



The entrance level of Ross Douglas's Johannesburg apartment is lit by an Arc lamp by Liam Mooney ([liammooney.co.za](http://liammooney.co.za)). The carpet is from Paco (011-486-0542) and the print, 'Ponte City from Yeoville Ridge', is by Mikhael Subotzky and Patrick Waterhouse. The 1950s Swedish table is from Jeremy Stephen Antiques ([jeremystephenantiques.co.za](http://jeremystephenantiques.co.za)).



# CREATIVE

Cool, contemporary design and a tribute

HOUSE OF THE MONTH  
ART-ENTREPRENEUR'S HOME

# RECREATION

to South African artistry define the Milpark space of this art-industry leader

Text Sarah Buitendach Styling Leana Schoeman Photographs David Ross

**THIS PAGE** Scandinavian chairs, a Gregor Jenkin table ([gregorjenkin.com](http://gregorjenkin.com)) and a huge William Kentridge print, 'The Birdcatcher', give the dining space a clean-lined look. **OPPOSITE,** LEFT Conrad Botes's 'Medicine Cabinet', a wood-and-reverse-glass artwork, hangs on the bathroom wall. **RIGHT** The chaise longue in the bedroom is from Thabo's Antiques in Howick (033-330-2885). The photograph is by Mikhael Subotzky.



## HOUSE OF THE MONTH ART- ENTREPRENEUR'S HOME

**R**oss Douglas is the visionary responsible for bringing the best of local art to thousands of South Africans, so it's no surprise that his own home is filled with the stuff that enthusiasts of the artistic kind dream of. But it's also a home that would make anyone who hankers after an abode with comfortable couches, huge patches of sunlight and a gentle through-breeze rather envious too. Ross is the founder and director of Artlogic, the company responsible for the Joburg Art Fair, the massive art event that takes place a week before Easter each year, and the Spring Art Tour, which launched last year. It's a job that exists well beyond the boundaries of nine to five, so it makes sense that his Milpark, Johannesburg apartment happens to be directly above his office.

'I bought an old industrial building and added two floors to it, with the intention of working in the bottom two levels of the space,' explains Ross. With the help of architect Bryan Dunstan, he set about overhauling the entire complex. The renovations included installing floor-to-ceiling glass sliding doors on two sides of the building and an impressive wood-and-metal staircase. And although Ross might observe that there are 'still things to do', what exists already is a series of three open-plan levels suffused with light.

As Ross notes, 'I tried to make the build as eco-conscious as possible.' Rehabilitating an existing building automatically lessened the footprint of the build, but he also took various initiatives to ensure that the house has a low energy component. 'The windows are double-glazed, I use low-wattage lights, there are solar panels on the roof and even our kettle runs on gas,' he says. No electricity is used to heat or cool the house – it simply powers lights.

'When it comes to the Art Fair we're very interested in the collaboration of art and industry, and this year the overlap with design will have an even bigger part to play,' he says. This overlap is true of his home too. His lounge, a real retreat, is filled with designer furniture such as the Tonic-designed couch on which he loves to recline with a good book. The couch is perfectly offset by a rug from Paco and a dining-room table by Gregor Jenkin.

This central entertainment area opens onto the kitchen. 'I enjoy cooking and reading about food,' says Ross. This would explain his impressive collection of recipe books and lovely Le Creuset pots assembled on a kitchen island. Ross had it made from old yellowwood that he bought from the classifieds and a stone slab that he got from his friend, architect Hugh Fraser. Of course, this open-plan lounge and kitchen is peppered with local pieces of art. Robert Hodgins' primary-coloured works hang near a piece by John Muafangejo, and a glass wall featuring art by Willem Boshoff, dividing the lounge from the stairwell, is about to be installed.

Upstairs, the open-plan bedroom and bathroom is a peaceful area. A raised wooden platform demarcates the bathroom, which spans the length of the building. The bedroom is dotted with works by local artists – there's a beautiful Billie Zangewa silk image above the bed and a striking Mikhael Subotzky photographic print offset by a black wall. Ross's long, retro bedside pieces play host to a Walter Battiss print, old family photographs and loads of books. 'I like to think,' says Ross, glancing around the space, 'that I've built a house that is both contemporary and very South African!' We couldn't agree more. ☐

**Artlogic, 011-482-4459, [joburgartfair.co.za](http://joburgartfair.co.za)**





**THIS PAGE** Ross designed the kitchen island and the bookshelves. 'Night Patrol, New York' (left of the bookshelves) is by SA artist Robert Hodgins; on the floor are a William Kentridge drawing and 'Interrogation' by Robert Hodgins. 'Untitled' by John Muafangejo hangs on the right. **OPPOSITE** Ross in his lounge, which features a couch from Tonic ([tonicdesign.co.za](http://tonicdesign.co.za)), Charles Ghost stools by Philippe Starck for Kartell at Twice International ([twice.com](http://twice.com)) and a cow sculpture by Joachim Schönfeldt.

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## ROSS'S HOME TRUTHS

**What I love most about Jo'burg** is the Zoo Lake swimming pool at 7am every weekday in summer. **My absolute favourite spot in my apartment** is the sofa in the late afternoon. **I love to hate** Tuscan splendour' townhouses in Jo'burg. Enough is enough! **The luxury items I can't live without** are my Paul Smith work shirts. **I don't have a favourite building** but my dream is to build a carbon-neutral beach cottage at Eland's Bay on the West Coast. **My most memorable meal** was the rabbit stew my girlfriend's grandparents cooked in the French Alps last Christmas holiday. **I'll always welcome for dinner** any CEO who wants to sponsor art! **My secret talent** is making a good bouillabaisse. **My all-time favourite holiday destination** is Berlin. **The artworks I've got my eye on** at the moment are Daniel Naudé's photos of African hunting dogs. **My top tip for buying art** is to spend time at the Joburg Art Fair.

**THIS PAGE, TOP** Ross bought the carpet for his bedroom at last year's Southern Guild exhibition at the Joburg Art Fair. It was made by Paco and features a painting by Albert Redelinghuys. The artwork above the bed, 'Untitled', is by Billie Zangewa; 'Bird Foot' by Walter Battiss perches on the bedside table. **LEFT** Ross with some of the 12 'Serial Killer' granite blocks by Willem Boshoff. **OPPOSITE** The open-plan bathroom with its floor-to-ceiling glass doors looks out onto a thicket of trees, even though the apartment is in the middle of urban Milpark.

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