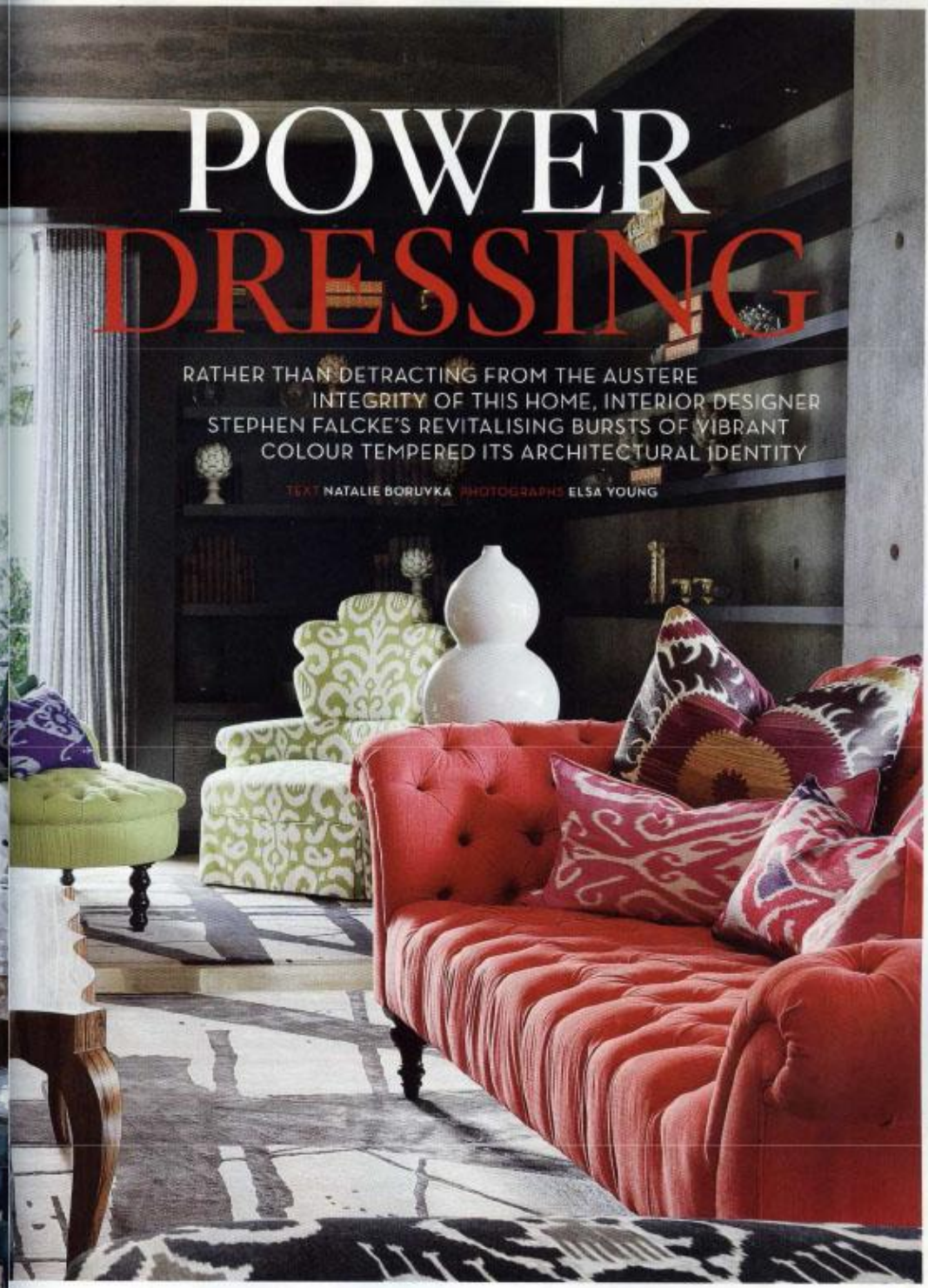


Colour and pattern are the heroes of the reception room, the furniture of which has been arranged in intimate groupings in the manner of a French-style salon

POWER DRESSING

RATHER THAN DETRACTING FROM THE AUSTERE INTEGRITY OF THIS HOME, INTERIOR DESIGNER STEPHEN FALCKE'S REVITALISING BURSTS OF VIBRANT COLOUR TEMPERED ITS ARCHITECTURAL IDENTITY

TEXT NATALIE BORUYKA PHOTOGRAPHS ELSA YOUNG



No brief accompanied the home that designer Stephen Falcke was asked to redecorate for his friend Carolyn Steyn. Instead, desiring a departure from the safe blue-and-white French feel of her Sandhurst home, her request was simply to be surprised. The framework within which Falcke had to manifest this new look was a hard-hitting contemporary design by PWM Architects' Keith Mason that, while being unapologetically stark, displayed a beautiful, honest approach to materials.

With much of the interior characterised by exposed concrete walls, it was in fact this Spartan quality that proved the imaginative

springboard for Falcke's vision. 'Carolyn is fun, feminine and vivacious, the complete polar opposite of the sober, restrained structure,' says Falcke. He resolved to use the existing character of the home as a stage on which to establish her personality.

The muted tones of the off-shutter concrete walls and travertine floors proved the ideal backdrop for him to introduce colour, while the room's generous volumes would enable him to implement the masterful signature for which he is most admired: the impact of contrast. 'Whether by playing with proportion and colour, mixing old and new or combining radically different styles, my intention is always to enhance the architecture of a space,' he explains. ▶

BELOW The home features a beautiful collection of contemporary art which Stephen Falcke has used as inspiration for the palette as well as a backdrop against which to juxtapose the varying stylistic influences. Large-scale furnishings and accessories were chosen to sit comfortably within the generous proportions of the spaces. Pattern plays a part too by accentuating the size of the furniture



FROM LEFT: PARADISE ROAD 'ARCADIA IKAT' FABRIC IN SCHIAPARELLI PINK, R681 PER METRE, ST LEGER & VINEY; MARRAKESH 'TANGIER' FABRIC IN DATE, R676 PER METRE, THE SILK AND COTTON CO; 'ECO COTTONS' FABRIC IN CARDINAL, R451 PER METRE, MAVROMAC; 'RASUL' FABRIC IN BERRY, R598.50 PER METRE AND 'FERGANA' IKAT FABRIC IN LIME, R547.20 PER METRE, BOTH HALOGEN INTERNATIONAL; 'ECO COTTONS' FABRIC IN FUCHSIA, R451 PER METRE, MAVROMAC. For stockists' details, see page 142



CURATED SPACE

The visual tension created here by Falcke finds relief in the proportions of the space, which comfortably accommodates his audacious mix of pieces and patterns. It's an approach not unlike that of an artist composing a still-life, where the considered placement of every object highlights both its singular value and shared dialogue.

Falcke has shown acute sensitivity to the existing structure – in areas where the interior gives way to views through vast expanses of glass, he's exercised restraint and dialed pattern and colour back, allowing the architectural detailing to retain prevalence. Almost gallery-like in its neutrality, the surfaces also proved an ideal shell for offsetting art. 'There is a wonderful collection of modern art which adds a special quality to the house.' •



'I used vivid, clashing colours and mismatched fabrics to animate the concrete and create a lively atmosphere suited to a home that hosts a lot of parties' Stephen Falcke

ABOVE Not just a utilitarian space, the bathroom is an ode to elegance, encouraging peace and respite OPPOSITE PAGE Unlike the saturated colours found elsewhere in the home, the geometric fabric of the Klismos-inspired chairs, housed in a glass corner, complement rather than compete with the structure

RECURRING MOTIFS

One thing you are always guaranteed in a Falcke interior is a striking palette and this home ups the ante. It is an effervescent display of hot pinks and flaming corals which find a cool counterpoint in acidic chartreuse. Fuelling the energetic dynamic are geometric and ikat prints. 'I used vivid, clashing colours and mismatched fabrics to animate the concrete and create a lively atmosphere suited to a home that hosts a lot of parties,' says Falcke of the look which he describes as 'very now, very LA'.

The project was a platform for him to simultaneously stick to and break his own rules and he admits to being uncertain of his bravado at times, but he has brought his creative courage to the fore by combining a seemingly motley crew of furnishings. And, as with his repetition of certain stylistic references, the recurring palette establishes a cohesion that in no way detracts from the intentional contrasts. Seemingly discordant elements are held together by subtle connections, whether a shared period language – sometimes as subtle as a recurring cabriole leg – or the more obvious (signature) use of Oriental motifs. 'Single-style interiors date quickly so I always try to incorporate diverse influences but anchor them with common elements that might not be immediately obvious,' says Falcke.

Through this cross section of traditional and modern furnishings, sharp colour accents and vibrant layering of pattern, the home eruditely shows off Falcke's flair for building an interior with engaging visual layers. ■ *Stephen Falcke Interior Design* ☎ 011 327 1368; www.stephenfalcke.co.za; *PWM Architects* ☎ 011 262 0299



The bare concrete walls establish the ideal canvas for the dining room's eclectic collection of furniture, objets and art OPPOSITE PAGE
FROM TOP Contemporary prints and a Chinoiserie-style cabinet pair strikingly; not even the hat room has evaded the bursts of shocking colour, with fiery reds and corals making a dramatic statement

