



INTERIOR DESIGN PORTFOLIO

Made in Africa Investments Group

A passion that continues

Valentina has loved interior design since childhood, when she spent hours arranging and decorating rooms for her Barbie dolls.

That passion became Collezioni Interiors, which she founded in Kenya in 2012. Collezioni Interiors' work has ranged from renovations and complete villa interiors to serviced apartments, boutique hotels, offices and wellness spaces. Following her move to South Africa in 2017, Valentina's practice has evolved into Studio Collezioni, with a broader offering based in Johannesburg and part of Made in Africa Investments Group.

She is joined by her husband, John, a seasoned engineer with a knack for clever architectural solutions, and Simone, whose expertise in Feng Shui brings an understanding of energy flow and the arrangement of spaces.

Studio Collezioni combines interior design, spatial planning and technical coordination, taking on projects from a single room or a focused renovation to complete homes, hospitality properties and commercial spaces. Whatever the scale, the team works closely with clients, bringing professional guidance while making room for their ideas, priorities and the people who will use the space.



Complementary strengths



Valentina Cortini-Nutt

FOUNDER & CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Valentina leads our creative direction, bringing an eye for colour, texture and composition. Her passion is making interiors personal, with particular care for renovation and the character of existing spaces.



John Philip Nutt

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING & COORDINATION

John translates design ideas into architectural drawings and helps coordinate proposed alterations. His practical perspective connects the creative vision with the requirements of the space.



Simone Armellini

FENG SHUI & SPATIAL PLANNING

Simone contributes Feng Shui assessment and spatial planning, considering layout, orientation and circulation. He supports our team with design recommendations and coordinated drawing documentation.

From concept to completion

01

Understand

We explore your needs, the property and the way you live or work. Where included in the brief, Feng Shui assessment informs the spatial approach.

02

Develop & document

We refine the layouts, materials and furnishings, then coordinate the drawings and specifications needed to communicate the agreed design.

03

Implement

For commissions that include delivery, we coordinate sourcing, installation and construction requirements through to handover.

01

Private homes

Homes shaped around the people who live in them. Our residential work ranges from focused renovations and extensions to complete interior commissions, each with its own personality.

RESIDENTIAL

Kitchen renovation

Randburg / Johannesburg

Room for the whole family

For a family of six and their two large dogs, the cramped kitchen in their early-1970s Randburg home was no longer workable. The brief was to create a kitchen with enough room for everyday family life.

The transformation began with demolition and an outward extension, opening up the narrow rectangular space. New windows and a sliding door to the back brought in more natural light and connected the kitchen to the outdoors.

A new kitchen was then fitted around the family's needs, with the layout planned to make cooking, moving around and spending time together easier. What had been a tight, awkward room became a generous kitchen ready for a busy household.



RESIDENTIAL

Dining room

Randburg / Johannesburg

A place for everyone

For the same Randburg family of six and their two large dogs, the dining room beside the original kitchen had space for a six-seater table, but little room for guests. The aim was to make family gatherings possible without squeezing everyone in.

The room now accommodates twelve, centred around an imported table crafted from repurposed dhow wood from Lamu, Kenya. Its weathered timber brings character and a connection to the coast into the family's home.

The change has meant more than extra seats. The family can now host the reunions they had wanted, with room for everyone to gather around one table.



RESIDENTIAL

Living room

Randburg / Johannesburg

Sufficient space to relax together

As the family’s Randburg home undergoes a major refurbishment, the living room needed to work better for everyday life - including television evenings with six people and two large dogs.

By rearranging their existing furniture, the team made the room feel bigger and gave everyone more space to settle in comfortably. The pieces the family already owned found a better fit, without waiting for the next stage of building work.

In phase two, the living room will open onto a deck. Until then, the family can enjoy a comfortable place to put their feet up, watch television and spend time together - with the dogs joining in, of course.



RESIDENTIAL

En-suite bedroom

Randburg / Johannesburg

A retreat for family and guests

With one of the best views in the house and a balcony running the length of the bedroom and bathroom, this room had all the makings of a welcoming retreat.

The family's grown-up children and their partners are spread across Africa, Europe and the UK. The brief was to create a room where they could settle in when visiting: a place with the comfort of home and the feeling of a resort stay.

The renovation made the most of the room's outlook and balcony access, creating a comfortable space to rest, enjoy some privacy and take a quiet moment between family gatherings.



RESIDENTIAL

Santorini Villa

Nairobi, Kenya / Entrance

Designed around a remarkable client

Having designed his apartment several years earlier, Valentina was invited to create a permanent Nairobi home for the same client, a Kenyan CEO. His brief reflected his personality: glamorous, eclectic and welcoming, with plenty of space for visitors.

Furniture choices in Kenya were limited at the time, so most pieces were custom-made from Valentina’s drawings. The oversized windows brought another challenge: a blind installation she recalls as the first of its size in Kenya.

The commission extended throughout the villa, from the living and dining rooms to the home office, primary and guest bedrooms, outdoor bar and lounge, and a basement television room with a bar and billiards area.

Built on years of trust, this was a particularly personal commission. Santorini Villa remains one of the projects closest to Valentina’s heart.



Dining room

SANTORINI VILLA / NAIROBI, KENYA



Home office & kitchen

SANTORINI VILLA / NAIROBI, KENYA



HOME OFFICE



DESK DETAIL



KITCHEN DETAIL

Primary bedroom

SANTORINI VILLA / NAIROBI, KENYA



BEDROOM OVERVIEW



MIRRORED SEATING CORNER



CONSOLE DETAIL

Guest bedroom

SANTORINI VILLA / NAIROBI, KENYA



BEDROOM OVERVIEW



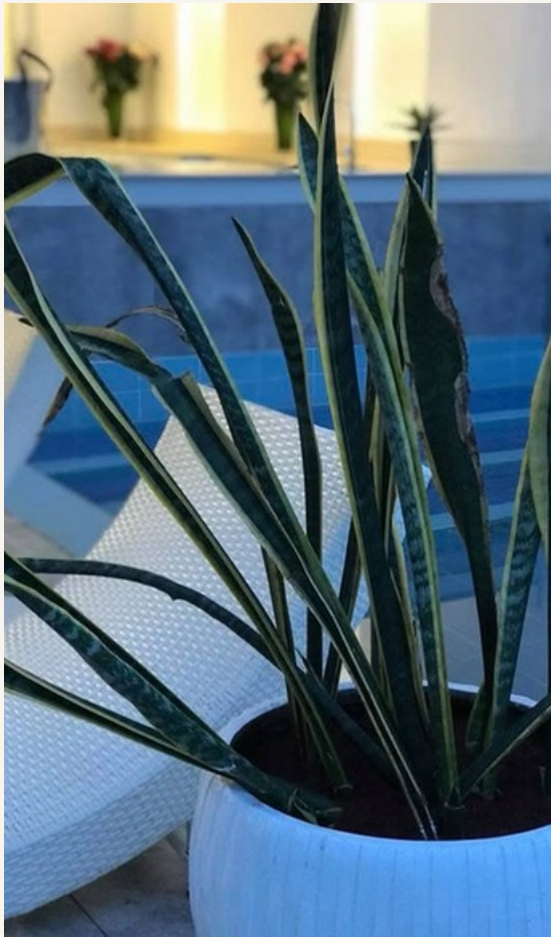
HEADBOARD & BED



CONSOLE DETAIL

Outdoor bar & lounge

SANTORINI VILLA / NAIROBI, KENYA



Valentina with her son, Max, who helped coordinate the final six months of the project after her move to South Africa.

RESIDENTIAL

Freitas Apartment

Nairobi / Kenya

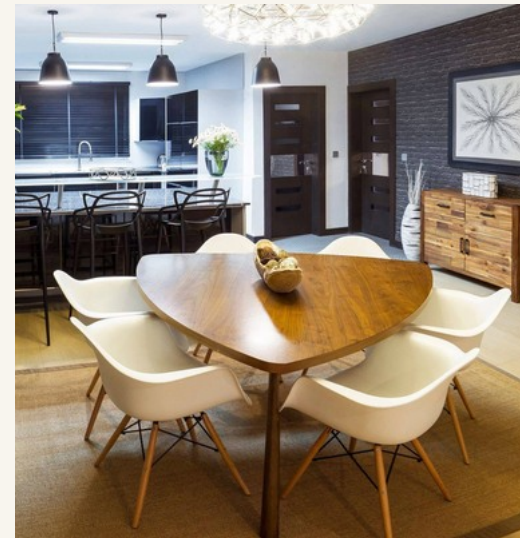
A place to feel at home

The brief for this three-bedroom apartment in a new high-end penthouse complex was simple: create a place that felt like home.

Most of the furnishings were custom-made, from the cabinetry and beds to the living-room furniture and curtains. Each piece was designed around the client's preferences, with particular attention to the blackout curtains he wanted for the bedrooms.

An office area at the far end of the living room gave him a comfortable place to work at any hour, reflecting the demands of his role. A small bar provided space for entertaining, while the generous terrace was furnished for relaxing outdoors.

It was a project shaped by care and attention to the details that make a new apartment feel personal and comfortable.



RESIDENTIAL

Malonza Apartment

Nairobi / Kenya

An anniversary surprise

This commission began with a chance conversation in a basement car park. While Valentina was finishing another apartment in the building, Advocate Malonza met her driver and asked about her work. An invitation upstairs led to a new brief.

He had just bought an apartment in the same complex, without his wife knowing. He wanted it fully finished and furnished as a surprise for their wedding anniversary, and gave Valentina complete creative freedom.

The design brought together welcoming living and dining spaces, a separate TV room, a restful primary bedroom and colourful bedrooms for the children. It was a whole-home commission with a personal purpose: creating a home for his family and a gift for his wife.



02

Developments

Serviced apartments

Studio Collezioni specialises in interiors for serviced apartment developments, from purpose-built blocks to the transformation of existing rental properties.

The aim is to help owners and developers make more of their properties, creating furnished apartments that welcome guests and work well for longer stays. The team's experience includes both designing and running serviced apartments, bringing practical insight into everyday use, upkeep and the guest experience.

DEVELOPMENTS

Suite Life

Lavington / Nairobi / Kenya

A personal vision

Suite Life was a particularly personal project for Valentina. She was involved from the initial concept through to the interior design and day-to-day management, shaping both the apartments and the experience of staying in them.

The development comprised twenty spacious, modern two-bedroom apartments, each with both bedrooms en suite and generous balconies. Furnishings were imported through a local agent, with every element carefully selected - from fabrics, furniture and paintings to rugs, kitchen equipment and the smaller details that make a stay comfortable.

A rooftop restaurant and gym extended the offering beyond the individual units, giving guests places to dine, exercise and spend time together.

For Valentina, Suite Life brought together the work she loves: creating interiors, attending to the details and seeing those spaces become part of people's everyday lives.



DEVELOPMENTS

Queen’s Gate Apartments

Lavington / Nairobi / Kenya

A modern Versailles

Queen’s Gate was conceived as a purpose-built serviced apartment development in Lavington, Nairobi. The commission came from a Kenyan member of Parliament whose Vipingo villa Valentina had also designed.

The name set the direction. The interiors needed to feel opulent, with the grandeur of Versailles interpreted for a modern setting. The design carried that ambition into furnished apartments intended to offer guests the comfort of a home with the atmosphere of a hotel.

The development also included a restaurant, swimming pool and gym, extending the guest experience beyond the apartments themselves.



DEVELOPMENTS

Crimson Court Apartments

Nairobi / Kenya

Coastal character, city living

With several apartments still awaiting buyers, the owners of Crimson Court decided to give the development a new direction as serviced apartments.

Working within a limited budget and closely with the owner, the team developed interiors inspired by the Kenyan coast, with colour and furnishings suited to a city setting.

Substantial timber furniture recalled the rich mahogany pieces often found in coastal homes. Turquoise and softer furnishing colours brought a lighter touch, balancing the weight of the wood and creating welcoming spaces for guests.



DEVELOPMENTS

Jade Valley

Nairobi / Kenya

From residential resort to serviced villas

Jade Valley involved the complete transformation of a residential resort of more than forty maisonettes into serviced villas - a development Valentina recalls as the first of its kind in Kenya.

The scale of the commission called for a fresh approach throughout. The team travelled to Dubai to source everything from tiles and finishes to kitchens, furniture and soft furnishings, bringing the selections together across the development.

Each villa was reworked for its new purpose, creating comfortable, fully furnished accommodation within a resort setting. It was an ambitious project that brought together interior design, sourcing and the practical demands of preparing an entire development to welcome guests.



DEVELOPMENTS

Spring Valley Gardens

Spring Valley / Nairobi / Kenya

A new chapter for an older property

With apartments standing empty and generating little return, the owner - a manufacturing entrepreneur with investments in real estate - commissioned their transformation into fully serviced accommodation.

The age of the buildings presented practical challenges. The team worked around the existing structure to update the interiors and make the apartments comfortable for guests, incorporating furniture imported directly by the client.

A shared recreational area brought another dimension to the development. With a small bar and fountain, it gave guests somewhere to meet, enjoy an evening drink and spend time together beyond their apartments.



03

Hospitality

Spaces that welcome guests and create a memorable stay. Our hospitality work includes serviced suites, hotel interiors and coastal villas, each responding to its setting and the experience of its visitors.

HOSPITALITY

50 Degrees South

Runda / Nairobi / Kenya

Bringing the forest indoors

With around forty rooms facing the river, 50 Degrees South occupied a protected forest setting. The hotel included a restaurant overlooking the forest and three boardrooms.

The team worked with a local developer and an international hotel management company, who gave Valentina considerable creative freedom. Surveys and approvals had absorbed much of the investment, leaving limited funds for the interiors.

Existing furnishings were repainted and varnished for a quirky business hotel surrounded by forest. Valentina commissioned a photographer to capture the woodland, then enlarged the photographs into bespoke wallcoverings, bringing the forest indoors.

On the outdoor veranda, street artists created murals while the team transformed bird cages into chandeliers for the restaurant. These collaborations and handmade details gave the hotel its individual character.



Valentina with Edward, her assistant on the project.



On site at 50 Degrees South



Veranda murals & bird-cage chandeliers

HOSPITALITY

On the Rocks Villa

Eersterivierstrand / Tsitsikamma / South Africa

Creating memories

Purchased by a Johannesburg family in the early 1970s and remodelled in the 1990s, On the Rocks was a much-loved coastal home shared with family and friends. When it passed to the owner’s youngest son, he chose to open that experience to guests.

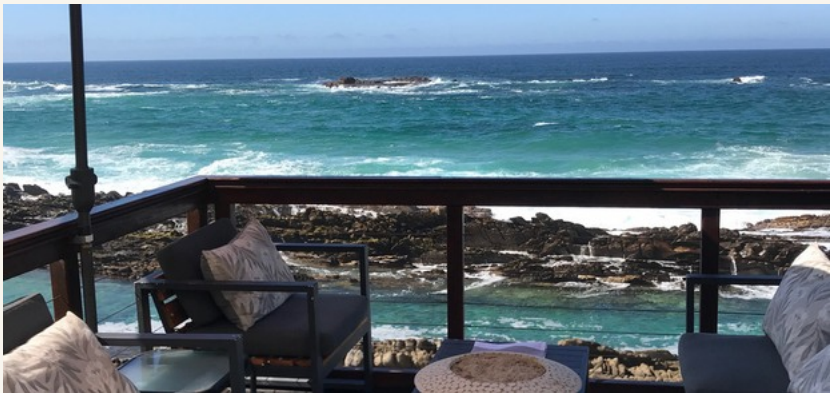
The refurbishment focused on updating appliances and bringing a more cohesive look to the interiors, while preserving the house’s welcoming character.

Today, the self-catering villa sleeps twelve, with generous gathering spaces, panoramic ocean views and the main beach just three minutes’ walk away. It welcomes family reunions, birthdays and holidays with friends, continuing the tradition at its heart: creating memories.

Direct bookings:

www.ontherocksvilla.co.za

Also on Booking.com, Airbnb and LekkeSlaap.



04

Commercial

Workplaces and wellness spaces shaped around their purpose. We bring together practical layouts, a clear interior identity and an atmosphere appropriate to the people using each space.

COMMERCIAL

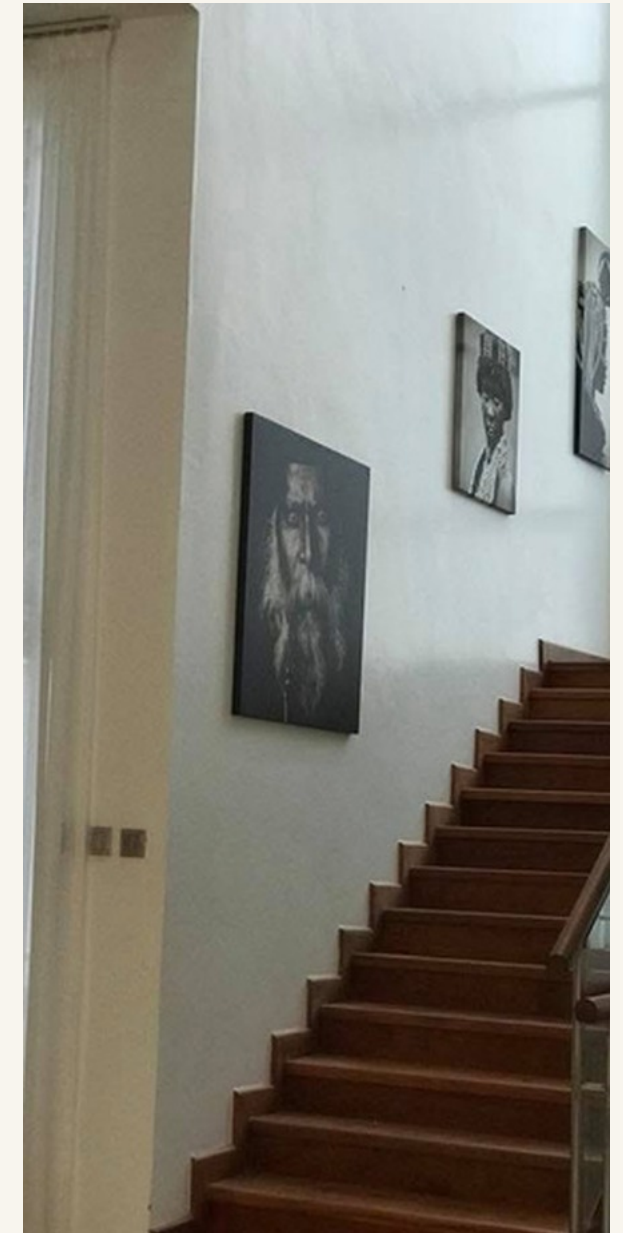
Karen Office

Karen / Nairobi / Kenya

Designing for fellow designers

A newly established architectural practice commissioned us to complete its office interiors in Karen. It was a particularly rewarding brief: architects often have interior design expertise within their own teams, so being entrusted with their workspace meant a great deal.

Working for fellow designers brought some initial nerves, but the collaboration proved straightforward and became one of our smoothest projects. The result was a welcoming, professional office for a practice beginning its own story.



COMMERCIAL

Pranic Energy Healing Africa Office

Johannesburg / South Africa

A workspace within a healing centre

Pranic Energy Healing Africa is a non-profit organisation offering energy healing, meditation, education and community outreach.

The brief was straightforward: create an office within the holistic centre to support the organisation's everyday work. The space provides a dedicated working area within the wider centre, which is featured next in this portfolio.

www.pranicenergyhealing.africa



COMMERCIAL

Wings & Me Holistic Centre

Johannesburg / South Africa

A new purpose for familiar pieces

Created in just three months, Wings & Me opened on 3 November 2018 and has welcomed visitors ever since, offering a space for holistic therapies and wellbeing.

Much of the centre was furnished with pieces brought from Valentina’s Nairobi home. The container arrived just in time, allowing familiar furniture and decorative objects to be arranged for a new purpose. Working with what was already available, she created a welcoming setting for the centre’s work.

www.wingsandme.com



05

Concept design

Plans, mood boards and visualisations help clients explore a space before committing to its design. We use them to consider layout, materials, colour, furnishings and the relationship between rooms. Our concept work includes homes, loft apartments, hospitality spaces and smaller projects, with many additional mood-board studies beyond the projects shown in this portfolio.

CONCEPT DESIGN

Loft apartments

2D floor plans & interior visualisations

Archival concept work

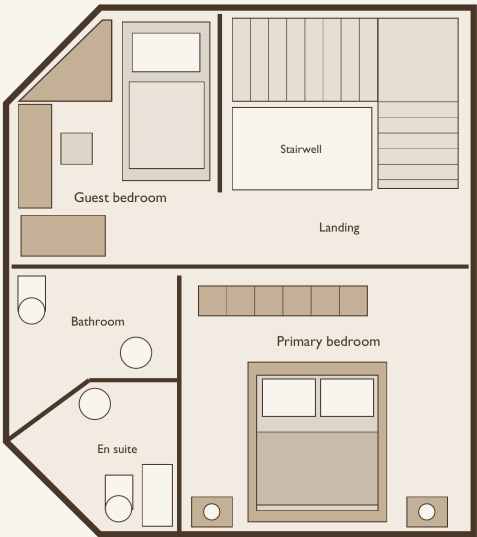
The ground- and upper-floor plans for these loft apartments show the layout in two dimensions. The interior visualisations explore the living, kitchen, dining and staircase areas.

Together, the plans and renders help clients understand how the two levels work, how the spaces connect and how the proposed materials and furnishings could look.

Contemporary visualisations recreated from the original concepts.



GROUND FLOOR / 2D PLAN



UPPER FLOOR / 2D PLAN



LIVING & KITCHEN CONCEPT



STAIR & DINING CONCEPT

CONCEPT DESIGN

Oro Lounge

Restaurant, bar & terrace concepts

Archival concept work

Two lower-floor apartments were converted into Oro Lounge, a restaurant and lounge. The concept studies bring the exterior, bar, lounge and terrace together as one design.

Warm walls, timber, stone and sculptural artwork give the interior its character. The glazed frontage and covered terrace connect the indoor seating with the garden, extending the design into the outdoor spaces.

Contemporary visualisations recreated from the original concepts.



BAR & LOUNGE CONCEPT



TERRACE CONCEPT

On air and in print

Valentina's media appearances include radio and television interviews and features on at least four television shows, including an episode of an interior design programme around 2003–2004. Her interiors, products and design approach have also featured in magazines and newspapers.

She appeared on the cover of Homes Kenya's Christmas edition, which sold out immediately and went to reprint. She also regularly attends interior design shows, both locally and internationally.

This collection brings together coverage of residential projects, serviced apartments and restaurant interiors, alongside an interview with Edward, her assistant at the time.

facebook.com/InteriorDecorationAfrica



Homes Kenya / Christmas edition cover

HOMES KENYA / INSIDE THE CHRISTMAS EDITION



Pages 54-55



Pages 56-57



Pages 58-59



Pages 60-61

Collected features





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