



AT A GLANCE

THE ARCHITECT:
Donovan Gottsmann of Gottsmann Architects.

THE HOMEOWNER:
Gary Austin.

THE BRIEF:
A simple, yet inviting design with a practical layout in a style appropriate to the surrounding estate.

THE HOUSE: A modern farmhouse with four bedrooms, three bathrooms, an open-plan TV room, living room and dining area, and a deck and swimming pool. The compact kitchen has a separate scullery.



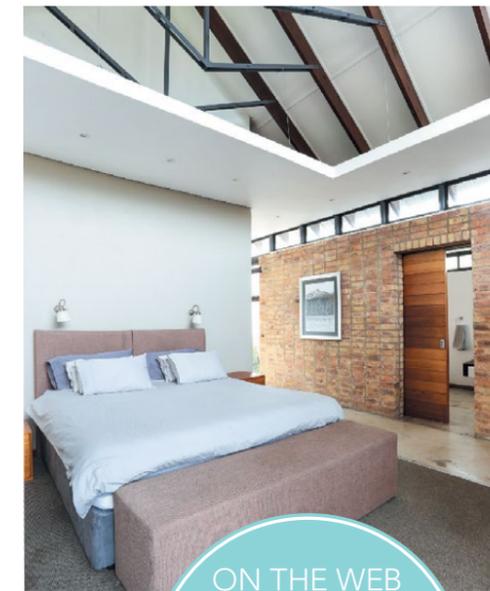
Best of both
WORLDS

Set in a lakeside estate near Benoni, this home combines contemporary elements with farmhouse style to work within a South African context

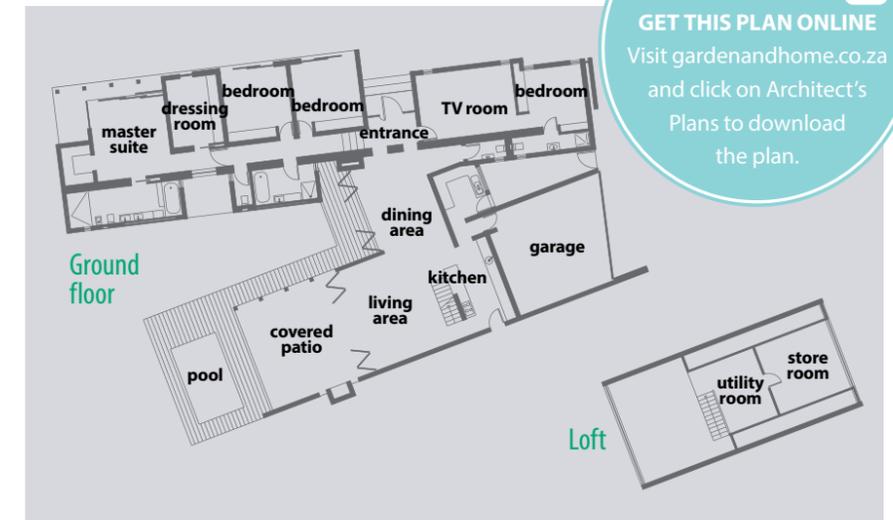
Wanting to build more than just a spec house on the stand he'd bought at Ebotse Golf and Country Estate in Benoni, the developer approached Jo'burg-based architect Donovan Gottsmann. "He asked me to design a simple, practical home with interesting textures that would showcase the estate's potential," explains Donovan. The design had to be eye-catching and contemporary, but still appropriate for South Africa.

TEXT DINA VENTER PHOTOGRAPHS HEMA PATEL AND ANDREA CALDWELL

GARDEN AND HOME



ON THE WEB
GET THIS PLAN ONLINE
Visit gardenandhome.co.za and click on Architect's Plans to download the plan.



and overlooking the private garden is an undercover patio, and a pool surrounded by timber decking.

In a nod to the setting, Donovan opted for a farmhouse vernacular incorporating contemporary elements. The floor plan is based on two rectangles placed on converging axes. "The northern axis, comprising mainly bedrooms, runs along the street frontage, while the second axis, along the back of the stand, is made up of living and entertaining areas," explains Donovan. The result is a large, private space for hosting guests, and airy bedrooms, which take advantage of the natural light through north-facing clerestory windows.

Forming an extension of the house

Although there's plenty of space, the 430m² home is compact and there's a natural flow between social areas – an aspect that appealed to owner Gary Austin. "I love the fact that both the dining and living rooms open onto the patio with stacking doors. The rooms almost wrap around the garden, and because of the positioning, the entertaining area feels very private," he says.

To strike a balance between the

comfort of farmhouse style and contemporary living, Donovan combined steel and concrete features with natural materials such as wood, plaster and face brick. Sliding timber screens on the exterior give the street-facing rooms privacy and security and create visual interest. "Because I travel a lot for work, I wanted a practical, compact home that could function as a lock-up-and-go, and this house meets my needs perfectly. Donovan did a brilliant job creating spaces conducive to relaxing and entertaining on weekends," says Gary. **GH**

SOURCES Ebotse Estate ebotse.com **Gottsmann Architects** gottsmann.co.za