



*Scandinavia
meets
South Africa*



Kathryn enjoys adding personal touches to all furniture she buys



Kathryn Hawkes' Meadows home is instantly welcoming. Family photos and black and white prints sit in distressed wooden frames, while soft, coloured wooden blocks house African words and sayings. Modern Scandinavia meets South African bush in this home in the heart of Dubai

kathryn, her husband Mark and their two children Ethan, six and Katlyn, four, moved into their rented Meadows home just two years ago.

"The house just appeared at the right time, for the right price. But we had to make it completely liveable again as it had been empty for a while," she explains. Whereas others would have walked away, Kathryn saw this as a great opportunity to show what she was capable of. She started creating moodboards and eventually repainted and decorated the whole

house herself – with a little help from local upholsterers and furniture makers.

“Decorating a home doesn’t have to cost a lot. It just takes a little time to find everything you are looking for. But once you have it, you feel very proud of your achievements,” she says.

An avid blogger, Kathryn also scours the internet for fresh ideas. “A lot of times ideas come straight from Pinterest and I look at other blogs for inspiration,” she tells me.

As we walk through her home, beautifully curated shelves and side tables pop up around every corner. She points out where she bought the items and what she has

materials and items during a sale and keeps them for later. “I kind of shop in my own home, if I fancy a change of colour or a new cushion cover I look in my cupboard first.” Her patterned grey woollen Kilim rugs from West Elm are her most cherished items in the house. “They just stay beautiful and endure so much from our family every day.”

Kathryn enjoys exploring places like Dragon Mart and Satwa for good deals and doesn’t shy away from Al Quoz to source a good carpenter for a new sidetable if required. She’s also been known to take a can of spray paint to furniture items in need of a little added style.

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done to make them her own. A simple iron cabinet from Ikea has been turned into a stylish golden treasure vitrine. The mirror on her sideboard is a cheaper version of one she wished to have, but couldn’t afford at the time. A keen illustrator, Kathryn has framed artworks dotted throughout the house, many of which are free printables from the Internet.

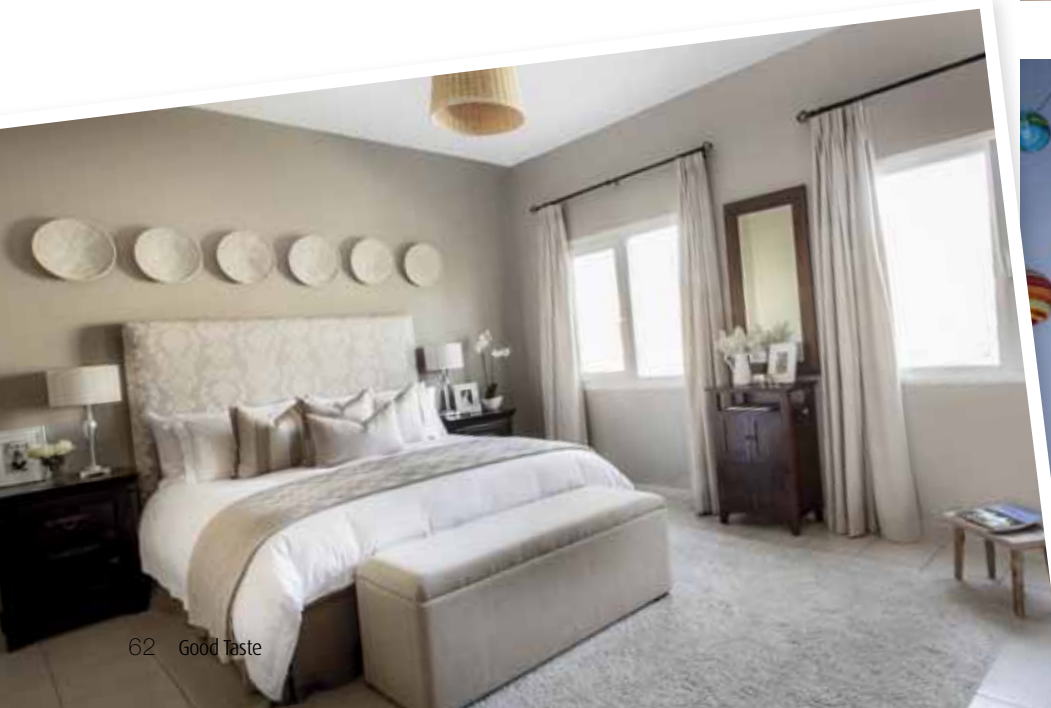
If Kathryn can’t find the item or colour she is looking for, she will have it made. Her sofas are re-upholstered in washable covers. “White is just not a good colour with two young children. I had to make sure I could take the covers off and wash them.”

Kathryn believes in keeping the basics minimal and adding splashes of colour with cushions and accessories. She finds

Her favourite spot in the house is her office. It houses a self-made desk from kitchen cabinets with a fake marble top. “We hardly get anytime in our living room. It [the office] is such a nice place to be with the large window and the natural light flooding in, whilst overlooking the grass outside. It doesn’t feel as though you are in a city.”

They love living in the Meadows. “It feels far out enough from the city to give it that suburban feel. But it’s close enough to town to get everywhere easily,” she explains.

As we are talking families, Kathryn shows me her children’s bedrooms. Her daughter’s room is a typical girls’ room in soft pink and light furnishings, while her son demonstrates a bolder palette with bright coloured wall displays from the six year’s old favourite



Kathryn likes to add splashes of colour around the house



*Kathryn's favourite
blogs for home
inspiration*

★ ★ ★

www.houseofhawkes.net
(her own)
www.emmas.blogg.se
www.censationalgirl.com
www.designlovest.com
www.studio-mcgee/
studioblog/

super heroes. Her African roots are not forgotten as a selection of white washed African baskets and soft touches of African artefacts are noticeable.

Kathryn's modest approach to design is inspiring. As we walk through her home, it is not hard to start wondering what needs a little makeover in one's own home or, in my case, when to purchase a can of spray paint to liven up that dreary side-table.



Ethan has pictures of his favourite super heroes on proud display in his bedroom



Katlyn's room is pretty, pink and perfectly girly