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Johannesburg décor guru

These days, being grand is all about:

- Fewer rooms with more uses
- Storage behind huge, floor-to-ceiling doors
- Two lovely retro chairs
- A roomy, dark-leather Chesterfield with folded rugs and cloths over one end
- An entire wall of books
- Persian rugs of all sizes in a patchwork pattern on the floor

Architect Renée de Waal and Interior Designer Claire Cartner

from Xperience Makers

Today, being grand is all about going back to your roots and embracing your heritage. You can reflect your internal values through your home space, style and lifestyle and feed your creativity through passions such as decorating, gardening, cooking and spending more time at home with friends and family.

We shouldn't feel the need to be defined by material possessions or live beyond our means, but rather live comfortably and give up the need to impress others. Finding the stillness within oneself creates awareness and builds the ability to choose confidently – in the same way, your inner reality is informed by your external environment. For example, too much clutter leads to imbalance and stress. Utilise your space cleverly to better suit you and the environment and incorporate recyclable materials, reclaimed woods and cost effective LED lighting solutions. This way we can restore the integrity of old structures and create an environment that stimulates all the senses. Green is also grand, in the sense that it is incredibly topical and at the same time a beauty to behold – like a full green wall in a building's foyer – so that it feels like you inhabit two spaces simultaneously.

The keyword is not 'me', but 'we'. – Lidewij

Dutch trend guru Lidewij Edelkoort shared her priorities at Design Indaba 2012

- Spirituality is high on the list
- Bring back the bliss of home, and enjoy playing house again
- Make and buy more locally-produced items
- Embrace hand-me-down beauties
- Downscale living spaces
- Care for others and nurture our plants and planet; the keyword is not 'me', but 'we'
- Nurture a thread of togetherness and collaboration – networking, with the connecting force of family and friends
- Functionality is key again
- Indulge in rituals that take you back to your childhood
- Enjoy the freedom of camping and caravanning – 'glamping' will give you a whole new perspective.

