

WHO LIVES HERE?

Kim and Brendan Black

WHERE Kommetjie, Cape Peninsula

SIZE 450m²



Paint colour

Plascon Sulphur Burst

The entrance is a welcoming space with a bright yellow wall and a quirky artwork that says "Honey, I'm Home".

A FEAST FOR the senses

Artist Kim Black opens her new home to us – and showcases a long-standing love affair with florals.

By Beatrice Moore-Nöthnagel

Photographs Karl Rogers/Vignette

Production Natalie Boruvka/Vignette



The brass chandelier in the dining area was painted with Tjhoko Paint Cloud White for a more contemporary look and to avoid having to polish it regularly.



As you enter the quaint seaside village of Kommetjie, kite surfers welcome you on the horizon. After all, this coastline is a world-renowned surfing hot spot. Kim Black and her family moved here from nearby Fish Hoek in 2021, and Brendan and their son Adam regularly surf at the famous Long Beach.

Kim, an artist who describes their house in Klein Slangkop Estate as a family home with her adult children Adam (28), Isabella (25) and Olivia (21) visiting every weekend, says nature and indigenous fynbos serve as inspiration. And the bright green front door (see page 19) is evidence of this.

The paint colour, specially mixed for her by Paint & Décor, is aptly named Kim's Green. "I love the surroundings here and

this environment inspired our green front door," she says.

This is just a hint of what is to come. Inside, a passage boasts a warm welcoming yellow. "When we moved in, it was such a dark space; I wanted people to feel happy, as if greeted by a ray of sunshine," says Kim. "Soon after we painted the walls yellow, Brendan realised we could put in a skylight and now there's an extra burst of sunlight to welcome us daily!"

The Blacks are the second family to live in the house; builder Graham Anderson and his family lived here first after he constructed the home about 23 years ago. The only major change the Blacks made when they moved in was to build a deck in the front garden with grasses planted around it – a low-maintenance addition to their home. >>

The brass chandelier in the living room was painted with Tjhoko Paint Bright for a more modern touch. Plenty of pot plants bring the outdoors in and enhance a tranquil atmosphere.



The living room (left and opposite) was painted in the calming neutral Kooigoed from Paint & Décor. Kim also painted over the brick fireplace (see opposite) as she wanted it to merge with the space. "The fireplace is an odd shape; to make it more streamlined, I had a canvas custom made to fit the wall and then painted a simple abstract floral to create a focal point."

This year, Kim has collaborated with online décor store Airloom and three of her paintings have been printed onto rugs – a wonderful way to add botanicals to your space. The gorgeous rug in the living room is one of Kim's creations called *Celebrating Paradise*.



Bring nature indoors, forever

Of course, Kim is no stranger to *Home* magazine. We've often showcased her beautiful floral room makeovers and paint projects – whether flowers painted on a fabric couch or a mural on dated wall tiles.

"My love affair with florals is a long one," says Kim. "I've always been drawn to the colour, freedom and complexity of their beauty. I believe all spaces should feature flowers, and why not some in the form of paintings on walls? This way, you can bring nature indoors forever! I'll never tire of working with florals as there are so many

varieties of botanicals and then, of course, a million different ways in which I can interpret them in paintings."

Friends and family are always complimentary when visiting Kim and Brendan's home. "I think the colours they encounter and the fully dressed walls add such interest to the various spaces," says Kim. "Visitors jokingly call our home The Art Hotel and the name has stuck. A friend of ours once told an Uber driver to key in "Art Hotel" as his destination, which didn't work... Luckily, they found their way here anyway," says Kim with a laugh. >>



The kitchen is the most neutral space in the house, balancing the colour and interest of the adjacent rooms. Pops of green on white and lots of plants give it a fresh feel. However, a complete overhaul is on the cards.



Kim is an avid collector of coloured glassware and antique cutlery.



The TV lounge boasts three shades of pink: Paint & Décor Daydream on the top section of the wall, Paint & Décor Wildflowers at the bottom and Pop Paint Flamingo on the dado rail.



Balancing colours in a room is almost like painting an artwork. I look at a space as a canvas then work with shades and textures to create harmony with a spark of fun for a beautiful, relaxed and welcoming space. – Kim



Double up

The Blacks' home, especially the dining room and art studio, often doubles up as a function venue. The family recently hosted their daughter Isabella's wedding here and Kim's studio was set up as the 'dessert room' with paintings on the walls, candles, a large floral installation hanging from the ceiling, and a spread of delicious treats.

"It all worked together beautifully," says the proud mother of the bride. "I love that a home can be used not only as a safe space in which a family can grow, but also as a space to inspire others and make them feel cherished."

Every year during Open Studios Kommetjie held in the first week of December, the family opens the dining room and studio to showcase Kim's art. "It's an inviting way in which people can view artworks in a home setting and it helps visitors to better understand how to position artwork in their own homes," explains Kim.

With glass doors that open to the outdoors and the rest of the home, this space is ideal. "I love the drama of being able to create an event here on special occasions – it's great fun changing up tablecloths, arranging table settings, adding fairy lights and so on. Sharing a meal with friends and family, for example, is such a special way to catch up and bond."

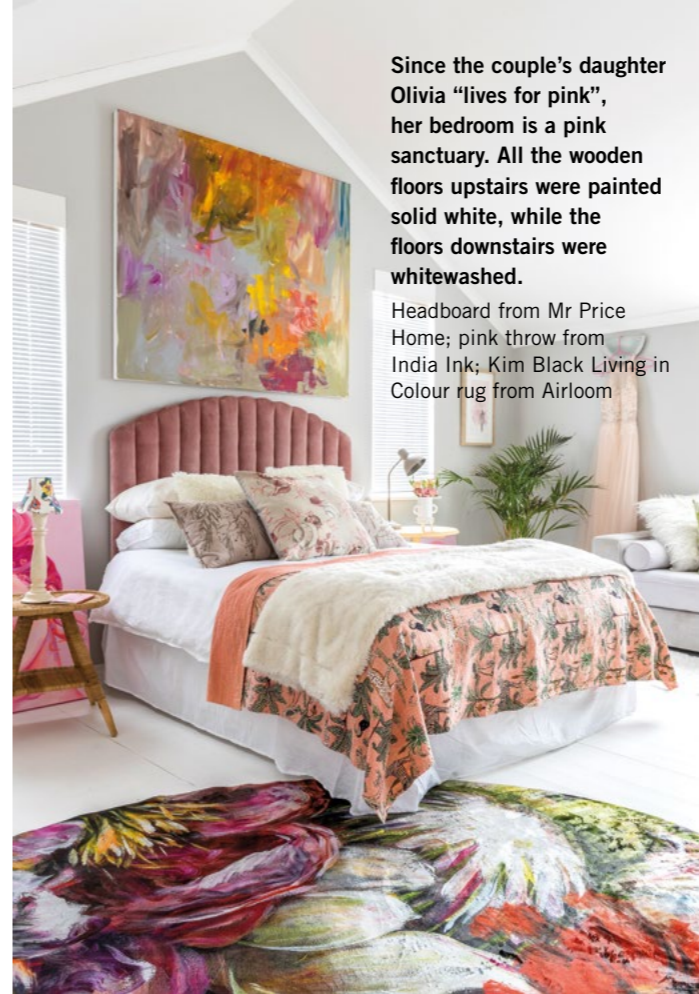
Kim isn't swayed by trends or specific styles – and her décor is a feast for the eyes. "It's about a way of living that evolves with the changing seasons; we showcase things we love or have collected over the years," she says. "I tend to keep larger items more neutral – but I do have mustard-coloured linen curtains in my TV lounge, which I adore! I'm naturally drawn to warm colours, and I like to use blues and greens as accents." >>



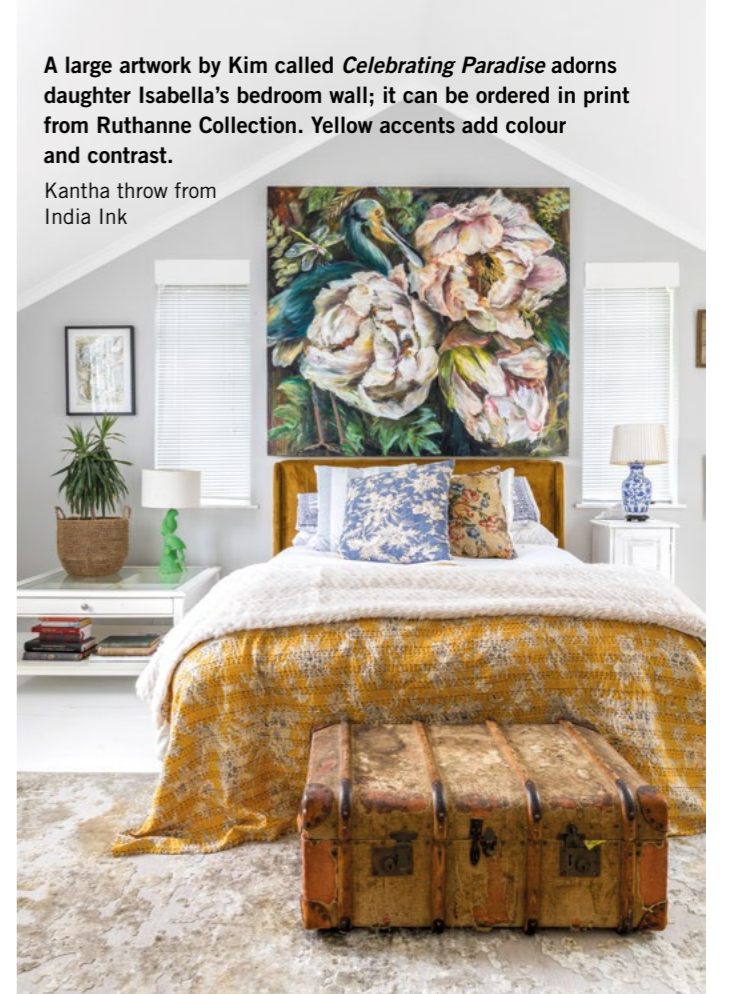
Kim likes to sit with Brendan in his study during loadshedding as it has good WiFi!



Although the bathrooms will be revamped in the future, Kim and Brendan have tentatively created a more modern look in the bathroom off the main bedroom by removing the shower door and adding a grass mat, plants and a large painting in greens above the bath.



Since the couple's daughter Olivia "lives for pink", her bedroom is a pink sanctuary. All the wooden floors upstairs were painted solid white, while the floors downstairs were whitewashed. Headboard from Mr Price Home; pink throw from India Ink; Kim Black Living in Colour rug from Airloom



A large artwork by Kim called *Celebrating Paradise* adorns daughter Isabella's bedroom wall; it can be ordered in print from Ruthanne Collection. Yellow accents add colour and contrast. Kantha throw from India Ink



The stoop with its abundance of hanging and potted plants has a lovely view of the garden and swimming pool.

KIM'S TIPS FOR DISPLAYING ART IN THE HOME

- A blank wall is a dead end, but an artwork is another portal; go as large as you can with your pieces.
- When displaying a grouping of artworks and collections on a wall, choose something that unifies them: either use the same frames or a similar palette, or even the same subject matter.
- Think out of the box when displaying artworks. It doesn't always have to be expensive or original art: think prints, plates, beautiful fabric and other interesting objects. The artwork at the entrance to our home (see page 18) is a simple white canvas on which I wrote in black: "Honey, I'm Home". It cost hardly anything!
- Even black-and-white photographs grouped together on a colourful wall will create a punchy look.
- Choosing colours for your home should be an intuitive process. Another person's favourite might not have the same effect on you. Use the colours you're drawn to and those that make you feel good.
- Take your ceilings into account: they don't have to be white and painted walls can extend overhead.
- The floor is considered the fifth wall in a room and should not be overlooked; use layered rugs to add interest. 🏠

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 Tjhoko Paint tjhokopaint.co.za



Kim painted a tropical scene over the guest loo's dated wall tiles.



An abstract painting above the bed in the main bedroom creates an elevated sense of height, while green accents in the cushions and a delightful chartreuse chair provide a pop of colour.