



trash and treasure

SOUTH AFRICAN INTERIOR DESIGNER
KATIE THOMPSON MAKES JUNK
AWESOME WITH RECREATE.

find the right skilled people to work on each element: electricians, steel workers, upholsterers, carpenters.

Have you had to learn new skills along the way to make the pieces? Absolutely. I learn something new almost every day!

Can you recall the first piece of furniture you made? I "decorated" an old chair in art class at school while all the other kids were painting pictures.

How important is it to you to work with your hands? I love working with my hands, although unfortunately the admin side of things often takes over and seems more important.

How did Recreate get started? I worked in design for several years in Cape Town and London. I'd always wanted to start my own business, but interiors did not seem fulfilling enough. But I have always had a love for junk and been a real hoarder. This, along with wanting to make broken ordinary things functional and extraordinary.

What are your influences and inspirations? Dada and surrealism and the junk around me that people throw away daily.

Describe your process with each piece? Does the idea come first or does each bit of junk tell you what needs to be done with it? Definitely the latter. Once I have found the junk to use it is very obvious to me what it is going to become!

Five words to describe your pieces: Extraordinary, different, quality, recycled, quirky.

How does where you live influence your work? Every Recreate product is made from a single piece of junk that is found or sourced in South Africa. Although some items may have originally come from other areas, it is clear from their history they have spent years travelling to get here! ♻️

What do you do? Create repurposed furniture and lighting under the brand Recreate.

Describe your style. Recreate pieces don't fall under a specific design style - the junk item they originate from usually dictates the style the end products will be, which can be anything from shabby chic to ultra modern.

Where does all your junk come from? Garage clearances and auctions. Also customers bringing us their own sentimental junk to be custom-made and repurposed.

What kind of junky stuff are you most attracted to? I have a suitcase fetish!

Do you do all the work on the pieces yourself or are you more the design end of things? I source the junk and do the concept and design. From there I handle the coordination and

To see more of Katie's stuff, pop past www.recreate.za.net