

NO. 16 SARIE DECOR 2024/25

SARIE

S

our inspiration

100+ IDEAS TO DECORATE & RENOVATE

# DECOR



*English version*

A CITY OF STORIES – CAPE DUTCH, VICTORIAN, ART DECO, NEW AND NOW

## INVITING HOMES

From City Bowl & beach to mountain slope and forest

## TRENDS

Peach Fuzz  
Happy décor  
Grandmillennial  
Oversized lights  
Marbling & cork  
Handmade



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**15**  
YEARS  
IN STYLE

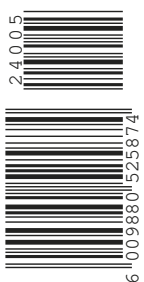
*Swing by & celebrate*

# CAPE TOWN

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# Our Victorian villa

The authentic façade of this beautiful Victorian house in Gardens reveals nothing about the stylish black-and-white interior. Renovations were carried out with the greatest love of and respect for the historical character of the home

PHOTOS KARL ROGERS/VIGNETTE AGENCY

Photo of frangipani! Getty Images

## ▲ CLASSIC

The veranda adds a classic feel, even though it was built forty years after the house itself. The front door, windows and stonework are the originals that remained intact throughout the years.

**A**bove the front door of Stefan Rupperti and Alexander Yazdi's home is a small copper plaque with the inscription "At this site in 1860 nothing happened". In the 164 years since, much has however changed. Once it was farmland on the outskirts of Cape Town, now it is a popular neighbourhood, streets away from the bustling city life.

The two Berliners, who had been coming to South Africa for a decade, realised that their stays became longer and after each visit it became increasingly difficult to leave. They wanted their own home in their beloved city. They bought the property in 2018, noticing that, while extensive changes had already been made, the most beautiful characteristic of the house – its stoep – remained intact. For them, who hail from a city in Europe that was practically demolished during the Second World War, this was the biggest bonus. They wanted to restore the home to its former glory and create a striking contrast with contemporary décor.

During the restoration process, the team from GSquared Architects knocked down existing extensions that had not been done in line with the guidelines of the National Heritage Council. The roof terrace, spa and yoga studio made way for a self-sustaining apartment. The main bedroom was windowless. Here, and wherever necessary, new metal-framed windows were installed, giving an open, light feeling to the house. The modern windows remind of authentic Victorian paned windows.

Stefan and Alexander wanted to highlight the historical character of the house through their choice of design and accessories. Décor elements combine harmoniously to create an atmosphere of temperate sophistication. The furniture is mostly the work of local designers with a handful of iconic pieces. The colour scheme is black and white throughout, with muted colours here and there. On a pleasant day, Stefan and Alexander enjoy nothing more than whiling away time under their nearly century-old frangipani tree until the evening breeze releases the sweet aroma of the flowers.

[perfecthideaways.co.za/self-catering/schon-1866](https://perfecthideaways.co.za/self-catering/schon-1866)

### ► IN CHARACTER

Each change was carefully considered to remain true to the original character of the house. In the open-plan kitchen and living area, the wooden floor was laid in herringbone pattern and dark grey was chosen for the furniture and cabinetry. Dashes of yellow brighten the space. The modern chandelier is from designer Lindsey Adelman. The marble kitchen island houses the hob and a sink. The rest of the kitchen is neatly tucked away inside the cupboards. A large art print from another era creates visual balance in the space.



### ▲ A TOUCH OF AFRICA

A Bamileke table and Malawian rattan chairs are used as outdoor furniture on the veranda. The Victorian-style pendant light was selected with care to match the authentic façade of the house. During the summer months, the veranda is their favourite place for socialising.

### ► MODERN VICTORIAN

The Modo chandelier from Roll & Hill gives the living area a contemporary feel. The wall chandeliers were made from an antique Rococo chandelier and mounted above the black fireplace.



Ornamental bunnies add a touch of romance to the otherwise sophisticated living room.

### LIKE A GLASS HOUSE

The dining room was added by the previous owners and is reminiscent of a glass house. The table with its mahogany look is made of American red oak. It was made by British furniture designer Andrew Dominic who also has a workshop in Cape Town ([andrewdominic.com](http://andrewdominic.com)). Black chairs on one side and white Panton chairs on the other are striking. The modern tiling is a nod to the black-and-white tiles of the Victorian era. An interior garden softens the look.



**PINK DREAMS**

A pink shade was chosen for this guest bedroom and combined with dark-wood furniture. The four-poster bed is also from [andrewdominic.com](http://andrewdominic.com).



**MAKE A NOTE**

A small bureau is a thoughtful addition, should you want to work or jot something down. The wallpaper is from [robinsprong.com](http://robinsprong.com).



◀ **WORKSPACE**

The other bedrooms also have small bureaus for when you want to work in peace.

◀ **IN A FOREST**

Another guest bedroom embraces nature with wallpaper inspired by the landscapes of the old masters, also from [robinsprong.com](https://www.robinsprong.com). The Distrikt bed is from [lagrangeinteriors.co.za](https://www.lagrangeinteriors.co.za). It is styled with indigenous succulents and pincushions in a glass vase. 📦



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# Wood and stone

This modern home in the arboreous Higgovale, a neighbourhood in the City Bowl, seems to grow out of the mountain. The property is on the old Bellevue Quarry where giant granite blocks were mined to build Sir Herbert Baker's famous Rhodes Memorial in 1912

PHOTOS HENRIQUE WILDING/PERFECT HIDEAWAYS



## ▲ HEAD IN THE CLOUDS

The owner wanted to build the house as high as possible to fully enjoy the breathtaking city view, one of the most splendid in the world. The elongated swimming pool stretches from the side of the house to the edge of the terrace.

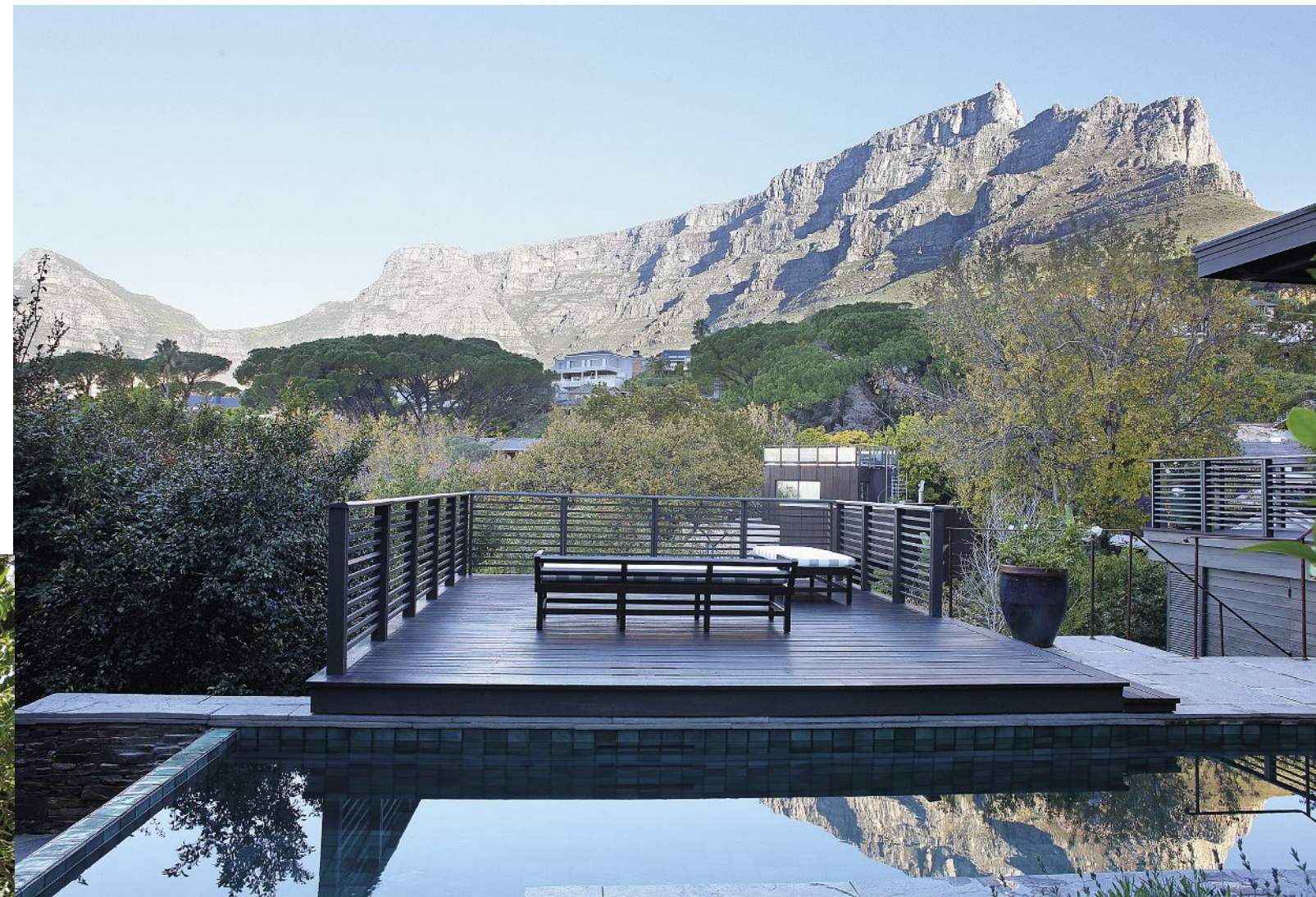


Photo of sunbird Getty Images

## ▲ A NEW DAY DAWNING

The terrace is on the eastern side, making it the ideal spot to admire the sunrise, with the trees gently rustling in the background. The deck is made of a wood similar to Garapa to withstand the summer heat, the wind and other elements in the Cape of Storms.

◀ The beauty of a sugarbird. In Higgovale you are minutes away from hikes and the beautiful scenery Table Mountain offers.



**A** lift transports you three stories up to the living room that opens onto a large terrace with a lovely view of the city and mountain. The owner wanted to build the house as high as possible to make the most of the vista. The effect is phenomenal, creating the illusion of hovering above the city. It is quiet and divinely beautiful.

The owner, Jonathan Kent, was born in Britain, but grew up in the southern suburbs of Cape Town. In the seventies he returned to London to study. There he became an actor and now works as a stage director. For him, this home is of great sentimental value – reminding him of the happy years that he spent in South Africa. His father was a South African and an architect. His brother, Malcolm, an architect in Boston, USA, designed the home. It was built by a construction company that used to belong to their father.

A long, rectangular swimming pool was built into the deck, nearly right up to the house. You are surrounded by trees – some have been there for years; others were planted by the owner – shielding the house from the street and making it hard to imagine that the city centre is a stone's throw away. From the foundation up, the house was built with stone that gives way to wood to create the impression of being in a treehouse high up among the tree canopies.

The top storey comprises a living area, a long galley kitchen and a dining nook. The master bedroom is on the second floor, along with a bathroom featuring a glass wall in the shower through which the swimming pool is visible. It creates a dramatic effect that makes one look twice, wondering where the shower ends, and the pool begins. There are also two guest suites. Jonathan comes here as often as he can to rest and recharge. It is easy to understand why this house is so dear to him.

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#### ◀ PURE SOPHISTICATION

The top level houses a living room, a long galley kitchen and a dining nook. The living room contains interesting furnishings. A large cream-coloured sofa is combined with African elements in this curtainless room. The white shutters and black window frames accentuate the modernity of the space and match the black wooden floors.





#### ▲ FOR THE GUESTS

A tall headboard of light wood is a focal point in this room. Two antique chairs serve as bedside tables and nightlights have been secured to the headboard to save space.

#### ◀ PEACEFUL CORNER

In the master bedroom there is a tiny gallery above the bureau. The soft texture of the bench at the foot end of the bed and the floor rug forms a striking contrast with the polished black floor.

#### ▶ ROOM FOR ART

The master bedroom also has a wooden headboard; however, in this room it was stained black. Above the headboard are the most exquisite artworks of dried flowers with shiny beetles and bugs among them. Once again antique chairs are used as bedside tables. The early 19th century English chairs originally had riempie seats, but they have since been caned.



▼ **SWIM OR SHOWER?**

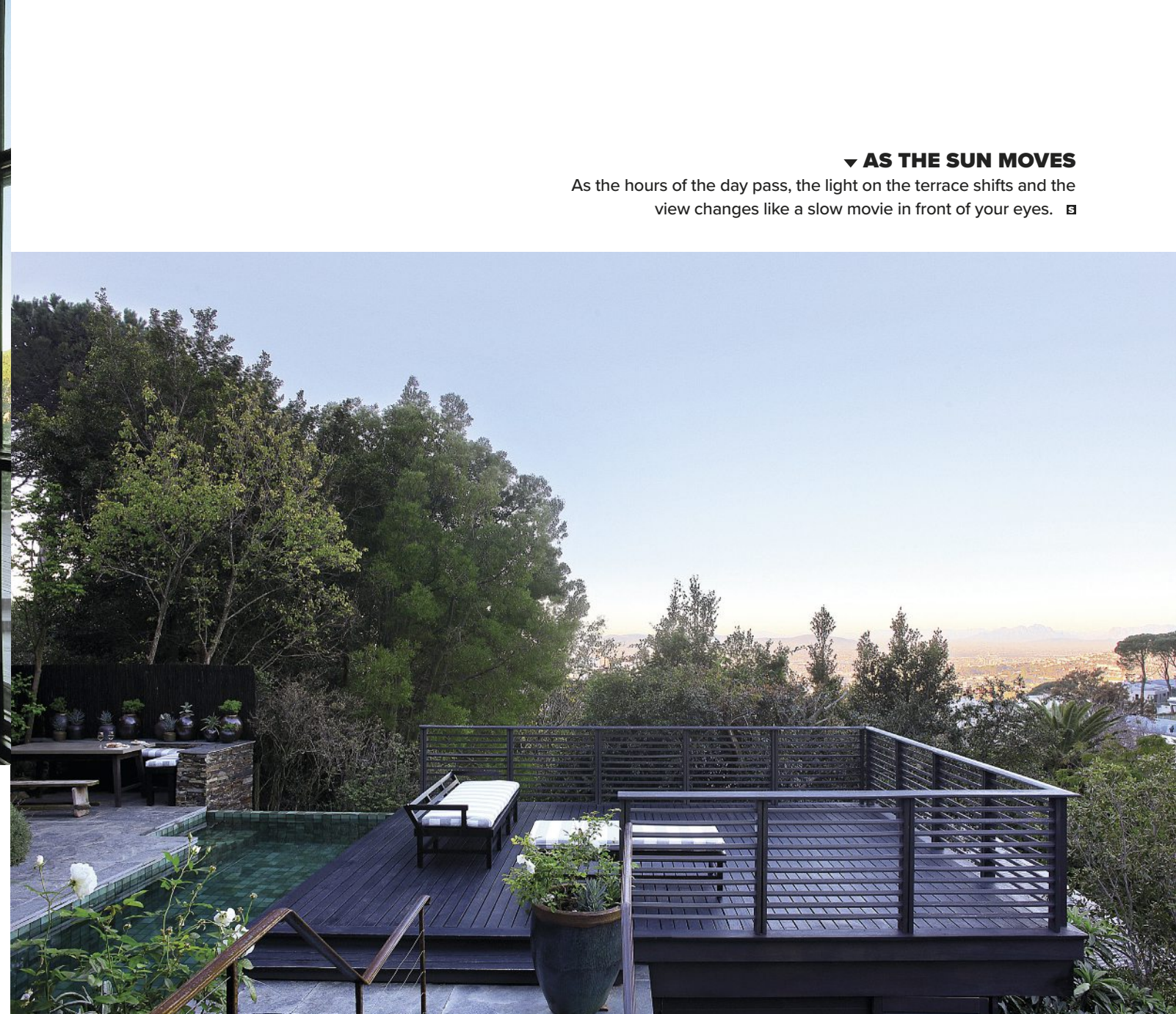
The shower in the en-suite bathroom is separated from the swimming pool by a thick glass wall, allowing you to see into the pool – it's out of this world.



► **WATER EFFECT**

The bath area of the bathroom is equally special with its handmade aquamarine tiles. Recesses in the wall serve as storage space for towels and toiletries.





▼ **AS THE SUN MOVES**

As the hours of the day pass, the light on the terrace shifts and the view changes like a slow movie in front of your eyes. ■



◀ **LONG KITCHEN**

**Above left** The kitchen may be narrow, but it has ample work surfaces and storage space. There is also no shortage of natural light. The window opens wide to let in fresh air. The floor is from slate tiles.

◀ **AL FRESCO BREAKFAST**

**Below left** A simple shelf was mounted in front of the kitchen window and with its two bar stools it makes a perfect spot to enjoy an outdoor meal.

Photo of lemons Getty Images



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 (SLEEPS 6)

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# Mountain and ocean

Bantry Bay on the slopes of Lion's Head between Sea Point and Camps Bay is a place synonymous with spectacular sunsets and perfect views over the azure waters. An unimaginative house from the 1960s was redesigned to create a worldclass home

PHOTOS WARREN HEATH & ELSA YOUNG/PERFECT HIDEAWAYS



## ▶▶ ENDLESS VIEWS

The bland 1960s house was completely redesigned. From the upper terraces you have a view for days. The terrace with the swimming pool is also visible from this vantage point. All the terraces have interesting patio furniture, like this chair with its typical 1950s design that is now making a comeback. The orange scatter cushion complements the warm tones of the rattan.





**W**hen the current owner first viewed the property, he was lukewarm about the nondescript 1960s-style house with its poor light and awkward spaces, but wholly smitten with the topography of the natural landscape and its gigantic boulders. His early thoughts to demolish and start anew were dashed by the economic and structural realities of such a steep site. Gradually he became more comfortable with the quirky charm of the original house and decided to work with what he had, enlisting the help of architect Antonio Zaninovic and his childhood friend, interior designer Tara Bean. Together, they devised a way to extend the footprint of the house by opening it up to the south where the views and light lay.

Today, the main house occupies the upper two terraces, while the third and fourth terraces are home to an outdoor dining and braai area and a pool perched on the edge of a cliff. There are six bedrooms, six bathrooms and a dream kitchen. Every cosy nook has a splendid view.

The owner wanted the house to feel grounded in the landscape, with a strong emphasis on comfort and warmth. He didn't want any mass-produced pieces in the house. Tara took time to seek out items that resonated with the location and if she couldn't find them, she had them made. A colourful collection of South African art, vintage Berber rugs and handwoven cloths from Ghana complete the picture.

Excerpt adapted from *Perfect Hideaways in South Africa Book 3*, see The look on page 99.

#### ◀ FULL COLOUR

While the dominant feel is one of quiet calm, pops of colour were added, as with this striking artwork next to the ten-seater table of deal wood. The chairs at the table ends are in Philippe Starck's Pratfall style. In the background, the living room with its amazing view is visible. The living room chair is mid-century modern and warm shades of burnt orange were repeated in this space. The slatestone floor echoes the rocky landscape, and the modern pendant lights are made of black metal wire.



#### ◀ ▼ KITCHEN WITH A VIEW

The owner wanted a view from every window. In the kitchen with its ocean view, teal cupboards are complemented by glazed white tiles with a relief pattern on the front-side of the counter. Quality surfaces, like Caesarstone's wide variety of products, were installed.



#### ◀ SEASIDE DINING

This built-in seating, upholstered in shades of grey, is one of many inviting outdoor nooks for chatting and dining – it feels as though you are sitting on the water.

#### ▶ RELAX AT THE WATER

A variety of deck and lounge chairs were arranged on the terraces and next to the swimming pool. This double-volume patio bed is covered in weather-resistant fabric in earthy hues.





**BEAUTY IN EVERY ROOM**

In the bedrooms, the décor was kept simple. All the bedrooms have luxurious rugs, bamboo blinds, comfortable chairs and beautiful works of art. Table lamps ensure soft lighting. Every need was catered for in these dreamy spaces and each has a unique view – some of the ocean, others of the boulders or even of a tree with the waters far below.

◀ **Opposite, below left**  
The master bedroom has its own sitting nook.





▼ **TRANQUIL PLACE**

This bedroom, stripped of unnecessary frills, is a welcome resting place. Just look at the view of the boulders!



◀ **BLISSFUL BATH**

When you return from the beach all sandy, you can clean up in this luxurious bathroom with its white floors and Zellige tiles in the shower. An earthy log is a handy place to put your toiletries. The basin also has a wooden look. Copper taps add extra warmth to the space.





**AGE-OLD**  
 An ancient milkwood tree guards the staircase leading to a terrace. These protected trees are indigenous to the Western Cape and can withstand the strong ocean winds. ▣

  
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2



1

## The look

In exquisite surroundings, little is needed. Choose natural materials like wood, rattan and clay, and allow the colours of the mountain, ocean and veld to do the talking. See the house, page 88

BY ANITA ROSSOUW & LOUNETTE FOURIE

4



7



6



5

Product photos supplied

1 Keep a mohair blanket from Cape Mohair handy for extra warmth (R1 499), @home 2 Revel in the beauty of the exquisite South African properties in *Perfect Hideaways in South Africa: Book 3* by Helen Untiedt and Kerryn Fischer (R650), [shop.perfecthideaways.co.za](http://shop.perfecthideaways.co.za) 3 This solid timber coffee table is available in blackwood and oak (130 x 70 cm, height 40 cm, R5 500), [incanda.co.za](http://incanda.co.za) 4 A clay vase that reminds one of Greek islands (height 28 cm, R795), [weylants.co.za](http://weylants.co.za) 5 Locally woven linen and cotton were used for this cushion cover of 60 x 90 cm (R875), [mungo.co.za](http://mungo.co.za) 6 These striking enamel candle holders are available in various sizes and colours (small and medium R395 each, large R695 each), [santos.co.za](http://santos.co.za) 7 Spend leisurely hours outdoors in this rattan chair (R5 750), [eightdegressouth.com](http://eightdegressouth.com)



# Treehouse in the forest

Sixty rustic wooden steps lead you through Constantia Forest to a house so well-hidden that you can hardly see it. This eco-house is self-sufficient with water from a mountain fountain and solar power that even heats the Japanese standing bathtub

PHOTOS HENRIQUE WILDING/PERFECT HIDEAWAYS

► Natural materials were the first choice for décor and essentials, like these linen napkins and ceramic plate.



## ◀ HIDE AND SEEK

The beauty of this home is largely due to the fact that it is at one with nature. At the front entrance there is a sheltered wooden deck with two comfortable Adirondack chairs from where you can admire the view. All the exterior surfaces of the house are clad in wood, with the black-stained Norway spruce walls lending texture and making the house blend in with the forest.

**ONE WITH NATURE**

The owner has been collecting furniture for many years. Little did she know how well the pieces would work here. The deck is an extension of the living room, allowing those who are seated outdoors to chat with those seated indoors. The dining table of maple wood is a mid-century modern piece, as are the dining chairs of leather and chrome. Crockery and pottery were carefully chosen with pieces by Mervyn Gers and Christo Giles adorning the house.

**A** steep road leads to Las Faldas, the property where the Tree House is located. The walk to the home is a bit of a climb and the first sign that you are there is the Japanese ofuro bath – a bath you can stand in and that can also be heated. The wooden deck with its deep armchairs at the front entrance makes you aware of a near hallowed silence. In this nook you are completely sheltered from the elements and on a clear day you can see all the way to Hangklip on the opposite side of False Bay.

The house is located in a southerly direction, at the edge of a stream, and it has a view on a small piece of surviving Afromontane forest, as well as the Constantia winelands and surrounding forests. One of the first things that the owners did, was to remove invasive trees to re-establish this special piece of forest. The felled timber was later used as floorboards. They even introduced beehives to the forest.

Inside the house with its large double-glazed sliding doors and windows, you feel at one with nature. The interior was meticulously planned with the help of Liam Mooney Studio

in Cape Town. The house had to mirror the beauty of the landscape and for this reason, low furniture and pieces that you can see through (such as the glass coffee table and slatted chairs) were chosen to let the view in unhinderedly. It was a natural choice to play mainly with shades of green, as it softens the distinction between exterior and interior. Thanks to clever use of space by the architects Antonio Zaninovic and Timothy Penfold, the home feels more spacious than it really is. The four decks around the house contribute to this feeling of openness. The interior walls were clad in birch plywood, lending warmth to the home.

Apart from the spacious living area, there is also a dining nook with a six-seater table, a reading nook and a well-appointed kitchen. A skylight lets in cool air in summer. There are two bedrooms, one upstairs and one downstairs for complete privacy. Each room has its own bathroom, and the room on the ground floor has its own deck. In this smart home the hot water can be switched on or the skylight closed with the flick of a switch, even when you are not home – that is, if you'd ever want to leave this gorgeous place . . .



#### ▲ READING NOOK

Next to a window, in front of a bookshelf, you'll find this comfy chair that the owner bought for R150 long ago. Nobody is allowed to speak to you when you've made yourself comfortable here – strictly private.



#### ▲ NEXT TO THE FIRE

With the forest surrounding you, there is more than enough wood for the stove to heat the entire house during the winter months and beat the cold Capetonian weather.



#### COOKING AND SOCIALISING

The galley layout of the kitchen makes it possible to socialise while cooking. The skylight allows for extra ventilation when necessary. Here the wooden floor, made of wood from felled invasive trees, can clearly be seen. Most of the interior walls were clad in birchwood panels to keep the temperature as constant as possible year-round to save electricity.



#### ◀ BATHING IN THE MOUNTAINS

Each bedroom has its own bathroom with a shower and a floating basin with extra storage space below. The surfaces of the basins (here and in the kitchen) remind of the colours of the cliffs. Wall tiles were laid in a herringbone pattern.

#### SLEEP TIGHT

▶ The bedrooms are on two levels. The bedroom on the upper level has built-in bedside cupboards and a shelf above the bed for storage space.

▼ This room, decorated in rusty brown and dove grey, is on the lower level and has its own private deck. The smooth texture of the birchwood panels is in stark contrast to the black vertical exterior cladding.



## WHAT CAN BE PRETTIER?

The main deck houses the Japanese ofuro bath and has steps from where you can admire the view. The built-in sofa, like the deck, is made of Garapa wood and is a favourite place to socialise or even to catch forty winks. The log seats are the remains of the invasive trees that were removed. The green of the scatter cushions echoes the beauty of the natural surroundings.



#### ◀ IN THE FOREST

Even if hiking is not your thing, you'll be able to experience the forest from the lower deck that flows from the bedroom.

#### ▲ DINING AL FRESCO

The living area flows onto this deck where al fresco meals are regularly enjoyed. The tree was saved by building the deck around it and now it serves as a natural umbrella. ▣



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# On the beach

It is everyone's dream: a cottage on one of Clifton's pearly white beaches. Each has a unique character, but all are protected against the elements by Lion's Head. During summer months holiday-makers from all over stream to this sought-after part of Cape Town

PHOTOS PERFECT HIDEAWAYS



## ▲ BEACH VIBES

At this seafront home you'll be equally comfortable on the stoep with its striped canopy, on the beach and in the colourful house. Large trees provide shade and there is even a small garden.



Photo Getty Images

Clifton's four beaches are regarded as among the most beautiful in the world. On lazy summer days people frolic here until late.





**EASY FLOW**

White is the canvas for the cottage décor. The open-plan living area includes the kitchen and dining nook. The dining suite was spray-painted with vehicle paint for a high-shine finish. The screed floors are practical. Large sliding doors open onto the stoep with its endless sea view. A small office can be seen in the background.

**C**lifton has an interesting history. In the eighteenth century it was known as Schoenmakersgat when a shoemaker apparently absconded from his ship and hid in a cave above Second Beach. In the late nineteenth century the name changed to Clifton-on-Sea, named after Bessie Clifton, who owned the only hotel in the area. After the Second World War, as soldiers returned to Cape Town, there was a shortage of housing and the British Admiralty, who owned the land in Clifton, gave permission for the soldiers to erect bungalows in the vicinity.

Many of these houses were built from the containers that vehicles were shipped in. Over the years, Clifton grew into one of Cape Town's most sought-after and expensive neighbourhoods. In 1949, parts of the area were declared as scenic reserve and the construction of high-rise buildings was prohibited.

For the owners, originally from Johannesburg, the cottage is a precious place. They used to come here for holidays to recharge, with their two sons being able to enjoy the beach and the ocean right in front of the house. When the original owner passed away about 33 years ago, the couple had first option to buy the house. Initially, they didn't make many changes, explaining laughingly that they had no money left. Over time, some changes were made, but the character of the house was retained. The living area was extended, and the main bedroom is now where the kitchen once was.

The boys have grown up to be men and spread their wings, and now the house is the couple's retirement home. They love the cosmopolitan atmosphere of Clifton and surrounds. They go for daily walks and sometimes stop for coffee, but when high season arrives, they pack up and go to their house in McGregor, renting the cottage to holiday goers.

▼ **FEEL THE OCEAN BREEZE**

The upholstery of the café chairs repeats the colours of the canopy, with many leisurely meals enjoyed at this table.



▲ **DIY**

The owners bought this large plant pot during a holiday in Bali and had a thick glass top cut to serve as a table, livening up a dull corner. They often buy art from final-year students at the renowned Michaelis School of Fine Art in Cape Town.

► **COLOUR AND COMFORT**

The living room is bright and inviting. The relatively small space was used wisely with built-in furniture and extra storage space, like underneath the L-shaped couch. Next to the painting of the reading woman, are sliding drawers on which the TV is mounted. The bamboo coffee table and baskets are from Bali. The old tapestries that the scatter cushions are made of, were bought on Facebook Marketplace. The bookshelf above the couch adds a pop of colour.





### ▲ PRETTY PATTERNS

The black-and-white bathroom is striking. The owner converted the harlequin dresser into a vanity for twin basins. The mirror above the vanity is decorated with birds and the black-and-white rug was bought at Mr Price Home long ago. Here, too, she made extra plans for storage space.



### ▲ PLACE OF DREAMS

The main bedroom has a selection of tapestry scatters that lend texture and warmth to the otherwise predominantly white room. Tiffany bedside lamps repeat these colours. Built-in cupboards (right) hide the bathroom and provide a ledge for displaying art. ■



### IF YOU'D LIKE TO STAY HERE

**ON-THE-BEACH BUNGALOW**

SLEEPS 8 (4 BEDROOMS)

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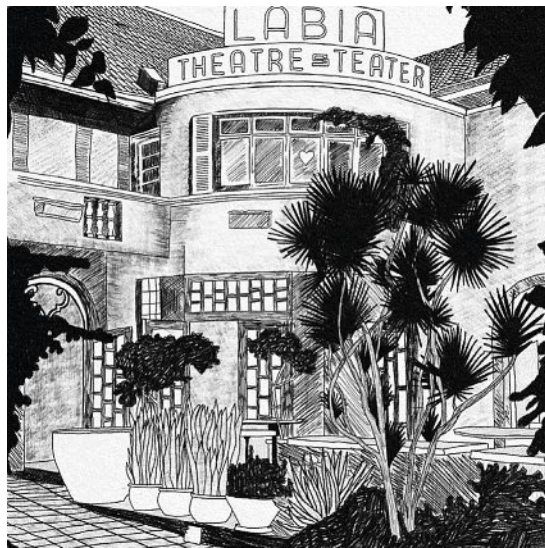
# My Cape Town

We asked a few sworn Capetonians why this city and surrounds are so special to them and enquired about their favourite things to do and the places they enjoy hanging out



## 2 MARGUERITE VAN WYK

SARIE journalist Marguerite lives in the city and pays regular visits to the **Labia**. She sings its praises: “It is like a charming host. I always feel warm and welcome in this Art Deco space with its red velvet curtains, muted lighting and aroma of freshly popped corn. The somewhat exotic foyer evokes nostalgia and sometimes it feels as though I am in a movie when I enter this sanctuary. The staff and visitors are interesting ‘characters’ that I can feast my eyes on. My favourite movie at the Labia during the past two years is probably *Good Luck to You, Leo Grande*.”



The Labia is the oldest independent movie theatre in the country (75 years, like SARIE) and an iconic landmark of the Mother City.



## 1 NATALIE BORUVKA

The co-owner of the photo agency Vignette Agency (vignette.agency) firmly believed herself to be a Joburger to the core until she moved to Cape Town to be with her beloved. She soon realised that *this* is her city. When her life partner goes surfing at Muizenberg, she goes along and walks the road between the railroad and the ocean to St James. For the biggest, yummiest palmiers, she goes to **Olympia Café** in Kalk Bay and if she is lucky, one of the bakers will be playing the piano in the centre of the bakery. She cannot resist a vintage shop and spends many Saturdays browsing the **Milnerton flea market**.



## 3 HELEN UNTIEDT

Born in Britain, Helen met her husband, David, in Monaco years ago and he brought her to his country of birth and, specifically, to Cape Town. She fell head over heels in love – with the man and with the city. There is hardly a corner of earth that Helen has not visited, yet Cape Town triumphs every time. The natural beauty and the people of the city are at the top of her list. They are self-confessed foodies and some of their favourite eateries are **Limoncello** and **The Foodbarn** in Noordhoek and **Salt** in Kalk Bay. Her décor pick is **L’Orangerie** in Wynberg. She and David are the owners of the travel agency **Perfect Hideaways**.



Instagram photos @milnertonmarket, @capetownheritagefoundation, @the\_foodbarn\_noordhoek