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This house clearly illustrates how contemporary architecture can coexist with indigenous vegetation.

## Naturally Integrated

Location: Zimbali Coastal Estate, KZN | property developer: Extra Dimensions Property Group | interior design: Extra Dimensions Property Group | interior décor: Olàlà! Interiors | photography: Grant Pitcher

This recently completed build at the Zimbali Coastal Estate in KwaZulu-Natal is set on a site of approximately 1 800 square metres of dense forest; the built structure totalling 500 square metres. The brief was to design and construct a contemporary family home within the richly foliated forest and in doing so create a synergy of nature and architecture.

Says the architects: 'We approached the surrounding natural forest with great caution prior to the construction phase. Our plan from the outset was to use large glass openings, slot windows and slab cantilevers, which project out right into the forest. Many elements of the home were specifically designed to accommodate specific large trees

that became focal points, which integrated and pushed through slab elements – even touching parts of the exterior.

'There were no major problems in achieving this other than being alert to the fact that none of the trees were taking strain during the construction process.'





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Interior architecture compliments the exterior signature lighting is subtle yet effective.

The interior scheme throughout could be seen as a concession to barefoot luxury, one which illustrates open plan, multipurpose areas used to advantage. Materials a wide use of Caesarstone: elements which - incorporated throughout the interiors - succeed in creating a relaxed and spacious ambience. And yet the essence of the project was to craft the signature while retaining a luxurious environment with state-of-the art home automation and technology.

The architect / developer's summary of the result is succinct: 'Our goal was to create a masterpiece one-of-a-kind home set in an untouched sanctuary of historically located, uninterrupted natural surroundings.'



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Views to the exterior are well considered and mirrors add space and reflected light. This includes the master bathroom.

#### EDITORS NOTE

The interior portfolio here includes signature pieces from the collection of Tom Dixon, a self-taught British designer whose rose to prominence in the mid- 1980s as 'the talented untrained designer with a line in welded salvage furniture'. He set up Space, as a creative think-tank and shop front for himself and other young designers and by the late '80s was working for the Italian giant Cappellini for whom he designed the iconic 'S' chair.

In the 1990s, Dixon became a household name with 'Jack', his polythylene 'sitting, stacking, lighting thing' designed for his own company Eurolounge: and in 1993 he participated in the 'greatest exhibition of British furniture design of the 20th century' in Bremerhaven, Germany.

By 2002 Dixon established his own brand under the name Tom Dixon. The company is based in Portobello, London and in 2004 Proventus, the Swedish-based private investment company, teamed up with Tom Dixon to establish Design Research, a design and product development holding company.

The Tom Dixon brand launches new collections of lighting and furniture bi-annually at the Milan International Furniture Fair and at London Design Festival. In 2012 the company launched its first accessories range at Maison et Objet, Paris: Tom Dixon products are sold internationally in 65 countries: in South Africa they are available from Crema Design Cape Town.