Edit*. Organising cupboards and drawers so that everything looks pretty and styled makes me happy.

My favourite furniture piece is our 16-seater solid oak dining table with a brass base.

But I also love the giant Urchin Chandelier from High Thorn in our entrance hall.

For me, the interior design process should be well thought out and based around the functionality of a space so the end user meets their goals and needs. The "look" is very important, but if the space or object is not functional, it's a complete waste. >



The word that encapsulates style for me is luxury.

If I feel like an impromptu change around the house, I rearrange the accessories, buy flowers like St Joseph lilies or tulips or snip some leaves in the garden and pop them into vases. Eucalyptus stems, strelitzia leaves and delicious monster leaves all look fantastic.

My favourite gadget in my home is the GROHE Minta Touch tap in our kitchen. There's no need to use the lever if your hands are dirty from cooking. You just tap it with the wrist or forearm to turn it on or off.

Art-wise, I love contemporary art. Bron Stofberg is my favourite artist.

When I consider a renovation, I think I would include a gym in our home. During this pandemic, I've turned my garage into a Pilates studio and we have added a treadmill and elliptical machine to the patio.

The most useful piece of interior design advice I've ever been given is remain true to yourself and aesthetic.

Gardens or patios should make for a welcome space throughout the year with as much comfort and ease as your indoor spaces.

These are a few of my favourite things: marble, luxury fabrics, architecture, gardens and landscaping.

Design-wise, I think 2021 is going to be the year of natural materials, which continue to rank high among the current trends. Wood, marble and stone will continue to be viewed as a rich textural addition and a trendy insertion for the composition of luxury space.



The music that best reflects the mood of my personal space is Black Coffee.

My favourite colour scheme, décor-wise, is white, neutrals, natural wood tones and fresh greenery.

The one thing guests visiting may not do is spill their drinks.

But they're very welcome to pop in. We love having visitors.

When I look around my home, I feel so proud of the space that I've created for my family. It's functional, well thought out and practical.

I have everything I want in my home except storage for the kids' bicycles, scooters and motorbikes! Oh, and a full-time chef! 🍳