

HOUSE AND LEISURE

STYLISH SA AT HOME AND PLAY

COVER STORY: 'GARDEN OF EDEN', PAGE 46

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**FUTURE
FABULOUS**

Your 12-page trend
forecast for 2009

**GLAM
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HL's Cape Town
party-season
planner

EXCLUSIVE

THE MOST AMAZING
RENOVATION IN SA

**IT'S
FRESH!**
112 PAGES
OF NEW-LOOK
NEW YEAR
INSPIRATION



A new year is a great time for a change, whether big or small. In the case of *HL*, we've undergone a subtle makeover rather than a radical renovation. After all, what's not to love about a magazine that has filled us with hope and pride for 15 years?

So, with our heart firmly in the same place, this issue of *HL* represents our new-found confidence in the role we've played as the authority on 'Stylish SA at home and play' – our bold new tagline! And then there are our spacious new pages, the magazine equivalent of higher ceilings and larger rooms.

For some time now, the team and I have been yearning for bigger pages to allow us to make the most of our enticing shopping, homes, travel and food features. We hope you'll agree that our new format allows us to do just that. You'll also discover some exciting new pages, such as Trend scoop (page 19), Beauty spot (page 22), Dream ticket (page 27), Retail therapy (page 28), Style snoop (page 34), Art smart (page 40) and – in our expanded leisure section, *HL* at play – Taste shaper (page 111), What to drink with ... (page 112) and Three ways with ... (page 115).

Unlike the new-look *House and Leisure*, this issue's House of the Month is the product of an extreme makeover. I couldn't resist publishing the before pics of this poky 1960s bungalow. Owner Alex Van Nes and interior designer Kate Moffatt have transformed it into the panoramic tree house you see on our cover. We defy you not to be amazed by the contrast (see the final masterpiece, 'Garden of Eden', on page 60).

Our much-anticipated annual trend report also takes a look on the bright side of change (see 'Happy New Year!' on page 42).

So here's to tweaks and transformations, new beginnings and a happy new year!



Lianne
Lianne Burton, Editor

AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



EXTREME MAKEOVER, our House of the Month, 'Garden of Eden' (page 60)

OUT AND ABOUT



What Tonic Design Studio's summer launch. **Why** To give Jozi's in crowd an opportunity to ooh and aah over the showroom's new Mediterranean-inspired look and get into the summer mood. **The buzz** Guests enjoyed Bombay Sapphire gin and tonics, admired Daniel Snyders' photography and turned the pavement at Parktown Quarter into party central.

The Scoop Anthony Keyworth (of Paul Smith and Antanna fame) showed off his mixing skills as DJ for the evening, fashion designer Tiaan Nagel chatted excitedly about his new store, sharp fringes and short hemlines abounded and dedicated revellers headed to The Woods (formally Fuel Café) in Newtown to dance into the early hours of the morning. *HL* bureau chief, Sarah Buitendach, was snapped with Philippe van der Merwe and Greg Gamble of Tonic Design Studio.



Where Promosedia 2008 – 32nd International Chair Exhibition, in Udine, Italy. **Who** Chair designers and retailers, journalists and seating-enthusiasts explored 1 500m² of the very latest in residential and contract seating, and great Italian design. **While you're there** Visit the Palazzo Patriarcale for truly awe-inspiring frescoes by Venetian painter Giambattista Tiepolo; and make sure you pop in to one of Udine's chic cafés (with designer seating, of course) for a Spritz Aperol – white wine, soda water, and a dash of a bitter orange aperitif – the drink of choice of the super-cool set. **The Scoop** *HL*'s deputy editor, Elaine Coaton Eksteen, got to meet prize winner Tomás Alonso (turn to page 38 to find out more about what he had to say), and gathered ideas for our trend forecast. ☺

Production: Julia Stadler Photographs: Martin Hehn, Micky Hoyle, courtesy of Tonic Design Studio (top and middle); Tarmain Fick/Behne

WHAT'S NEW

By design

HL experienced Italy's love for designer furniture first-hand at Promosedia 2008, and chatted to rising star Tomás Alonso

Italians are known for being passionate – about food, family, football and ... good design. Visit Udine, near Venice, for annual chair exhibition Promosedia, as we did late last year, and you'll be knocked off your feet by the country's enthusiasm for seating. Here, there's no shortage of landing space for your tush! With more than 100 exhibitors – including the likes of Moroso, Calligaris and Pedrali – this is *the* trade fair for chair-lovers.

Various accolades are awarded at the exhibition: Odoardo Fioravanti's Frida chair for Pedrali won Residential Chair of the Year in the Top Ten Award; while the Caiazza Memorial Challenge 2008, for designers under 40, was awarded to Spanish-born product designer Tomás Alonso. His Nube chair (pictured), which beat 300 entries from across the globe, is a contemporary interpretation of the steam bentwood technique.

At 12 Tomás was already sketching cars and submitting his designs to vehicle manufacturers – so impressed was Peugeot that he was treated to a factory tour. Today Tomás, now 35, is part of Okay Studio – a London-based design collective set up by him and five other 2006 graduates of the Royal College of Art (from which he has a masters in product design). His work has been showcased in major design exhibitions across Europe.

We caught up with Tomás at Promosedia 2008. Here's what he had to say about travel, trends and green design.

Designers you admire? Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec – I like the way they balance honest design and poetic ideas. **Place you'd most like to visit?** Brazil. My dad lived there for 12 years, and I was conceived there. **What's your take on green design?** A lot of it is gimmicky, and is pegged on clever marketing. I prefer to make things that last – in my opinion this is true ecofriendly design. **Trends for 2009?** Design as art ... but I'd love to see this evolve into there being funding for design for design's sake. **Material of choice?** Wood. **Iconic design piece?** Achille Castiglioni and Pio Manzù's Parenthesis light. I'm impressed by its purity. The properties of just a few necessary components create something so simple yet so clever. **Design mistakes?** I once made an espresso machine from a steam iron for an assignment. I should have used a better quality iron – it didn't get to produce much coffee before the element blew! **Favourite places to spend an afternoon?** London's Tate Modern; Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford (reopening mid 2009); and designers' studios – Castiglioni's studio in Milan is now open to the public. □ **Turn to page 53 to see Green Room, another of Tomás' designs.** promosedia.it; tomas-alonso.com; okaystudio.org.





60 Plants as decor

Got a lonely corner in your living room? Choose a sculptural plant instead of an occasional table – and make a feature of it. We think Spanish designer Tomás Alonso's Green Room (tomas-alonso.com), a clever system of terracotta pots and tent poles for Teracrea, is right on trend! (Turn to page 38 for our interview with Tomás.) □