



Portfolio

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My Story

Throughout my career journey I have always gravitated towards the design and creative fields. A large portion of my career was spent in the fashion and textile industry. This allowed me to nurture my creativity and developed my project management skills. I also discovered love for fabric and furthered my knowledge of textiles and printing.

I studied Interior Decorating at night while working with my husband in his events business in 2018 and like most people in 2020 Covid turned our world upside down. In the space of two years we were forced to close our business, relocate to the Western Cape and start again.

Although it was a very difficult time and through a lot of introspection I decided to take the plunge and follow my passion which is how Tidswell Interiors was formed. My design philosophy is aimed at beautiful spaces that are practical and fit the needs of the client.

Our services include:

- Concept Boards
- Space Planning
- Installations
- Upholstery
- Headboards
- Indoor / Outdoor Furniture
- Wallpaper
- Area rugs & Runners
- Flooring (carpets, engineered wood, vinyl etc)
- Window Treatments (curtains, blinds, shutters etc)
- Scatters
- Decor
- Mirrors
- Linen & Towels
- Inners (pillows & duvets)
- Kitchenware (appliances, crockery, cutlery, glassware etc)



Project: Island cafe | The Turbine Hotel & Spa | June 2025 (Before)



Project: Island cafe | The Turbine Hotel & Spa | June 2025

I was first approached about this project in November 2024. It culminated in 8 months of careful planning. I searched for the right craftsman who could help me bring my vision into reality. The brief was to execute the refurbishment of Island Cafe. Additionally, it involved replacing all the screeded flooring on the ground floor level. We had to execute this installation between the 2nd June – 18th June 2025.

There were a few issues with the previous design. We needed to address these issues to make the guest experience more enjoyable. The front dinning area was lacking warmth especially for evening meals. The client wanted it to be more inviting so that guest would feel more inclined to book for dinner. We took what was especially a white room and cladded the full length of the wall with wooden paneling. This was to help combat sound and make it cosier. The wooden acoustic panels were treated with fire retardency spray before installation. This treatment was done to facilitate the hotel's strict health and safety protocol. The furniture was old and needed to be replaced. We changed the tables to solid wooden tops to make it more luxurious. We also replaced the legs of the tables with a steel base. This change allows for more leg room. We replaced the old chairs with new, modern chairs. I wanted the Turbines in the restaurant to be more visible. I chose to tone down the old colour palette to more neutral tones to make the Turbines the hero. I redesigned the booth seating to have one continuous seat cushion. This ensures no-one has to sit on the midline joint of the two booths. I changed the backrest to fluted panels to also make the join of the two booth less visible. We replace the fireplaces with sleek, narrower models that did not take up so much floor space. I chose to tile behind the fireplaces to accommodate the heat transfer for safety. The pendants were replaced to a modern drum style. The old, rusted floor fans were removed. They were replaced with four ceiling fans. These ceiling fans combat the heat in summer. They also help circulate the warm air from the fireplaces in winter.

The arrivals area for the restaurant was problematic. The doors needed to remain open to make it easier for guest on arrival. This, however, made it very cold, especially on bad weather days. We removed the existing doors to remedy this issue. We replaced them with doors that are automated on arrival. They need to be activated with a "No Touch" button on exit. This has resulted in the doors remaining closed and only opening when necessary. We also created a glass, paneled screen opposite the doors to add an additional buffet for the cold and wind. We have placed frosted vinyl branding on the glass panels. These are visible to the guests arriving at the restaurant. A new reception counter was created to help the staff greet the guests and streamline service. We replaced the existing furniture with new cocktail style tables and a four-seater dining "lounge". The bench was design to look like a couch but with the support of a dining chair. I also designed a privacy screen to keep the waiters service area out of the view of guests. The services bar was fully revamped. It now has new cabinets, floating shelves, and new counter tops. A redesigned bulkhead allows for more lighting. We cladded the bulkhead with the wooden acoustic panels to help the sound issue from the coffee machines. The front counter was cleared of appliances to help open up the space and create a better flow for service. We covered the wall opposite the service bar with wooden acoustic panels. This helps to buffer the sound from the bar.

We applied a beautiful new geometric wallpaper to create a more relaxed ambiance. We replace all the dining tables and chairs. We chose to upholster these in outdoor fabric and this area is exposed to a lot of direct sunlight. We reupholstered all the exiting lounge furniture. This was done to compliment the colour story. We also replaced all the scatter cushions to complete the fresh, new look.

I created an installation above the lounge area. I used Malawian pendants and green fern balls to make it more inviting. The installation blocks some of the direct light from the skylights. This light was damaging the furniture and making the guests uncomfortable. It created the wow factor we were looking for.

For the upper turbine mezzanine area we replaced the furniture. I use new tables and ghost chairs to create the illusion of more space. We covered the recess with wooden acoustic panels. A neon light – "Captain's Deck" – was placed on it to add lighting and ambiance. I also added additional lighting to make the space more inviting. The original stair case leading to the area was problematic. It had grid treads which made it difficult to navigate. We custom-made tread plates which fit perfectly onto the treads. We placed a non-slip coating on the plates for health & safety. We added strip lighting to treads to help with visibility.

In the lower turbine area, we replaced the furniture. I once more used ghost chairs. This helped with the illusion of space. We also did a recessed installation with green Astor turf which was sprayed with fire retardency. Then, we placed a fun neon sign – "The Generation Station" on it. This gave the area its own identity and honored the history of the turbines.

We professionally cleaned all the tiled flooring areas and replaced all the screed floors on the ground floor level. We created recesses in the floors at the front entrance. This helps with the traffic flow. It also protects the flooring at the kitchen doorways.

Project: Island cafe | The Turbine Hotel & Spa | June 2025 (After)

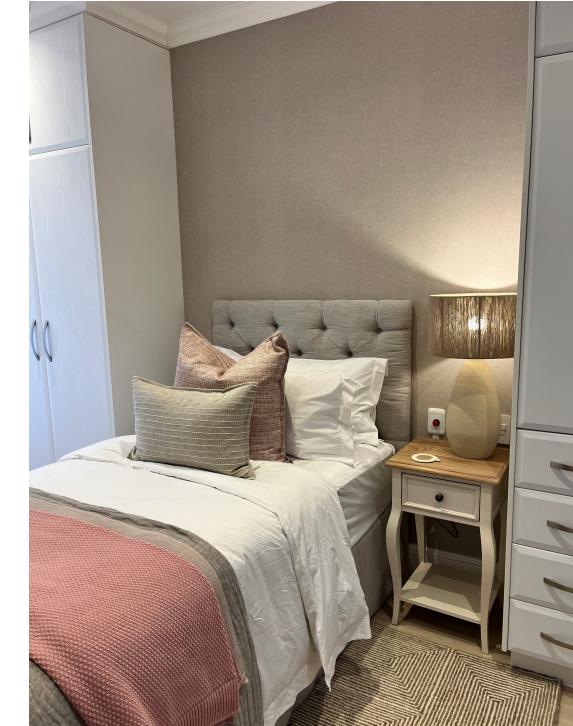


French Riviera Suite - Amble Ridge, Knysna

My client bought his mom a suite in an assisted living ward in a retirement village in Knysna. She was relocating from Pretoria and was quite nervous to be leaving her environment. We wanted to create a calm, serene space for her to feel welcomed and comfortable. We wanted to create a light space.

We incorporated colour using artwork, in particular the protea and the colour pink. She loves these elements. I used some area rugs, wallpaper and different fabrics to create warmth and add texture. We opted for two very comfortable single seater chairs which are easy for to stand up from. We custom made baskets for the server to house throws for the cold winter days.

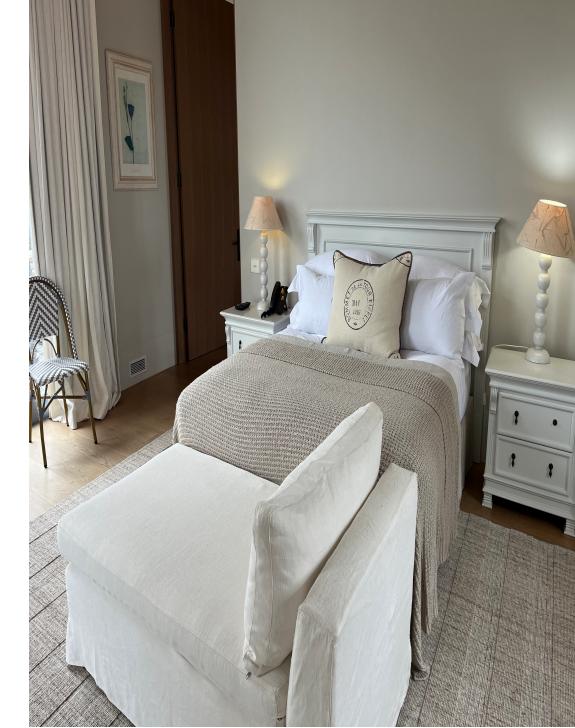
The small two seater bistro table was aimed at creating a comfortable area for her to enjoy meals. We kept the colour scheme light with white pinch pleat shear curtains with separate block-out lining. My client was overjoyed with the final outcome and his mom is very happy in her new home.



Beauty in Nature - Pezula Private Estate, Knysna

Nestled in the Pezula Private Estate, this beautiful home is surrounded by nature. It includes a main house, cottage, and guest suite with a gym. The home had been sold including most of the interior items. I was asked to replace the items that the previous owners were removing.

These items included all bedding, towels, area rugs, furniture, crockery, cutlery, glassware, mirrors, and decor. We also included wallpaper in two key areas. Part of the service I provided was to unpack and install the items. This ensured the house was ready for the new owners. They arrived in South Africa in December 2023.



Garden Transformation - Rexford, Knysna

This garden transformation showcases a couple's creativity. It reflects their need to have a serene environment to spend time together. I was asked to add white curtains to the pergola at the one end of the garden. I opted for white outdoor fabric to withstand the outdoor elements. I also made loops that fastened with velcro. This allows my clients to remove the curtains and wash them when necessary.



Holiday Home Renovation - Leisure Isle, Knysna

This project was a newly renovated holiday home in the Western Cape for a family that live primarily in Johannesburg. I assisted with all aspects of the interiors. This included the wallpaper, furniture (indoor & outdoor), area rugs, runners, mirrors, linen, throws, and scatters. It was a full service project. Both the clients are lawyers and have high pressure jobs. I wanted to create a calm, serene environment for them.

This space allows them to unwind and have quality time with their family. A lot of our communication was done through zoom and email. I worked closely with the client on colour stories and layout plans once I received the brief. I did a presentation to them on one of their visits. They were happy with my concept boards. They appreciated my recommendations.

All furniture in the communal areas were custom made. My client was quite particular about the dining table. He originally wanted it in teak sleeper wood. After much research and many conversations, he opted for a Kiaat table, which he loves.

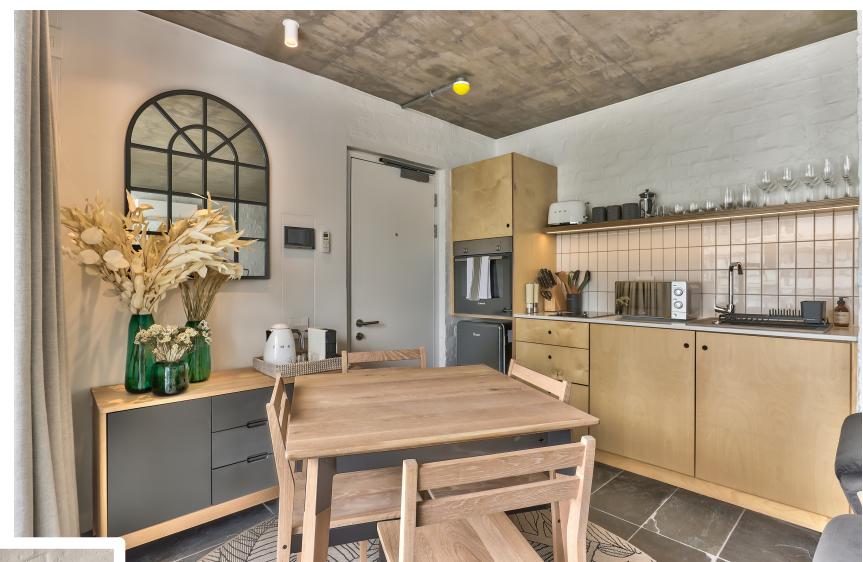
This house is near the beach. The owners have two kids. We also decided to use outdoor rugs throughout the home to avoid heavy maintenance. My clients were not living in the area so I helped with a bit of project management. I assisted the builder and joinery company when needed. The end result met all the needs of the client and they were very pleased.



Contemporary Studio Apartment (Airbnb) - Sea Point, Cape Town

Located in Sea Point, Cape Town, this studio apartment is an Airbnb investment for the client. The building design is quite contemporary so I approached the interiors with this in mind. I chose to use darker shades on the furniture to withstand the wear-and-tear of the rental market. I also included outdoor rugs so that they were easy to clean. The goal was to make the maintenance of the apartment manageable for the client. At the same time, we wanted to provide a luxurious experience for their clients. We included a small dining area, lounge and bedroom – all open plan. The wave curtains are all lined. They provide privacy and block out the light. Despite this, the guests can still enjoy the sea views.

The budget for this project was on the higher end. We felt it would be better to use good quality furniture, linen, appliances, crockery, etc. This ensured that the per day rate for the apartment attracted the right clientele. We completed the project in November 2023. This allowed the client to list the property for high season. This timing has proved fruitful. The client is extremely happy with the outcome.



Kids Bedroom Refurb - Dunkeld, Johannesburg

My clients own a beautiful home in a bustling part of Sandton, Johannesburg. They are a family of five and their children participate in a lot of school activities. As their daughters grew older, it became clear that their bedrooms needed to be more organized. More storage was essential. The parents also found that the girls were not enjoying their rooms. As a result, they were all sleeping in the main bedroom.

The goal was to create bedrooms their girls wanted to spend time in. The bedrooms needed to provide ample storage. This would enable them to keep their rooms tidy. We were asked to design furniture. The furniture should complement a table that the client had already purchased. Each bedroom needed to facilitate school work.

We felt it best to keep the basic design and layout for each bedroom the same. Each child chose her own colour themes, wallpaper, and fabric. They received a little guidance from their mom and myself. I utilized the shape of the legs of the existing table. I incorporated this design into the bed and side table. We also kept to the same colour palette on the new items to carry the same look and feel throughout. The floating shelves on the walls included small storage boxes. Two of these boxes were secured into the walls with bolts. This added additional support to the shelves. I did not want to include handles on the small boxes. Therefore, we used push latches to open and close them. This decision allowed us to keep the front of the boxes clean and uncomplicated.

We designed and custom made the beds, side tables, shelves, and all the boxes. This included two grey large storage boxes that slid under each bed. They housed additional items such as soft toys, extra books, etc.



Island Living - Leisure Isle, Knysna

This five bedroom family holiday home was built with entertaining in mind. The house is situated in a popular holiday location in the Western Cape. We used neutral tones to enhance the beach house theme. Blues and greens also played a role to complete our colour story. We used lots of different textures to add warmth and layers. Each bedroom contains two single beds. These beds can be placed together to provide king beds. This arrangement makes the bedrooms more versatile for couples and children.

Our headboards were designed to be placed together seamlessly. They create one unit for the king beds. Alternatively, they can be pulled apart if single beds are required. The downstairs communal open plan area incorporates the kitchen, dining room and lounge. The curtains in this area are single sheer wave curtains. The bedrooms include double rails with blockout lining. This provides privacy and blocks out the light when necessary.

