

# OUR BIGGEST ISSUE EVER\*

# VISION

## ICONIC 100<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

COVER ART BY  
ALEXIS CHRISTODOULOU  
PAGE 213

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SA R75  
OTHER COUNTRIES  
R65,22  
EXCLUDING TAX

**\*FEATURING** ADRIAAN HUGO & KATY TAPLIN • ANDILE DYALVANE & ZIZIPHO POSWA • ATANG TSHIKARE  
• ATHI-PATRA RUGA • BOYD FERGUSON • CHRIS WEYLANDT • CHU SUWANNAPHA • CRYSTAL BIRCH • DAVID KRYNAUW  
• FAATIMAH MOHAMED-LUKE • GERHARD SWART & ANTHONY HARRIS • GREGOR JENKIN • HALDANE MARTIN  
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& LESLEY CARSTENS • SIWA MGOBOZA • THABISA MJO • TRACY LEE LYNCH • TREVYN & JULIAN MCGOWAN

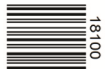
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MODEL KATRYN KRUGER HAIR & MAKE-UP MARZANNE GERICKE CLOTHING FOR SALE AT BABYLONSTOREN AND SHOP.BABYLONSTOREN.COM



142



188



96



126



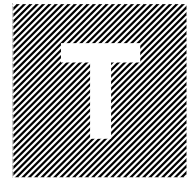
The main bedroom with its Babylonstoren bedcover and velvet-upholstered antique chair. Outside is a shower amid banana and papaya trees.

# A LIGHT TOUCH

Babylonstoren has opened six new Fynbos Cottages that are the definition of restrained luxury and suggest how you might refocus your leisure time.

PHOTOS DOOK  
PRODUCTION ANNEMARIE MEINTJES  
NORDS LES AUPIAIS





**T**HROUGH the vineyards and up a gradual incline, past a dam and on the crest of a ridge, the wheels of the electric carts thrum on the roadway. You breathe the route this way: fynbos, grapevines, untainted air. Guests shed clutter to be here at Babylonstoren: first their fossil-fuelled cars, then the clamour of business and the metro-nome of a daily routine.

Perhaps the word “cottage” is misleading, because what you discover are living spaces drawn in elegantly clean lines. Light streams in through glass walls; white space on which to draw your own experience. Think of these cottages rather as earth-anchored apartments with views over water, mountains and two-thirds sky, an artistic balance that you register subliminally as calming, pleasing on the eye.

Broad-beamed Oregon pine floors and thick walls make historical reference to the sturdy Cape dwellings of the 18th century, but all else is contemporary symmetry: crisp white linen, panama-straw fabric tones, and the textures of linen and fine cotton. The bathrooms are lolling spaces, stripped of everything but the opulence of space and cool marble underfoot. You could keep an eye on the world via a flat-screen, yet more enticing is a floor-to-ceiling bookcase, a wall of travel, philosophy, botany and history to engage your thoughts.

Through a low wooden gate, a path leads to a surprise for guests. Quite suddenly you are in an agave desert, but the mirage is real. A pool and low loungers invite you to bake like lizards in a rocky

boma with a roof garden spiked with aloes and heat-loving indigenous plants. Above you is that distinctive Cape blue sky and a sun you’ve sought all year to recharge.

A short distance away down through the vineyards, close but almost another country, is the bustling abundance of the farm: the charcuterie and bakery; the roastery where almonds harvested in the orchards are roasted and where you’ll find blocks of artisanal chocolate and nougat; a Healing Garden of fragrant herbs for teas to soothe or invigorate; the new Spice Garden hothouse with arches reminiscent of a classic French *gare*; and the Factory, where balsamic vinegar in barrels makes the cool air sweet with its promise of a taste in years to come, and where, in the Scented Room, you may play alchemist and mix your own essential oils and fragrant salts. There are those cottage baths, after all...

Forage from the Farm Shop for your evening fare and then quietly retreat to the hill, with Simonsberg, Paarl Mountain, Du Toitskloof Mountains and the distinctive conical Babylonstoren peak etching the skyline.

And in that indeterminate time between dusk and night, the owls hunt for booty for their chicks housed in elevated boxes a short flight from the cottage verandas. You’ll not hear their wings, but perhaps if the night is windless and still, you might catch their double hoot and hear the short cry of their prey. They must forage, too, for their fare. By now your senses have been realigned. You will be gentled into a new way of marking time and somehow changed for the better.

[babylonstoren.com](http://babylonstoren.com)

**OPPOSITE** The six new Fynbos Cottages on Babylonstoren command an elevated view of the farm over a sea of vines, in summer an undulating green “lawn” and in autumn a rustle of dry leaves that will be the white-noise soundtrack for your sleep.

**OPENING SPREAD** The cottages are cleverly designed to reveal and conceal: Thick white walls and deeply set windows create a natural cool, and subtly make reference to 18th-century architecture at the Cape designed to fend off a fierce sun. Glass walls offer guests a lens on the fynbos and mountains while creating light, spirit-uplifting zones. Your senses are immediately engaged.



There is a subtle conversation to the living-room design: Walk barefoot to feel cool Oregon pine or the delicious texture of jute bouclé underfoot. But then your eye is drawn to books you simply must read. You could connect with the world via your phone or television, but why would you? The room has other ideas.



There can be no more extreme luxury than a bed that strips clutter from your head and comfortably suspends you for eight hours in fine linen. On a chilly night, light a fire, retreat, and listen to the farm's natural soundtrack.





There is art and science at work in the bathrooms, so often neglected afterthoughts of design. Here, the bath calls for immersion in something fragrant to coax you into a spa-headspace. The light is perfect for everyday rituals, yet, dimmed by night, turns the bathroom into a theatrical space, a stage with minimal props and maximum indulgence.



Behind the cottages and through a discreet wooden gate is a surprise for guests: a desert oasis of rock and a swimming pool and a vitality pool to vigorously jet away fatigue. Commandeer loungers and look upwards at cloud shapes and, armed with chilled white wine or spring water, soak up just enough of the sun to recharge.



Through the glass door of the pool area is a small conservatory refreshment station. Even a gentle signal by hand will summon staff for drinks... or slip inside for a light snack.



## NISI GROOT DRAKENSTEIN COTTAGES

One of the Fynbos Cottages consists of two units linked by a glass passage - echoing the juxtaposition elsewhere of glass-box kitchens added on to the vernacular-style Garden Cottages. It's ideal for two couples sharing, as it gives the option of closing the doors to enjoy privacy. It's where we ran into international model Katryn Kruger.



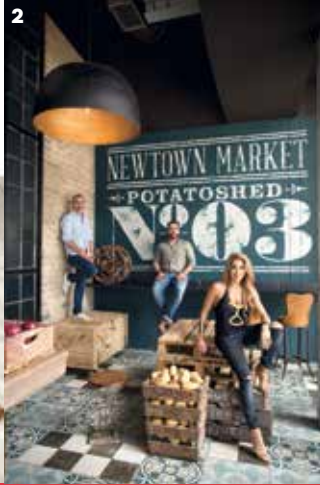
A short distance from Fynbos Cottages, down the hill by electric cart, the farm offers abundant fare for lunch and dinner, but also the chance to stock up on your own fragrant mixes of oils and bath salts in the Scented Room. At the time of our visit, a batch of rosemary essential oil was being distilled and Katryn sampled various scents.



CLOTHING FOR SALE ON THE FARM AND ONLINE AT [SHOPBABYLONSTOREN.COM](http://SHOPBABYLONSTOREN.COM)  
HAIR AND MAKE-UP: MARZANNE GERICK

**VISI REASONS**

1 Dook (NISI 31). 2 Tony Pereira and John and Maira Koutsoudakis (NISI 82). 3 Karen Roos and Terry de Waal (NISI 82). 4 Adriaan Hugo, Katy Taplin and Joe Paine (NISI 35).



5 Paul Kotze (NISI 84).  
6 Emma Chen (NISI 76).



10 Sibusiso Mhlanga (NISI 90).  
11 Greg and Roche Dry (NISI 54).  
12 Jean Gouws (NISI 5).

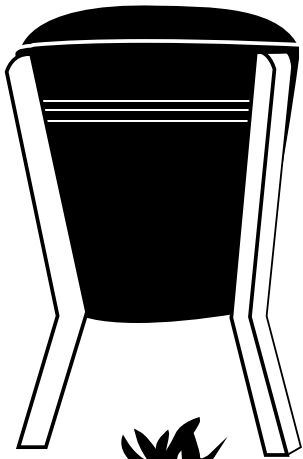
7 Hugo and Max (NISI 76). 8 Etienne Hanekom (NISI 85).  
9 Marcus Pieterse and Stephen Falcke (NISI 7).



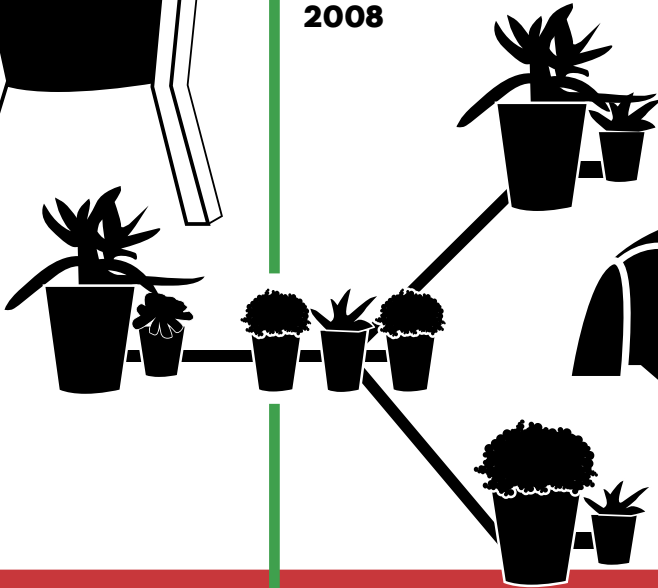
11 CLINTON FRIEDMAN 10 SHAVAN RAHIM 8 JAC DE VILLIERS 6 EMMA CHEN 5 PAUL KOTZE 4 ADRIAAN HUGO, KATY TAPLIN AND JOE PAINE 3 KAREN ROOS AND TERRY DE WAAL 2 TONY PEREIRA AND JOHN AND MAIRA KOUTSOUDAKIS 1 DOOK AND SAM

2008

Bucket stool  
by Pedersen + Lennard

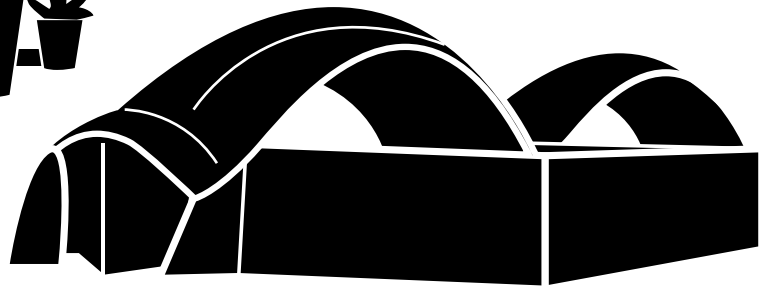
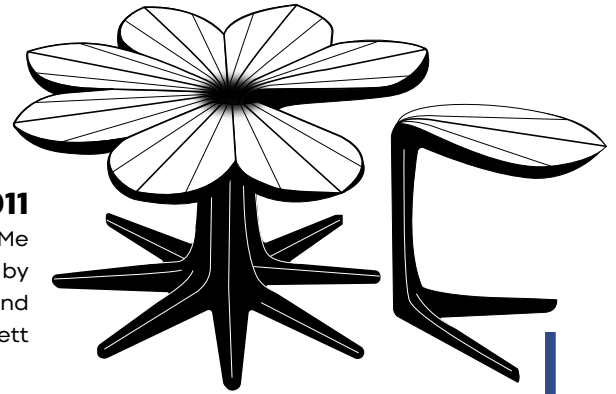


2008



2011

Love Me, Love Me  
Not side table by  
John Vogel and  
Justin Plunkett



2009

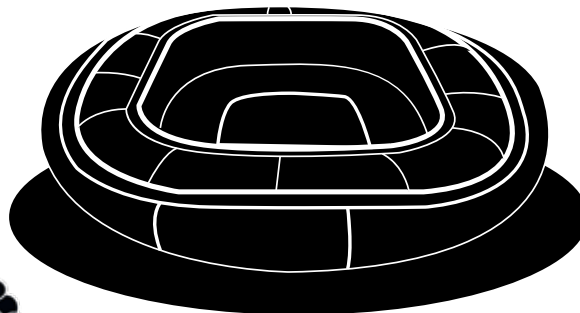
Keep planter  
by Joe Paine

2011

Mapungubwe  
Interpretation Centre  
by Peter Rich

2009

FIFA World Cup stadiums



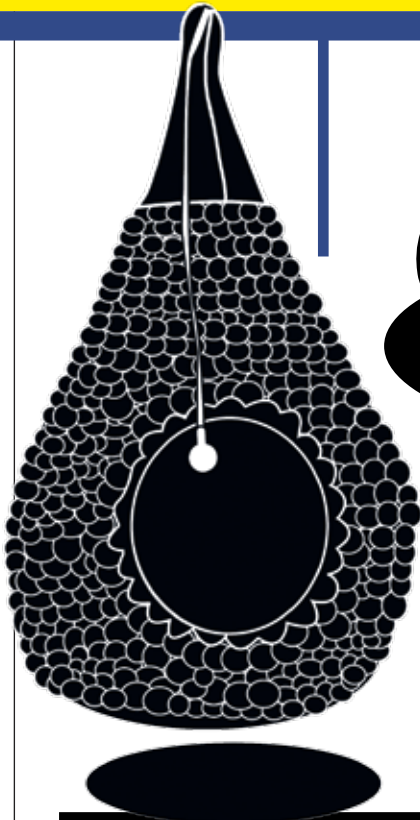
2010

Babylonstoren by Karen Roos



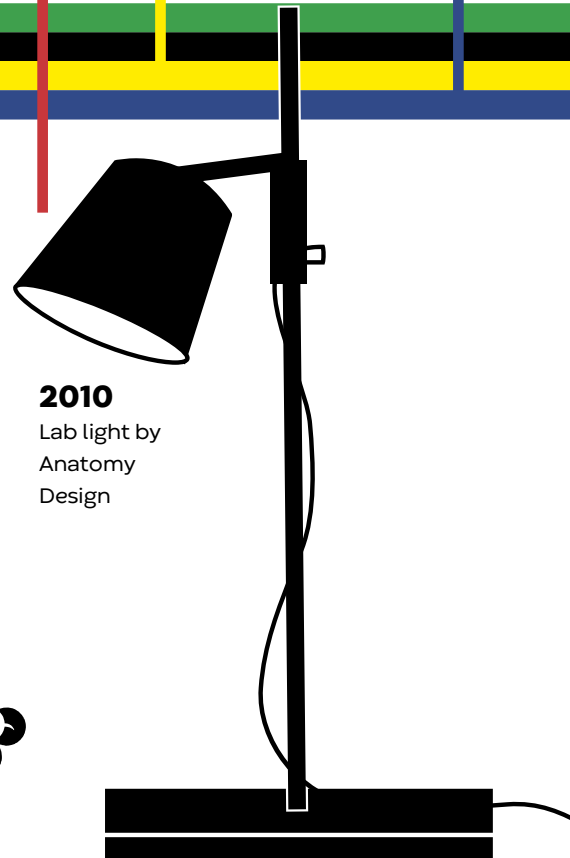
2009

Weaver's Nest by  
Porky Hefer



2010

Lab light by  
Anatomy  
Design



BABYLONSTOREN



◀ **GROOT PHESENTEKRAAL  
BLANC DE BLANC 2016**

Made from 100% Chardonnay, this bubbly from a farm near Durbanville has gorgeous aromas of green apple and citrus combined with biscuit notes. R140 • [grootphesantekraal.co.za](http://grootphesantekraal.co.za)



▲ **STEENBERG LADY R MCC 2013**

This is an elegant Méthode Cap Classique with hints of apple blossom, raspberry, almond puff pastry, citrus and savoury dried herbs. R499 • [steenbergfarm.co.za](http://steenbergfarm.co.za)

▶ **QUOIN ROCK MÉTHODE CAP CLASSIC M.C.C. BRUT 2013**

This brut-style MCC has prominent notes of green apple, biscuit, lime and an interesting mineral character. R350 • [quinrock.co.za](http://quinrock.co.za)



NO  
25

# LET'S CELEBRATE!

No other drink signals good times quite like bubbly. Join us in raising a glass to our 100th issue with these Cap Classique wines.



▲ **KRONE VINTAGE ROSÉ CUVÉE BRUT 2017** The salmon-pink hue, floral bouquet with pomegranate and red apple notes, and lingering berry on the palate combine to make this a winner for a romantic occasion. R150 • [tweejongegezellen.co.za](http://tweejongegezellen.co.za)



▲ **BABYLONSTOREN SPRANKEL MÉTHODE CAP CLASSIC 2014** The Sprankel is a brut-style Chardonnay with granadilla, lime, grapefruit and a beautiful minerality on the palate. It goes really well with cheese, fruit, caviar and seafood dishes. R630 • [shop.babylonstoren.com](http://shop.babylonstoren.com)



▲ **LABORIE MÉTHODE CAP CLASSIQUE BLANC DE BLANCS 2011** This complex MCC, made from 100% Chardonnay, shows aromas of green apple, lime, toasted bread and hazelnut. It is creamy on the palate, with a zesty acidity. R175 • [kwv.co.za](http://kwv.co.za)

**WIN!** We have Cap Classiques featured on this page, worth R???, for one lucky reader; go to [VISI.co.za/win](http://VISI.co.za/win) to enter.





**10 x BABYLONSTOREN HAMPERS**

Valued at **R2170**, each luxurious hamper comprises a bottle of the award-winning Nebukadnesar Bordeaux-style blend, Sprankel Méthode Cap Classique, Onderplaas Bloedlemoen Mampoer, extra-virgin olive oil, balsamic vinegar and organic rooibos tea. [shop.babylonstoren.com](http://shop.babylonstoren.com)



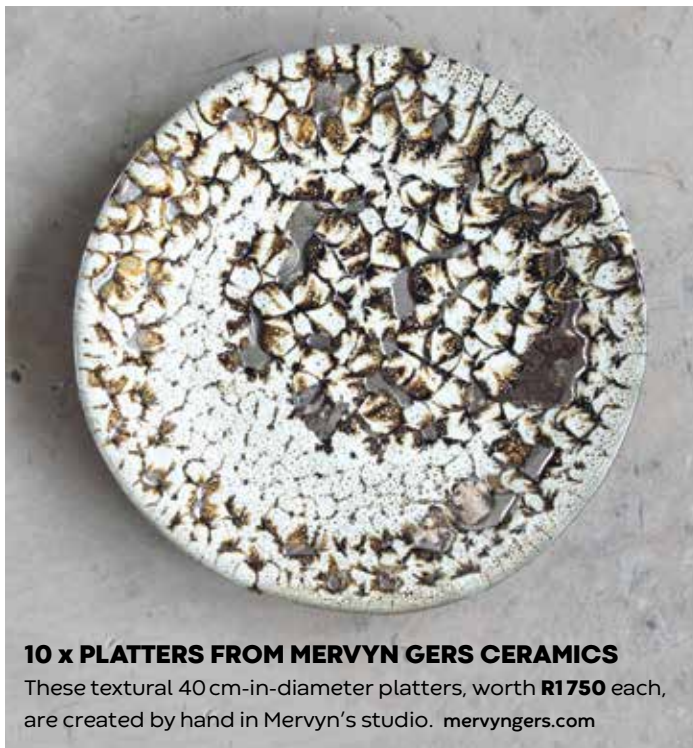
**10 x PEDERSEN + LENNARD HAMPERS**

Cape Town-based design studio Pedersen + Lennard's new Stockholm Bathroom Range includes a hand towel hook, a towel rail and a toilet-roll holder, all of which we're giving away, plus two Stockholm single hooks. The hamper is worth **R1525**. [pedersenlennard.co.za](http://pedersenlennard.co.za)

NO  
100

**BIGGEST GIVEAWAY EVER**

In celebration of VISI's 100th issue, we have 100 prizes up for grabs: 10 brands x 10 items = 100 winners!



**10 x PLATTERS FROM MERVYN GERS CERAMICS**

These textural 40 cm-in-diameter platters, worth **R1750** each, are created by hand in Mervyn's studio. [mervyngers.com](http://mervyngers.com)

**10 x WHISTLING TEAKETTLES FROM LE CREUSET**

Made out of carbon steel with a colourful enamel finish, the 1,6-litre whistling teakettle, worth **R1650**, comes with a fixed single-tone whistle that alerts you when water comes to the boil. [lecreuset.co.za](http://lecreuset.co.za)

