

ANDREW MARTIN

INTERIOR DESIGN REVIEW

Featuring 31 of the World's leading designers



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INTERNATIONAL INTERIOR DESIGN REVIEW

VOLUME 4

MARTIN WALLER • SARAH STEWART-SMITH

ANDREW MARTIN
INTERNATIONAL



EDITOR: MARTIN WALLER
TEXT: SARAH STEWART-SMITH
PROJECT EXECUTIVE: JACQUELINE WILLERS
PRODUCT DESIGN: GRAPHICOM EXPRESS

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INTRODUCTION

It's been a phenomenon throughout history that political change has a profound effect on culture, art and design. It was already true in classical times. The trauma of Caesar's assassination ushered in the Augustan age which was the highpoint of Roman cultural achievement. In the last 30 years the death of Franco precipitated Spain's remarkable renaissance as a powerhouse of design innovation. Today South Africa is enjoying an equally astonishing flourishing of art and design. It seems that in South Africa almost every company is putting a premium on design and product development. Sometimes in an age when there is so much emphasis on technology, systems and management theory, it is easy to forget that it's product which must be at the core of every company.

So it was no great surprise that it was a South African, Stephen Falcke who won 1999's International Interior Designer of the Year Award. His work is a melting pot of influences from all over the world refracted through the prism of an African background. The crisp clean lines of his furniture and the subtlety of his colour palette are a backdrop for dynamic juxtapositions of tribal artefacts. His work has spun interior design off into a new direction and proves just how difficult it is for pundits to predict the future.

Although the lightning pace of change is a commonly accepted truism, it's one of the strange quirks of the past 30 years that change seems to be slowing. When man first landed on the moon in 1969, it was seen as one more step in an ever speeding spiral of progress. The previous decades had witnessed the invention of the radio and gramophone, telephone and television, motor car and aeroplane, electricity and atomic power and computer. In 1969 it was widely anticipated that by now everybody would be wearing silver lame jumpsuits, eating food in capsules and living in space colonies. In fact people turned out to be much more conservative. Dress has hardly changed. Men still wear suits and ties, women still see Audrey Hepburn as the epitome of chic. The prospect of the computer intelligent house is much hyped. It promises to warn you on your mobile phone if the temperature in your wine cellar is too high. Its scarcely a shatteringly I can't wait kind of prospect. What has happened is an ever greater appreciation for the antique, the hand crafted and the product that reflects the culture from which it has sprung.

Futurists say that 80% of the goods ever made were produced in the last 25 years and by 2020, 80% will have been made in the previous 20. It will surely mean that the antiques and the hand made will become more and more desirable and the challenge for the interior designer will be showcasing these pieces.

MARTIN WALLER





Stephen Falcke

Designer: Stephen Falcke. **Country:** Johannesburg, South Africa. **Work:** Both residential and commercial projects, plus small boutique hotels in South Africa, Australia, America and Britain. **Style:** A crisp, clean silhouette. **Trademark:** Attention to detail. **On colour:** I love using wonderful colour, whether it clashes or I use several different tones of the same colour together. Equally, I like to use no colour at all. **Critical design decision:** To work hand in glove with the existing architecture; not to overpower it. **Object of desire:** I saw a table in Paris that was made from a single piece of wood - I have never seen anything so beautiful or out of the ordinary. It would be amazing left outside to weather naturally. **Favourite decade:** Now, as it is a kind of stirring pot for everything that has gone before. **Admired designers:** Both John Stefanidis and David Mlinaric, as the work has a wonderful easiness on the eye, but Jonathan Reed and Anouska Hempel do wonderful modern work. I love the order. **Favourite painter:** The contemporary English artist, Basil Beattie - he paints enormous abstract canvases. **Top fashion label:** Jasper Conran - the clothes are truly simply, but still have classic overtones. **Memorable film:** Tea with Mussolini, which I have seen many times. The cast and the interiors were equally fabulous. **Best hotel:** I love the Aman hotels, but La Reserve, between Monte Carlo and Nice epitomises the luxurious side of the South of France. **Ideal holiday:** Just being out in the middle of the bush. But I also love the sea. Swimming is my favourite pastime. **Free time:** Gardening is my new passion. **Top car:** The new VW Beetle. I can admire cars but when I see this new Beetle, I think of it as being really flirty. It is totally spacey and totally lovely in black with black seats. **Best buy:** A large bronze honey pot, which even the shopkeeper did not understand. It is highly amusing, as the bees buzzing around it seem to be smiling. **Pet hates:** Over-decorated, over-lit rooms.

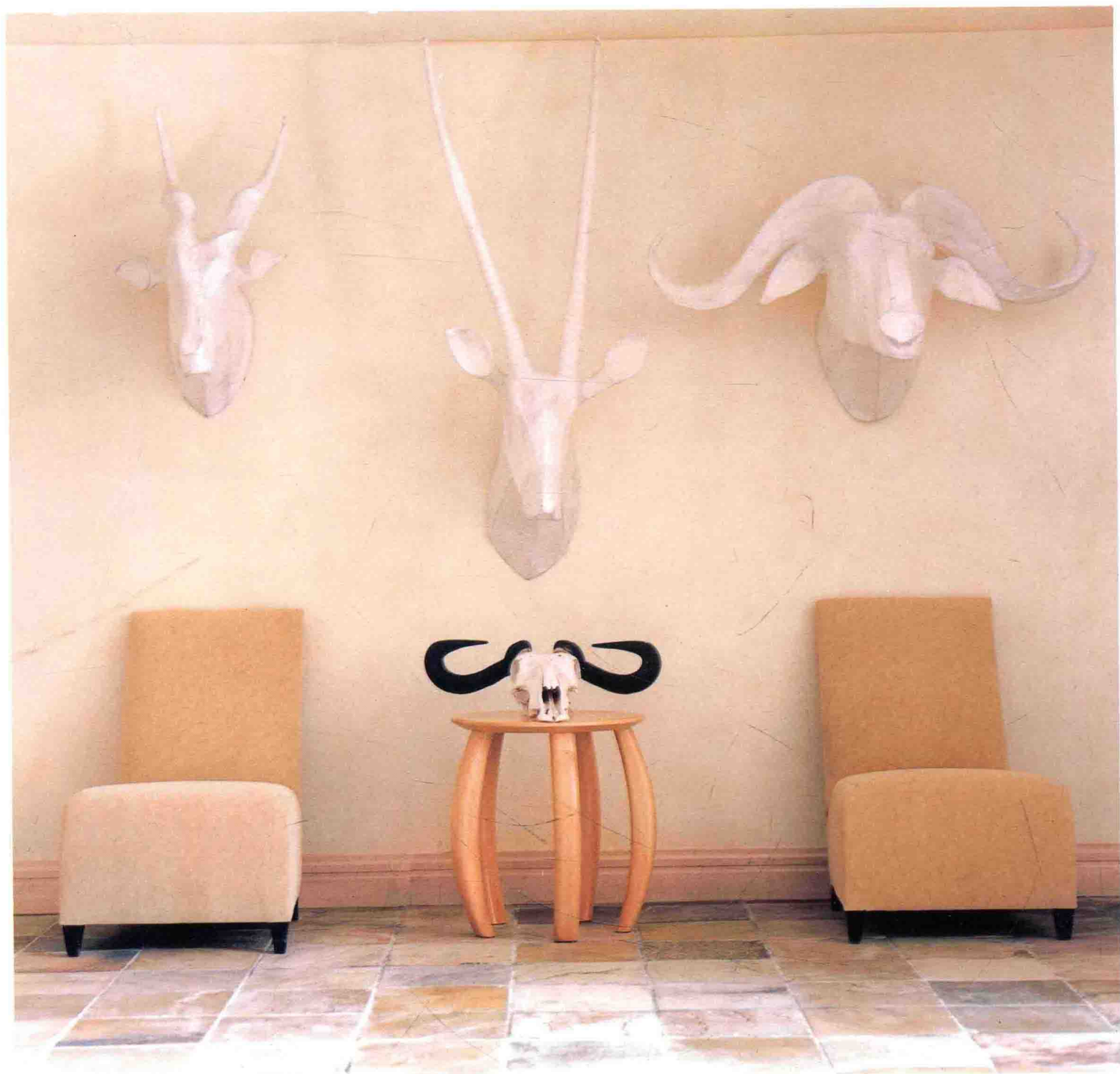
'When I think of a room having a good silhouette, I mean that it has a sharpness and tremendous sense of scale.'







**'I am obsessed by attention to detail.
It is the single most important
element.'**



'I wanted to let the architecture and African pieces become part of the architecture - the fabric - of this project. I grouped accessories to form a basic mosaic of pattern, which gives the rooms a certain slick quality.'











Falcke's sophisticated look is enhanced by the drama created by large sculptural pieces.

