

PRESS RELEASE

Making a grand entrance

Cobus Lourens, from leading window and door manufacturer, Swartland, offers an overview on the top 5 front door trends making waves this year.

18 February 2015, Johannesburg: The front door is the gateway to your home – it is the one part of the home that family members and visitors get to touch and walk through every time they visit, and as such it is most certainly something that will be noticed. Says Cobus Lourens from leading window and door manufacturer, Swartland: “Front doors can leave a big impression on anybody who is visiting your home. They can also make a big impact on the curb appeal and add substantial character to your home. In fact, research has shown that replacing the front door is a home improvement with one of the biggest pay-offs – it is affordable, relatively easy to do, and it makes one of the most visually noticeable impacts.”

He notes that when you are choosing a front door, the last thing you want to settle for is something ordinary or boring: “When choosing a front door, there are obviously practical matters that need to be considered, such as security, energy efficiency and light. However, aesthetics are also incredibly important. Ideally, your front door should stand out as an impressive focal point – of course, it should compliment the rest of your home’s architecture and décor, but it ought to also stand out as something unique and interesting. The front doors of today provide homeowners the opportunity to make an individual statement with the entryway to their home – they have become a personal signature - an expression of the unique character and style of the home and those who live in it.”

Understanding the different drivers in the design and manufacturing of front doors can go a long way to help you decide on which front door best suits your home’s unique design and your style preferences. As such, Cobus offers a broad overview on the hottest front door trends:

1) Wooden it be nice

Natural wood has always dominated when it comes to the materials used to make front doors. Its uniquely organic aesthetic and rich natural texture offer a winning combination for making a truly eye-catching feature. Also, as general home improvement trends head towards more eco-friendly solutions, timber remains a great choice, as it not only looks good, but it is an excellent insulator; it has an impressively low carbon footprint, it boasts an incredibly long lifespan, and if sourced from a sustainably managed forest, such as all the timber used to make Swartland’s range of doors and windows, it is also a renewable building resource.

2) Let the light shine through

Whether you choose an aluminium or a wooden front door, glass panelling is becoming increasingly sought after. Front doors with oversized glass inserts, surrounding panels, decorative glass inserts, sidelights and transoms are more and more popular due to the extra light they let into the home. In the recent past, glass manufacturing has made significant technological strides, resulting in a much more formidable selection of glass types. Today, apart from its transparency, glass offers many other desirable qualities, including protection, safety, security, solar and sound control, UV-protection, decoration and insulation. Swartland allows you to select the type of glazing you would prefer in their Ready-2-Fit range of front doors, which come pre-sealed and pre-glazed, so that you can customise it to your personal requirements before it is even installed.

3) Bigger is better

Similar to tile trends, large format front doors seem to be bang on trend this year – increasingly more designers and architects are choosing front doors with added width and height in order to give their designs a more dramatic aesthetic. Also, bigger doors are not only used to make an impactful visual statement, but they also tend to create an illusion of increased interior space. Visually, these large format doors can be made to appear even larger through the addition of side panels, sidelights and transoms.

4) A matter of colour

Why not use colour to turn your front door into your home's centrepiece. Choose a standout colour or one that harmonises with the rest of your home's colour scheme. From bright eye-catching pops of colour, through to more muted organically natural tones – the sky is the limit when it comes to front doors. Swartland's Ready-2-Fit range of doors for example, are available in pre-treated in various tones, including Imbuia, Teak, Light Oak, White and Mahogany.

5) The little things

Installing designer door accents, surrounds and hardware is another growing front door trend. Just like fashion accessories can make or break an entire outfit, so can these seemingly minor features give your front door that "wow" factor. Not only do they add character to your front entrance, but they also provide a relatively affordable way of turning it from something ordinary into a real feature. You can choose from ornate knockers, door handles or hinges, through to pediment sets, door pilasters, door mantels and overlays, keystones and dentil strips.

6) Energy efficiency

The current state of the urban environments we inhabit is cause to be more environmentally conscious – from the food we eat, the cars we drive, right down to the front doors we choose for our homes. Swartland is leading the pack when it comes to going green - all the products in Swartland's KENZO range of aluminium windows and doors, as well as its range of Ready-2-Fit timber wooden windows and doors are

SANS 613- and SANS 204-compliant, which means that, not only do they comply with all the necessary local building regulations, but they are also an environmentally responsible choice.

7) Customisation is key

Increasingly more homeowners opting for bespoke front doors that have been designed and custom-manufactured to suit their specific requirements. Swartland can custom-create tailor-made front door solutions to virtually any specification. These front doors stand out as sculptural features and speak volumes of the homeowners' status. Designed to introduce visitors to the rest of the home – bespoke front doors really set the pace of what's to come architecturally speaking as guests enter.

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Released on behalf of Swartland (www.swartland.co.za) by The Line (www.theline.co.za, ant@theline.co.za).