

## HOT DECOR & DESIGN



### CHERAL KENNEDY

of landscaping company Living Matter gives us the heads-up on the latest trends in her discipline.

#### *Q The most important factors to consider when designing outdoor spaces?*

I'd say it would have to be the ratio of hardscaping to softscaping aspects. There should be a good balance between the two. Hardscaping elements should work with and frame softscaping areas, while the softscaping elements should complement and soften the harder lines and structures. Neither one should overpower the other. A good balance ensures an aesthetically pleasing, synergetic composition.

#### *Q Some of your favourite landscape design trends?*

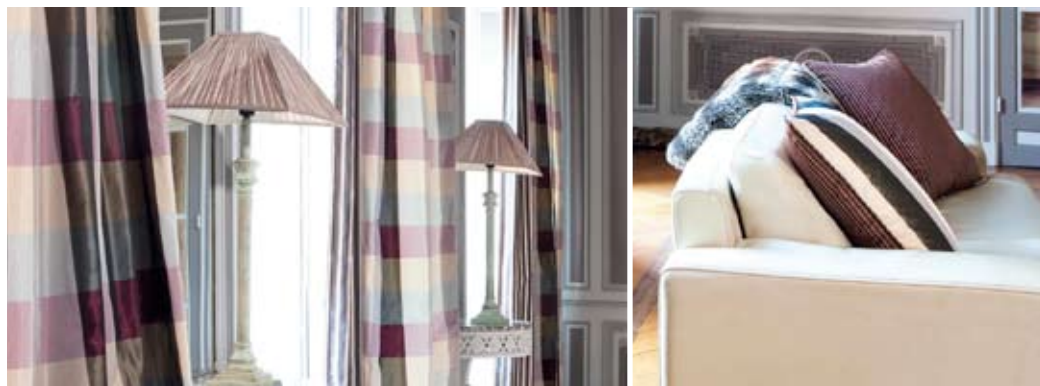
I am enthralled by the general trend towards green living. One of the latest landscaping trends is to upcycle – for example, Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden currently has a garden wall of planter holders made entirely out of old 2L plastic bottles; the plants hide the containers and create a pleasant green wall. I am also still very fond of the straight lines of a contemporary garden and the use of natural materials and hues, with a bright splash of colour and a range of textured foliage to highlight and complement the outdoor living space.

#### *Q Five tips for designing one's own outdoor space?*

First, set a realistic budget and split it between hardscaping, softscaping and the aesthetic aspects to ensure you cover all requirements for a good landscape. Second, make sure you have good soil preparation, as this will allow your plants to live longer and be healthier. Third, ensure a good balance between hardscaping and softscaping aspects. Fourth, limit the use of different materials in the outdoor space to a maximum of three – too many different textures and colours will decrease the aesthetic value of the area. And fifth, it is important that you do your research and ask for advice when selecting the plants you want to use in the area.

+27 (0)82 825 0982, [livingmatter.co.za](http://livingmatter.co.za)

*Make your home your canvas this season.*



### *Eco style*

Home Fabrics has launched six new collections, Alchemy, Breeze, Hardrock, Kyoto, Taffy and Velvet Fever, which are certified under the Oeko-Tex Standard 100. This green standard guarantees that the fabrics don't contain prohibited or regulated substances or harmful chemicals and that all production processes meet environmental standards. The collections are decidedly gorgeous, too.

+27 (0)21 425 8287, [homefabrics.co.za](http://homefabrics.co.za)



### *Hooked on Rhubarb*

Having recently relocated to the design hub of upper Bree Street, the Rhubarb Room is French Provençal decor heaven. It stocks everything from furniture and clothing to natural body products and soft furnishings that all have that certain *je ne sais quoi*. Rhubarb Room's new range of furniture includes sofas, tables, lighting, mirrors and accessories in a baroque style mixed with modern elements. +27 (0)21 424 2004, [rhubarbroom.co.za](http://rhubarbroom.co.za)

### *Scatter brains*

Shown at this year's SA Handmade Collection at Decorex Joburg is a selection of new products by leading craft producers and designers associated with the Cape Craft and Design Institute (CCDI). The CCDI was set up in 2001 to assist creatives in building profitable enterprises with quality-crafted products for global markets. We are particularly fond of these scatter cushions by Fabricnation (below) and Veldt (above), respectively. +27 (0)21 461 1488, [capecraftanddesign.org.za](http://capecraftanddesign.org.za)

