

SOUTH AFRICA'S 1st FASHION & NEWS WEEKLY

GRAZIA

R20

NEW
JEAN
SCENE

NEW
NEON

PRINTS

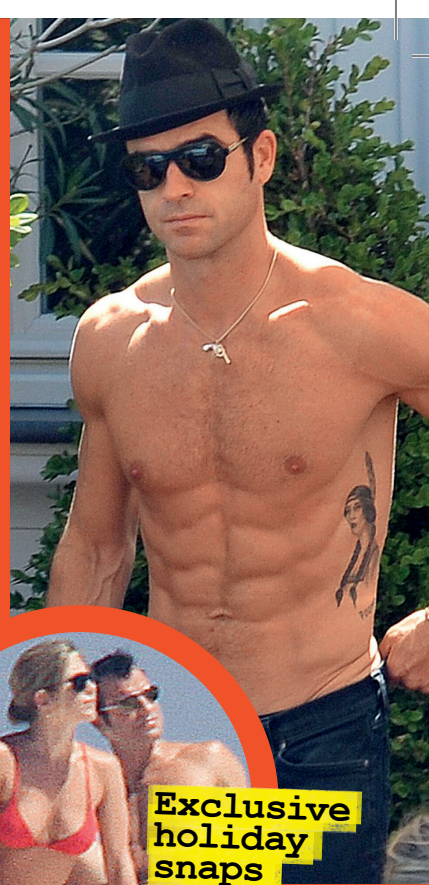
GRUNGE

INDIGO

METALLIC

PASTEL

Hot trend:
Twinkle toes!



Exclusive
holiday
snaps

JEN & JUSTIN's
steamy getaway

BREAKING NEWS TomKat Showdown

* KATIE FILES FOR DIVORCE

* SEEKING SOLE CUSTODY OF SURI

* 'MISERABLE FOR MONTHS'

FIRST PERSON
'I CAN'T AFFORD TO
BREAK UP WITH
MY BOYFRIEND'



ISSUE 008 R20 (VAT INCL)
Other countries: R17,54 (TAX EXCL)

STEP LIGHTLY...

With its antiques, architectural salvage and other eco-friendly features, this charming beachside cottage on the West Coast boasts impressive carbon-footprint credentials – and scores high on style, too

SEVENTH HEAVEN

The cottage is a stone's throw away from the water's edge, and a crushed-shell pathway winds down to the beach



IT MIGHT BE ONLY FOUR YEARS OLD, but this delightful cottage boasts a nostalgic appeal that's just perfect for its idyllic location in the small, sleepy hamlet of Churchhaven in the West Coast National Park. "We really wanted to achieve the feel of a house from a bygone age," explains Helen Untiedt, who, along with her husband, David, built the cottage and now co-owns it with a group of families who use it as a weekend getaway. "It was also important that we created something that had a low environmental impact and was stylistically appropriate to the lives of the fishing community who created Churchhaven."

Architect John Barrett of Earth Temple – whose motto is "Build nothing that cannot go back into the earth without trace" – drew up plans for a low-slung, 140m² cottage, complete with a borehole and just enough solar power to run the pump ➤

NATURAL FURNITURE

Fresh green reeds were used to line the inside of the roof space. Fading to a brownish shade as they dry, they provide an earthy, decorative touch



David Untiedt and his wife, Helen, built the eco-friendly cottage



RUSTIC LIVING

The interior scheme uses the colours of Churchhaven: faded beach-house chic with rustic touches, and the odd flash of flamingo pink or azure



and a few lamps. "This is a house that is totally off the grid," says Helen. "There's no main electricity, water, or even sewerage – instead there are candles, gas, rainwater capture and a biological treatment system."

The whitewashed walls and soft grey-painted tin roof harmonise with the landscape, an effect enhanced by the use of locally sourced materials. White limestone was used for the foundations, beach pebbles were set

into the floor of the shower, and the beams were made from raw poplar. White beach sand was mixed with cement and used for the walls and floors. "And you know the greatest thing about it?" enthuses Helen. "It never needs redecorating."

Other features were salvaged from demolished buildings to avoid using new resources and materials. The old teak windows are from a hotel in Cape Town, while the big beams were salvaged from the harbour, and still have clusters of barnacles clinging to them. "John had warehouses full of reclaimed materials, plus all sorts of antique fittings such as doors and brassware," Helen recalls. "The recycled beams we used were cut centuries ago from ancient-growth forest, so their quality and strength are



All the rooms have been accessorised with a light touch, so as not to detract from the beauty of the location





LAZY SUNNY DAYS

The stoep is made from a sand-cement mixture, so it almost gives the impression of being an extension to the beach that it overlooks. The hammock is an essential addition to this outdoor living space, and sums up the laid-back feel of the remote location.

Left: Continuing the theme of old-world charm, the bathroom features a Victorian-style bath.



unrivalled.” The wide-plank floors in the bedrooms are from an old tree that was originally in Helen and David’s Cape Town garden, and had been hit by lightning.

The low-impact philosophy becomes even more apparent when you hear the story behind the interiors of Whaler’s Way. Much of the décor has been appropriated from Helen’s existing possessions. “All around the house are a variety of old metal hooks that I can remember sitting in a pile at my parents’ farm in England,” Helen recalls. Such items were supplemented with a raft of vintage finds and second-hand pieces sourced by interior decorator Salomé Gunter from junk shops on the back

streets of Cape Town or from roadside vendors. The few new furnishings were either made locally or from recycled materials.

Each day’s activities are pretty much planned around the mealtimes, which are always feasts: home-cooked dishes made of the freshest produce. “With this simple lifestyle, away from it all, we’re very much into slow food,” explains Helen. “It was important to me that the kitchen functioned to support this way of living.”

Thanks to a stunning location and the ethical decisions taken during its design and build, this is an abode that allows the enjoyment of simple, but never guilty, pleasures. ■