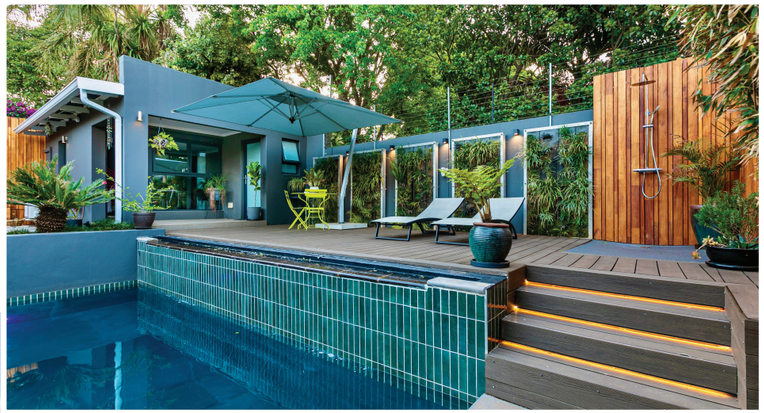
SLOW HAUS

Heritage Meets Contemporary: A Melville Sanctuary

By Curtis Fleur, Studio Principal at CF Architects

Nestled on the leafy edges of Melville, a heritage home has been transformed into an entertainer's paradise that speaks to the soul of slow living. The Slow Haus reimagines compact living, showing how intelligent design can dissolve boundaries and create a sense of expansiveness far beyond its footprint.





The clients, two creative professionals navigating demanding careers in theatre and international business, sought something rare in Johannesburg's frenetic rhythm: a true sanctuary. Their brief was clear yet complex: maintain the heritage facade while creating a backyard oasis capable of hosting intimate gatherings or larger celebrations, all within a stand of less than 500 square metres. The genius lies in its layered approach to space. From the street, the home respects its neighbourhood context, its heritage facade preserved and honoured. But step through to the rear, and you discover an entirely different world where contemporary design philosophy creates a resort-style escape.

The outdoor living area cascades down multiple levels, each zone purposefully designed for different modes of entertaining. The main deck, sheltered by an automatic adjustable awning, features a built-in braai and pizza oven, accommodating ten guests comfortably. Floating staircases provide architectural drama while descending toward the swimming pool below.

This isn't just any pool. Stretching generously across the property, it features an elongated waterfall with custom tile back ing, creating both visual interest and soothing soundscapes. The martini seat runs the entire length, offering the perfect perch for afternoon champagne sessions. Adjacent to the pool, a second deck expands the entertaining capacity to accommodate another fifteen to twenty guests.



The outdoor shower, fitted with a heated automatic thermomix faucet, delivers perfectly tempered water instantly—thoughtful details that elevate the space from merely functional to genuinely luxurious.

Inside, the master bedroom suite embraces moody sophistication. Dark walls feature powder-washed cloudy plaster detailing, while blue velvet bedding introduces richness and texture. The walk-through closet becomes a gallery for the clients' fashion collection, with backlit smoked glass wardrobes showcasing clothing as art, while a revolving shoe rack provides both display and easy access. The en-suite bathroom genuinely feels like a spa.



"Thoughtful design transforms constraints into creative opportunities worth celebrating."

Custom hand-glazed dark charcoal tiles provide the backdrop for the bathtub, while the showstopper remains the three-by-three-metre blue marble shower wall, dramatically downlit to highlight its deep blue veining and rich tones.

The Slow Haus stands as a testament to contemporary residential design rooted in slow living principles, demonstrating that true luxury isn't about size, but about how thoughtfully the design is conceived and brought to life.

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