

A red wall in the entrance hall adds drama, while contrasting colours in the lounge, above right, create impact.

Pedantic, practical and passionate – these are the hallmarks of interior designer Deborah Hall-Chadrou’s work and she’s used the principles to positive effect in her Berea home, writes **Omeshnie Naidoo**

Creating spatial illusions



PICTURES: JACQUES NAUDE

DESIGN and its elements such as harmony and balance are to a large degree illusion. Deborah Hall-Chadrou knows this.

She used many a clever design trick to transform her home’s interior into a free-flowing, modern space that appears far more spacious than it is.

Automotive spray paint gives the kitchen cupboards a high gloss finish that helps bring light into a small, enclosed space.

Combining the shades of lime green, ruby and grey is a modern take on kitchen design, as are mirror and glass splash backs.

The omission of cupboard handles adds to the streamlined nature of the space.

Chadrou added a shadow line to the doors of the wall-hanging cupboards that align with the height of the fridge and help create better proportion.

While she’s aimed for spaciousness she has not restricted herself from displaying beauty objects such as her Ardmore collection – clever glass doors on cupboards make this possible.

A tidy stool beneath the kitchen window provides seating for friends who want to chat to her while she cooks and, considering it’s on wheels and has a drawer underneath, it can be used for storage or moved out of the way when necessary.

Interestingly the new ceiling is polystyrene, selected in a panel pattern to mimic the new floors.

Chadrou’s late father, James Oliver Hall, was an artist and so his daughter inherited many sculptures, ceramics and art in various mediums.

Above her stove is a rooster her dad made for a steakhouse, but discarded. It reminds Chadrou of her father and her husband Bernard of his beloved French rugby team, of

which it is the symbol.

With lack of counter space, Chadrou, had a small shelf made to display another treasured item – her husband’s traditional vinegar maker.

The former head of design at the Durban University of Technology clearly pays great attention to detail and is innovative with materials, however, she is equally flamboyant with colour.

This is evident in the open plan living and dining room which consists of panels of colour – all in the same tone and therefore harmonious.

A Rodney Blumenfeld plate on a teal wall makes for a striking feature, while works by John Roome help reclaim a small corner of the room.

As with all the furniture, the TV cabinet is custom-made to take as little place as possible, but houses (and conceals) necessary cords and cables.

A purple couch and chairs, as well as yellow walls, work as other objects – such as scatters – pull the colours together.

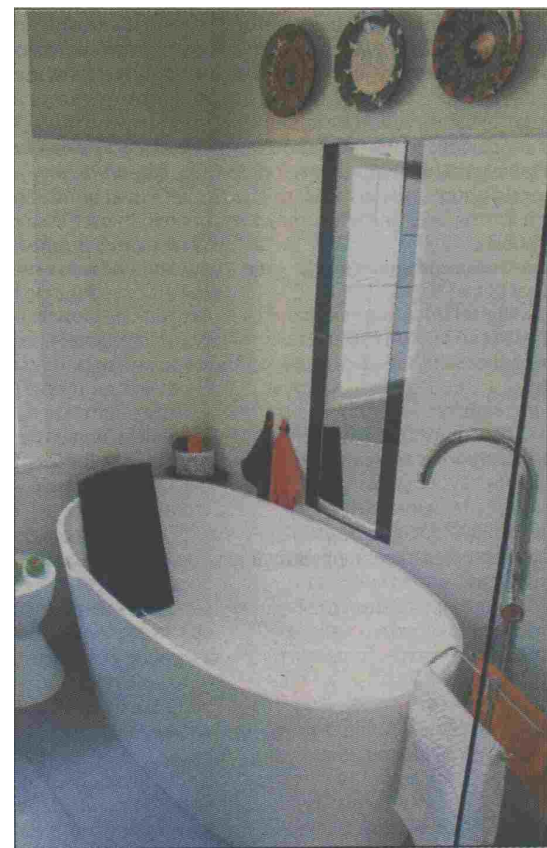
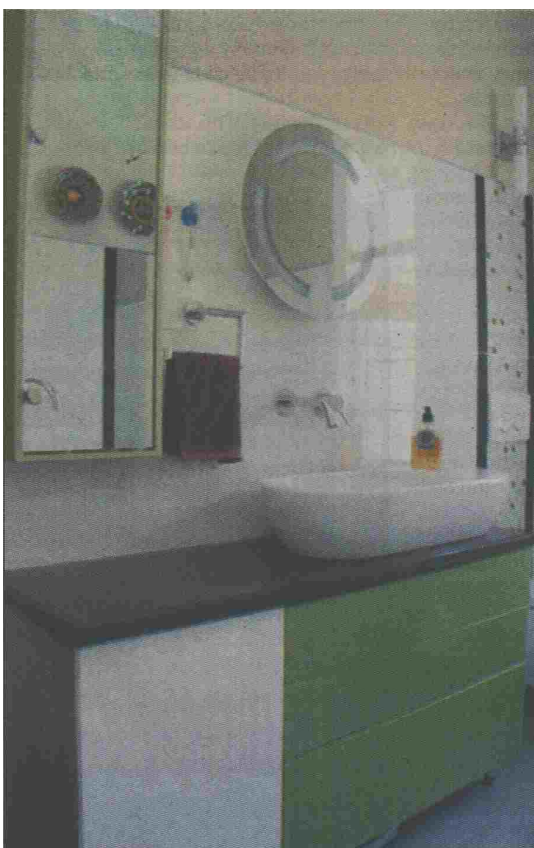
The dining room is a robust red – a deliberate move to create contrast and avoid the monotony of similar shades.

In the hallway, what was once an old doorway is used as a recess for a bookshelf, while separate bathrooms were knocked down to create one large neutral-coloured bathroom.

Overall, Chadrou’s home is proof that you need not be minimalistic to create spaciousness and that colour – even bright colour – carried through from one space to the next can create flow.



In the kitchen, a vast array of colour and surfaces are made harmonious through scale and proportion.



The small bathroom appears spacious thanks to neutral colours and custom-size cupboards.