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BEACH BEAUTY

Ronelle and Möller Bester drew on the rugged good looks of their surroundings to create a home that exudes natural charm

FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM | PHOTOGRAPHY WARREN HEATH/BUREAUX/LIVING INSIDE

no. 3



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Detached new build
LOCATION in South Africa's Western Cape

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, snug, utility room, cloakroom, five bedrooms (all en suite), terrace

BUILT 2017

PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We live on a farm north of Cape Town,' says Ronelle.

SITTING ROOM

When the doors are open, this room flows seamlessly into the outdoor entertaining area.

Tower marble coffee table, £519, Heal's, is similar. For a rug like this one, try the luxe natural cowhide in Grey, £400, Amara. Contact Topcret for cement flooring

Soon after they got engaged to be married, Ronelle and Müller Bester took a trip to the West Coast of South Africa's Western Cape and while they were there, they found a plot of land for sale on the untouched stretch of shoreline known as Dwarskerbos. 'We loved the wild, remote feel of this part of the coast, which is only a one-hour drive from our principal home, a farm north of Cape Town,' says Ronelle. She adds, 'At the time, I had just sold my flat in Cape Town, so we decided to invest the money in the plot.'

It wasn't until a decade later, by which time they had two children, Julian, now 12, and Josua, 10, that the couple finally embarked on the build. 'During that time, I think our dreams got bigger and bigger; I had never originally anticipated building such a large house,' says Ronelle. 'The layout was very

much devised around entertainment: we wanted a place where we could go with friends, enjoy good food and relax.'

The couple drew up basic plans, but approached architect Charl Marais to help them fine-tune the designs. 'It was an amazing experience,' says Ronelle. 'Charl solved all the problems we hadn't been able to work out, such as where to put the staircase, which we had envisaged in the sitting room.' He also helped the couple to design two outdoor entertaining areas, one with views across the sand dunes to the sea and the second, which incorporates a pool and a wood-fired hot tub, in a courtyard behind the house. 'It can get very windy here, so it was great to have a more sheltered outdoor space,' says Ronelle.

Thanks to large expanses of glazing, the house connects beautifully with its surroundings, and it was the rugged beauty

SITTING ROOM

A rattan pendant adds to the textural aesthetic. Try the beige seagrass pendant light, £132; and Salma set of two black side tables, £164, both Maisons du Monde. Jake sofa in Nutmeg leather, from £1,713 for a two-seater, Love Your Home, has this look



TERRACE
Built-in and freestanding seating were mixed to create a flexible entertaining area overlooking the sand dunes. Dune dining table, from €780, Weylandts. Try the Venice dining chairs in Grey by Philippe Starck, €376 for two, Kartell



KITCHEN-DINER
A striking framed wallpaper panel and patterned wall tiles add decorative touches and work with the monochromatic aesthetic in the living space. The large bifold window (below) doubles as a serving hatch

for the sheltered courtyard. Ladies Who Lunch framed wallpaper, around £350 plus shipping, Cara Saven Wall Design. Try Benchmark's Mrs B table, from £2,125, Eames DSR chairs, from £265 each, The Conran Shop. Tolix stools (below), £625 for two, La Redoute



of the landscape that inspired the interiors. 'I wanted to use a subdued palette and focus on texture,' says Ronelle, who came across Cape Town-based interior designer Elsie Schonken after she spotted a feature on one of her projects in a magazine. 'I realised that the project was my former flat and I was really impressed with what she had done,' says Ronelle. 'I had got to the point where I could see that furnishing the house myself while running my business was proving a logistical problem.'

Elsje took Ronelle's steer and helped her to source simple, beautiful pieces in natural materials that include wood, leather, linen and rattan. In the kitchen, a wallpaper design featuring flamingos was framed as if it is a work of art. 'There

is a fisherman's village 10 kilometres from here where there are thousands of flamingos, so I thought this would be a wonderful way to reference this,' explains Ronelle. 'I was a little bit afraid of papering a whole wall, so Elsie suggested putting a piece of wallpaper in a frame.'

Spacious, tactile and supremely welcoming, this home is the perfect way to enjoy the unspoilt surroundings of the rolling dunes and the plant paradise known as the fynbos. 'When we come here, we tend not to eat out as I always say that we have the best spot,' says Ronelle. 'No restaurant can serve us that view.' Villa Kersbos is available to rent through Perfect Hideaways, perfecthideaways.co.za

MAIN BEDROOM
The fabric hanging from the four poster enriches the space with pattern. Rattan squid pendant lights, from €200 each, Spati four-poster bed, from €1,360, all Weylandts. Try the Hermann fir side table, £77, Maisons du Monde



BOYS' BEDROOM
Simple furnishings are elevated with touches of pattern and texture. Rug, from R9,600 plus shipping from South Africa, Hertext. The Hale metal tripod black and brass desk lamp, £59, Cult Furniture, has a similar look.



BEDROOM
Seating is arranged around the window, which frames the stunning view. Try the Aldona chair in Caramel leather, £775, and Sylvan mango table, £265, both Perch & Parrow. Tate & Darby's Robertson jute rug, from £450, is a good alternative.

MAIN EN SUITE
Wooden slats on one wall add rich texture and speak to the basin mirror. Bathstore's Newton bath, £934, is like this. Try Maisons du Monde's Andrea oval black metal mirror, £88. The Rattan Frame mirror, £198, Anthropologie, is similar.

