



THIS PAGE Yda's studio is redolent with the smell of printing ink and bales of fabric. One of her twin daughters, Sophie, helps her while Shocky Mabogwana expertly stitches a piece opposite, from left A riot of pink and red was Yda's immediate antidote to the house's former gloom; the papier-mâché doll was a birthday present from someone who knew about Yda's love of Mexican folk art





THIS PAGE, FROM TOP Once an ugly frame of fake, painted brickwork, the new fireplace installed by her creative builder warms the room in winter. Drapes that look like voluptuous velvet theatre curtains were made from metres of cheap satin found at the Oriental Plaza in Joburg. The tablecloth on the coffee table is one of Yda's creations, featuring her Sunlight soap and Omo washing powder prints; in the living room, a couch covered in fabric Yda designed is crowned by a collection of old frames of family snaps

OPPOSITE Photographs of a street vendor's wares form a bright tableau on the kitchen wall



YDA'S SMART STYLE SOLUTIONS

- Look at the plastics and bright Perspex bowls, buckets and plates at wholesale stores. There's colour and form in contemporary clutter.
- Trading stores and bazaars, such as the Oriental Plaza in Joburg, are a rich source of inexpensive fabric that used in quantity can create dramatic texture and colour.
- Contrast wall colours dramatically with complementary colours: red offset by cool, soft green.
- Source household accessories, such as second-hand lampshades, and give them new life with trims like wooden or mother-of-pearl buttons.
- Photographs of bright streetside buys can lift and brighten walls. (Yda's mural of plates of fruit and vegetables was the result of a photo shoot of a street vendor's R2-a-plate goods arranged on a pavement.) Look at life from a different perspective.
- Opening up one key window space in a wall that faces the morning sun can transform a room with very little cost.