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Energy-efficient design in South Africa has been on the increase for a couple of years and will become more evident as projects designed in the past few years are now being realised and built. With the ever-increasing cost of electricity and scarcity of water, South Africans are becoming more conscious of the necessity to implement green technologies into their homes by sourcing power from the sun, rainwater harvesting and passive design elements within their homes in order to contribute to preserving our beautiful planet.

There is also a big trend towards enhancing outdoor and public spaces. As South Africa develops, more and more people are moving into the cities with smaller houses and gardens available to them. People are moving away from meeting at their local steakhouse overlooking a parking lot and towards open spaces, piazzas that are landscaped and areas that are outdoors and safe for kids to run and play. The old-school boma is taking a feature stand nowadays in a more modern way with eco-friendly outdoor fireplaces, as an increasing number of people want to entertain outdoors.



Francois Marais Architects

“South Africans are becoming more conscious of their necessity to implement green technologies into their homes.” – Francois Marais



Meik Architects



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NADINE NAIDOO
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The trend for bespoke one-of-a-kind hand-crafted items will continue into 2020. People are tired of mass-produced items and see the value in well-designed, bespoke, artisan-crafted items. This extends from homes to handrails to handmade tiles. It's all-encompassing.

Industrial elements will keep influencing non-industrial buildings as building gets more expensive, and we become a more urban society. Industrial items are also in line with a post-modernist, minimalist aesthetic, where people are not after fuss and frills but plain and simple. Think steel elements, concrete and black.

As our lives get busier there is a need for escape and

serenity in the home. Bedrooms are sanctuaries, as are bathrooms. In the home itself, we see the need to do away with clutter. Seamless finishes like flooring running throughout the living spaces or the entire home add to this sense of harmony.

And finally, a possible direct result of our love affair with industrial items, black is the only black. We have seen black taps, sanitaryware, appliances, light fittings, kitchens and walls. This trend will continue. Black is paired with natural materials, or with metallics, in short with everything. 🏠

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