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INTERIOR DESIGN TRENDS SHIFT AWAY FROM 'OPEN PLAN'

The latest interior design trends predict that open plan living with large empty, transparent spaces will soon change as people are now moving towards a warm, homely, earthy and cocoon like atmosphere. So says Hazel Lategan, Financial Director of project construction management company Integrated Solutions, who also heads up the interior design division.

This follows after Lategan returned from Index Dubai earlier this year – a platform for new trends, materials as well as speakers who are top of their game when it comes to trends, green building and energy in the Middle East and Africa.

“People have been sharing so much information about themselves on social network platforms and this has created a sort of ‘open plan’ living space in their lives. This has led to the fact that many want to take back some of their privacy and therefore we’ll be seeing more and more of this in people’s environments. They want to be enveloped by natural materials that cocoon them from the outside and provide them with a safe environment just to be themselves,” explains Lategan.

In practical terms, she says that the result will be “a return to spaces that contain more private areas for relaxation and socialising”, and adds: “Expect to see aqua marine blues and metallic shades, as well as loads of natural materials like wood, wool, silk, hides and natural textures.”

Lategan says that this will not only apply to the South African market, but that they are already seeing much of this implemented internationally.

Although Integrated Solutions have enjoyed eleven years of success, the interior design division was established eighteen months ago, following extensive research. Lategan explains: “To start off we focussed on retail and hospitality. We were fortunate to be involved in the Luminance project in Sandton and one of the cosmetic brands that we worked with approached us to do installations and customisation for their shops across South Africa. That was the spring board that we needed to break in to the industry.”

Currently, the interior design division (as well as the project management experts of Integrated Solutions) is working with CampusKey to establish several new student housing opportunities at all major tertiary education centres across the country.

In conclusion, Lategan says: “Although we’re a fairly young and dynamic group in this division with lots of potential, our vision is to grow and establish it as an interior design group on par with other leading interior design practices. I believe that as we work within the project management and cost control office environment, our designers are more aware of the logistics and cost aspects of their design and have an edge in this regard.”