



A modern approach 2 style interior space

Alida Lambooy- simple changes and additions can make a huge difference

A lida Lambooy, owner of interior design company Living Divani was one of Sanlam's next generation Style Shapers at the recent Decorex exhibition held at Gallagher Estate. KBB Design chatted to her about the company, designing for a wide range of applications, and the need to use space optimally.

The company

Lambooy says Living Divani is a young and dynamic interior design and décor company, boasting an impressive portfolio. "We offer a complete design service with a fresh and modern approach to improve, reinterpret or style interior spaces," she says.

The company handles each design and décor project with passion, commitment, creativity and absolute professionalism. Lambooy says they work closely with the client to design and decorate interiors according to their lifestyle and budget.

"The designers at Living Divani use the principles of good design, high quality and value for money, to turn the design vision into reality, mastering a skilful blend of styles and items to the client's specifications," Lambooy explains.

This will be a step-by-step process that will take the client from formulating their vision and developing their own personal style to outline the priorities when considering each room.

"Only then do we start designing for the client's spatial needs. We believe that the basis for planning a home must always be comfort, well-being and pleasure of those who will live in it. Our aim is to provide our clients with an interior that is balanced – beautiful and functional, contemporary and timeless, simple and creative, sensual and practical – with a character that complements their own. Their home should be a visual delight, a haven of cool elegance and warm harmonies," Lambooy comments

The services Living Divani offers

“During the initial briefing, we aim to establish exactly what has to be done and what services should be provided. We encourage our clients to contribute their décor and design ideas. Ultimately, the design and decoration of their house should reflect their needs and personality. Our clients should feel entirely happy and comfortable in your surroundings,” Lambooy says.

The company then conducts a survey of the room or house, making a detailed analysis of every aspect of the space discussed in the brief. A floor plan is also drawn, to provide the designers with a basis from which to work out a design solution. Design solutions are also presented to the clients.

Depending on the needs of the client, Living Divani can provide assistance with space planning, electrical planning and lay-outs, lighting planning and lay-outs, floor planning and lay-outs, and ceiling detail lay-outs.

“Interior design and decorating involves choosing materials and finishes for floors, walls, and ceilings from amongst thousand possibilities. Decisions about cupboards, plumbing fixtures, and lighting fixtures are also part of the selection process. With the vast selection of products available on the market, it is difficult to keep up with the latest trends and ranges. The large variety of materials and finishes can make these choices quite a daunting task to do on your own!” Lambooy says.

She points out that because furniture is a major component of interior design, the choice of furniture will be a very important part of each project. Selecting furniture also involves choosing fabrics for upholstered pieces, which in turn requires looking through fabric books in furniture showrooms, or visiting fabric showrooms.

Portfolio

“Although specializing in residential interiors, corporate and hospitality projects also form part of our extensive portfolio,” Lambooy says. As Living Divani’s offices are in the hub of design-conscious Johannesburg, this is where most of their work is done.

“However, we have the expertise and infrastructure to handle any design and décor project, anywhere in South Africa and Botswana,” Lambooy points out. Projects include several up-market residential projects, with design and décor styles as diverse as contemporary, Tuscan, French Classical and Natural-Eco.

Working on a budget:

“At Living Divani we believe that developing the budget should be a partnership between us and the



client. The client should take an active role, and be honest with us about their budget. As professional designers we will assess their needs and help them to determine where to spend and where to save, prioritizing expenses while creating an interior that is within budget,” Lambooy explains. She says that it also should be kept in mind that not everything has to be completed at once.

“We can develop a long-term plan, consulting with the client to establish a list of priorities, starting with rooms that need attention first, and determine a time line for accomplishing the entire project. Working within the constraints of the budget, Living Divani will draw up a scheme that expresses their personal style and meets individual requirements, while at the same time helping to avoid costly errors by making wise purchases that fit the client’s framework,” she explains.

“So often, simple changes and additions can make a huge difference. A room can be transformed with the impactful use of colour, rearrangement of existing furniture, the introduction of atmospheric lighting or mirrors, clever and creative choice of window treatments, accessories, cushions and throws, none of which need cost the earth,” Lambooy concludes.

Furniture is a major component of interior design

For more information contact Alida Lambooy at Living Divani Tel: 011 452 7043 ♦