



WELCOME TO WONDERLAND

A celebration of art, design and handmade craft

In Lewis Carroll's epic, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Alice falls down a rabbit hole into a world of intrigue and fantasy populated by anthropomorphic creatures ready to play. This is a wonderland where time stands still and anything is possible.

Our own Wonderland is just as much an expression of creativity and emotion, a kaleidoscope of experiences that draws on the power of natural spaces and art to restore a sense of joy.

Wonderland Escapes invites you to connect with family and friends with joyous abandon as you discover the generous soul of our properties. Rooted in enchanting environments – from the Cape and Argentinean winelands to the Swiss Alps and Africa's pristine southern coastline – our getaways offer a sense of space, where bold mountain peaks of the Helderberg, in the heart of the colour-changing vineyards, gentle rolling waves, secret gardens, glistening bodies of water and golden sunsets are gifts we delight in sharing.

Inspired by global travels, our South African properties also celebrate our passionate support of local art, design and handmade craft, with collections that speak of the immense creative talent in the country.

Le Grand Jardin in Stellenbosch's winelands and B52 on Clifton 4th Beach in Cape Town encourage an escape into this captivating world – where time dissipates as you're cocooned in natural beauty. The sense of lightness and humour that are expressed in the design add to the spirit of wonder.





LE GRAND JARDIN

Le Grand Jardin evokes memory with the hoots of night owls, nostalgic aromas of home-baked bread in the kitchen, roses in the garden, and the many shades of colour spilling all around – from the pink-tinged Helderberg Mountains and bright green freshly mown lawns to the clear depths of silky waters in an eco-pool and dappled shade from old oak trees. Artistry also exists in the interplay of timeless heirlooms and sensual textures of copper, leather and velvet, set against the playful use of colour and craft.





History **COMES HOME**

The winelands manor house was built in 1934, its architecture inspired by the arts and craft era that celebrated traditional craftsmanship, using simple forms. Le Grand Jardin was a wedding gift for the daughter of the neighbouring estate and was designed by a student of Sir Herbert Baker, the most notable architect working in South Africa in the 1900s. British-born Baker, who designed Pretoria's Union Buildings and Sir Cecil John Rhodes' Cape Town residence, Grootte Schuur (which later became home to President Nelson Mandela), bore a great influence on the work of his student. Typical of Baker's own approach, Le Grand Jardin is a combination of Cape Dutch and Neo-Classical styles. Decorative gables and a shaded, recessed stoep (verandah), as well as an expansive Burmese teak staircase are further influences, as is the use of local materials. This focus on arts and crafts inspired the use of copper and leather wall cladding in the renovation and an attention to detail throughout the design process. Le Grand Jardin has been restored back to its original H-shape design with the help of local architect Gerrit van der Wolf, who also designed the traditional glass house in the garden.





The art **OF NATURE**

Nestled within the historic Stellenbosch winelands, alongside its sister wine-making property Grand Domaine, Le Grand Jardin's calling card is its extensive garden, an artistic canvas of sorts. More than a garden of verdant foliage and ancient oak trees, it offers a sense of space illuminated by the sun's changing light, where imaginations run free, play is encouraged and laughter abounds. Painted into this scene is an eco-pool, built into the middle of a waterlily-covered dam, accessed by a wooden walkway. A custom-built glass house, through which a stately old oak grows, brings the art of nature right inside its intimate embrace and glows in the magical moment of sunset.





Walls in **BLOOM**

The garden serves as inspiration for the home's interior aesthetic. The walls of the double-volume entrance hall, covered in De Gournay 'Amazonia' wallpaper, act as an exuberant welcome and invitation to enjoy the garden that offers an intimate private world of escape. There's a playful reflection of the garden squirrels in the study, which finds its expression in a red 'Kirkwood' wallpaper by Thibaut. The main en suite bedroom offers a wild celebration of Henri Rousseau's jungle scenes, crafted by African Sketchbook, an enterprise working with self-taught artists from the surrounding townships. The In Full Bloom suite showcases a wall of giant blooms from Cara Saven Wall Design's 'She's No Wallflower'. Other designs include the green and blue pomegranates of 'Carnival' by Christopher Farr and the bright 'Portofino' range by Thibaut, while a sense of play is illustrated in Ardmore's Savuti design for Cole & Son, which brings monkeys, chameleons and birds inside the Into the Wild garden suite.





Words to LIVE BY

Inspired by the craftsmanship of the premier winemaking region of Stellenbosch, the tasting room and cellar pay tribute to hand-crafted art and wine production. The cellar, stocked with bottles of Grand Domaine, lies under the tasting room clad with a custom-designed leather wall. A Picasso quote has been burnt into this leather surface. 'Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life,' it says. The seating, too, is thought-provoking. 'Where magic happens' reads one of the stools; another insists that 'not all who wander are lost'.





Historical **PALETTE**

The paintings on the walls of Le Grand Jardin form a collection amassed over the years, and talk to the owners' appreciation of Africa's vast open spaces, its ever-changing colour palettes and the natural warmth of her people. Characterful portraits, mountainous silhouettes, seascapes and tranquil village scenes form the majority of these artworks by some of South Africa's most prominent names from earlier years. Self-taught artist Adriaan Boshoff's iconic grazing cows, landscapes by impressionists Sydney Carter and Alexander Rose-Innes and a seaside setting by Belgian-born UCT fine arts professor Maurice van Essche work in conversation with pieces by former professional golfer Robert Broadley, sign-painting moonlighter Cecil Kenneth Baker and Gregoire Boonzaier, a South African artist well known for his landscapes, portraits and still-life paintings. He was a famous exponent of Cape Impressionism, a founder of the New Group, and a contributor, through his artworks, to the struggle against Apartheid. Far-removed from natural environments, but just as telling of South Africa's storied past, is a black-and-white 1956 photograph by Jürgen Schadeberg of musician Hugh Masekela holding the trumpet he received from Louis Armstrong.



Colour **PLAY**

In contrast to the traditional paintings, the vibrant works of art, design and craft found throughout the manor home and garden add fresh contemporary appeal to this heritage property. A triptych by artist Lionel Smit, of his signature Cape Malay portraits, graces the blue cocktail lounge, where a woven-grass and charred-wood Leifo chair by Atang Tshikare and Eve Collett for Casamento makes a functional statement. In the pool pavilion, a Magical Furniture Rocky Rocket by CIRCU and a custom-designed wallpaper by Robin Sprong make Tintin's world come to life, while collector items such as a 1980s Mini Clubman, two Austin J40 miniature cars, a retro pin-ball machine and wooden monkey by Kay Bojesen introduce whimsical touches. In other pieces, it's the work of the hand that has produced enticing allure. Clay chandeliers by Mud Studio hang over outdoor tables, and life-size Alice in Wonderland characters formed from beaded wirework hide amid garden greenery. Indoors, taking pride of place in the top-storey livingroom, is a large red sofa embroidered by Heartworks. These community collaboratives work with handcrafters from disadvantaged areas, providing them with opportunities for earning an income. 'The world is truly round and seems to start and end with those we love' is handstitched on the back. These words, once uttered by Nelson Mandela, are now our invitation to while away the hours with special friends at Le Grand Jardin.



BUNGALOW 52

Tucked under palm trees on one of Cape Town's most iconic beaches, B52 (nicknamed the 'love shack' after the song by The B-52's) takes full advantage of its surroundings with waves crashing right in front and Table Mountain's Lion's Head towering behind. Wooden decking and subtle tones allow the bungalow to blend into its natural environment. Designed by VDMMA, the Cape Town architects responsible for bringing Thomas Heatherwick's grand vision to life in the nearby Zeitz MOCAA (Museum of Contemporary Art Africa), the structure employs canopies and symmetrical, double-pitched roofs to make the most of the contained footprint, while respecting the intimate beach vibe of Clifton. The bungalow's interior architecture leans toward a Japanese aesthetic, with glowing, natural oak and floor-to-ceiling glass. The sea acts as inspiration, too, its water-escape theme evident in the downstairs media room where a glass panel allows a view into the swimming-pool through portholes.





Moods of **THE SEA**

‘I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied.’ These two lines from John Masefield’s poem *Sea Fever* resonate with the long-lasting attraction of B52 and the sense of escape that it inspires. The words are etched into the bungalow’s dining table, produced by Cape Town designer James Mudge. The forest town of Knysna where James was born, on the scenic Garden Route of South Africa, is known historically for its woodcutters and woodworkers, and James’s own family line of furniture makers, artists and engineers exposed him to woodworking from an early age. Traditional cabinetry principles and joinery techniques have been passed down to him, and his bent toward artisanal craftsmanship means his contemporary solid-wood furniture holds strongly to a classical design ethos while paying respect to the integrity of the material.





Siren's **CALL**

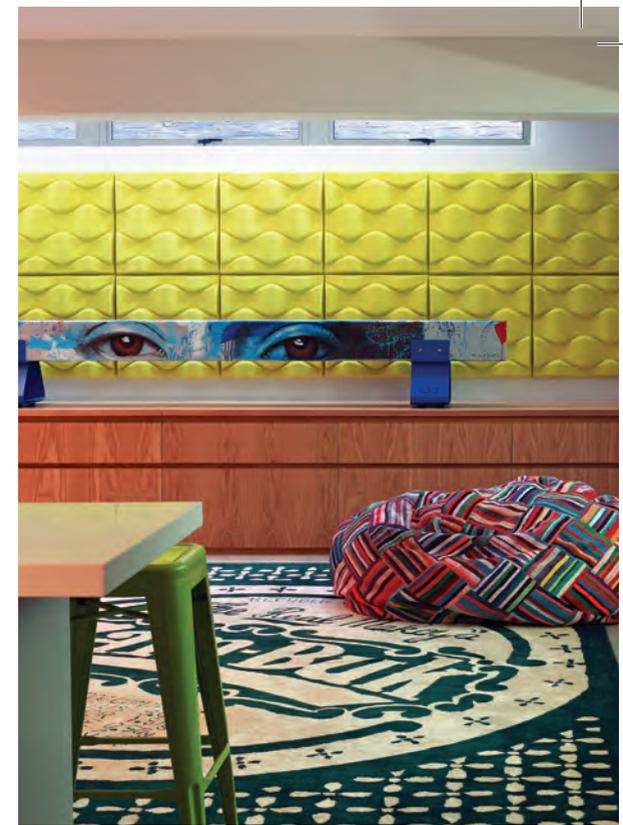
At B52, you can almost hear the siren's call, inviting you to reconsider the seriousness of everyday life and escape for a while. The view is an ever-changing palette of oceanic blues and foliage greens, colours that inform the interior decor. The call of the wild is illustrated in artist Conrad Botes's glass-fronted mermaid cabinets, in fanciful wooden form. Red-lipped and tattooed, his painted sirens make for edgy wall art in the bathrooms. Equally vivid is the large vase by ceramicist Lucinda Mudge (sister to James), which has *Sea Fever* phrases entwined around a mermaid's aquatic tail as she poses with a tropical flower in her black locks. In the living area hangs a welded steel artwork by Barend de Wet titled 'Life, Sex and Death'. In it, De Wet's siren, like Mudge's, holds her hands behind her head, celebrating the state of freedom that the lucky few who stay at B52 get to enjoy.





Waves and **WANDERLUST**

Taking inspiration from worldwide travels and a love for South Africa, B52 places world-renowned designer names alongside homegrown talent. The ceramic and platinum-decorated Hope Bird by Jaime Hayon for Bosa stands on the entrance counter, looking onto the sea view that is reflected in the specially commissioned mirror doors by Katsumi Hayakawa, who collaborated on the iconic Louis Vuitton store in London. South African collectables make their mark in a signature bench by Laurie Wiid van Heerden hand-painted by artist Lionel Smit, 'Loves Me, Loves Me Not' – petal-shaped side tables coming together as one bloom – by Vogel and Plunkett and an organically shaped hand-beaten fireplace by blacksmith Etienne de Kock. A one-off surfboard by Mami Wata, shaped by South African surfing champion and master shaper Hugh Thompson, invites full immersion in the front-yard waves, while felt pouffes and pebbles by Ronel Jordaan, patchwork beanbags by Ashanti and cut-out felt throws from Krafthaus call for cosying up indoors.





Life **FORMS**

Playful sculptures abound in this bungalow where friendly monsters, animal forms and childhood reminders capture the imagination. Frank van Reenen's 'Monster Love' is a many-eyed otherworldly creature wrapping a girl in its green embrace. His smiling superhero dog 'Wind Hond', made from resin, and 'Shy Girl', moulded in bronze, are similarly painted with enamel. Justine Mahoney's bronze army of children stands proud on the mantel above the dining window. 'Masked Boy', 'Girl with a Baby', 'Headphones' and 'Hooded Boy' allude to narratives from the artist's childhood during Apartheid South Africa, as is 'Girl Blowing a Bubble', which welcomes guests in the entrance. Sanell Aggenbach's bronze 'Pietà' is a reinterpretation of Michelangelo's work of the same title, and the Cape Town artist's ironic take on the 'feminine view', represented with hares. Bronze artist Guy du Toit's work is a surprise on the back deck, his giant hares climbing up the side wall. We like to think they're climbing in rather than out. Because, after all, who would want to leave this Wonderland Escape?



Index of **ARTISTS**

Adriaan Boshoff

African Sketchbook
www.africansketchbook.com

Alexander Rose-Innes

Ardmore
www.ardmore-design.com

Ashanti
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Jaime Hayon
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James Mudge
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Jürgen Schadeberg
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Justine Mahoney
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Katsumi Hayakawa
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Kay Bojesen
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Krafthaus
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Laurie Wiid van Heerden
wiiddesign.co.za

Lionel Smit
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Lucinda Mudge
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Mami Wata
mamiwatasurf.com

Maurice van Essche

Mud Studio
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Paula Louw
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Robert Broadley

Robin Sprong
www.robinsprong.com

Ronel Jordaan
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Sanell Aggenbach
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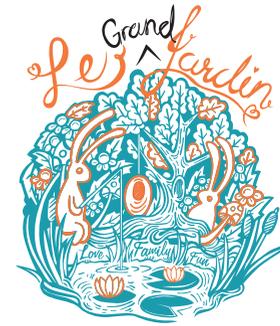
Sydney Carter

Thibaut
thibautdesign.com

VDMMA
(Van der Merwe
Miszewski Architects)
www.vdmma.com

Vogel Design
vogeldesign.co.za





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