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**BACK STORY**

An ingenious collaboration has resulted in a range of reversible outdoor furniture covers from The South African Sheepskin Company.

**E**mma Shortt, the founder of The South African Sheepskin Company, was looking for a way to create an unshorn-sheepskin product that could be used in winter *and* summer, which is how a new range of reversible outdoor chair covers came about.

Thanks to the wool trapping pockets of air that act as a thermal barrier, sheepskin keeps you warm in the winter months and cool in the summer months. The unshorn Merino sheepskins, which Emma selects by hand, are a by-product of the meat industry. They make great rugs, throws, play mats for babies and bedding for pets, which can be washed in the washing machine. But her new



reversible range is even more versatile, and is perfect for patio decor.

Last year, at 100% Design South Africa, where one of Emma's sheepskins was used in a city apartment stand, she met textile designer Joy Ezeka of Zuri and Imani. "The quality of Joy's designs and the fabrics she was using made me wonder if we couldn't stitch them to the reverse of sheepskin and create a product that could be used year round," says Emma.

Joy and Emma duly joined forces to create the first in a range of reversible sheepskins.

[southafricansheepskin.com](http://southafricansheepskin.com)  
[zuriandimani.com](http://zuriandimani.com)



**LEFT** Joy Ezeka of Zuri and Imani, creators of beautiful original textile and surface prints with an African aesthetic for fashion, homeware and interior designers. **ABOVE AND FAR LEFT** The first in the collection of reversible sheepskins features Joy's Ouarzazate design. Prices start at R3 900.

