

# a place remembered



*Stacking doors link the inside and outdoors for the sense of transparency that is central to this house.*





*Design simplicity links the past  
with the present  
in this calming family getaway  
hidden in the bush  
near Hoedspruit*

Words Bev Tucker



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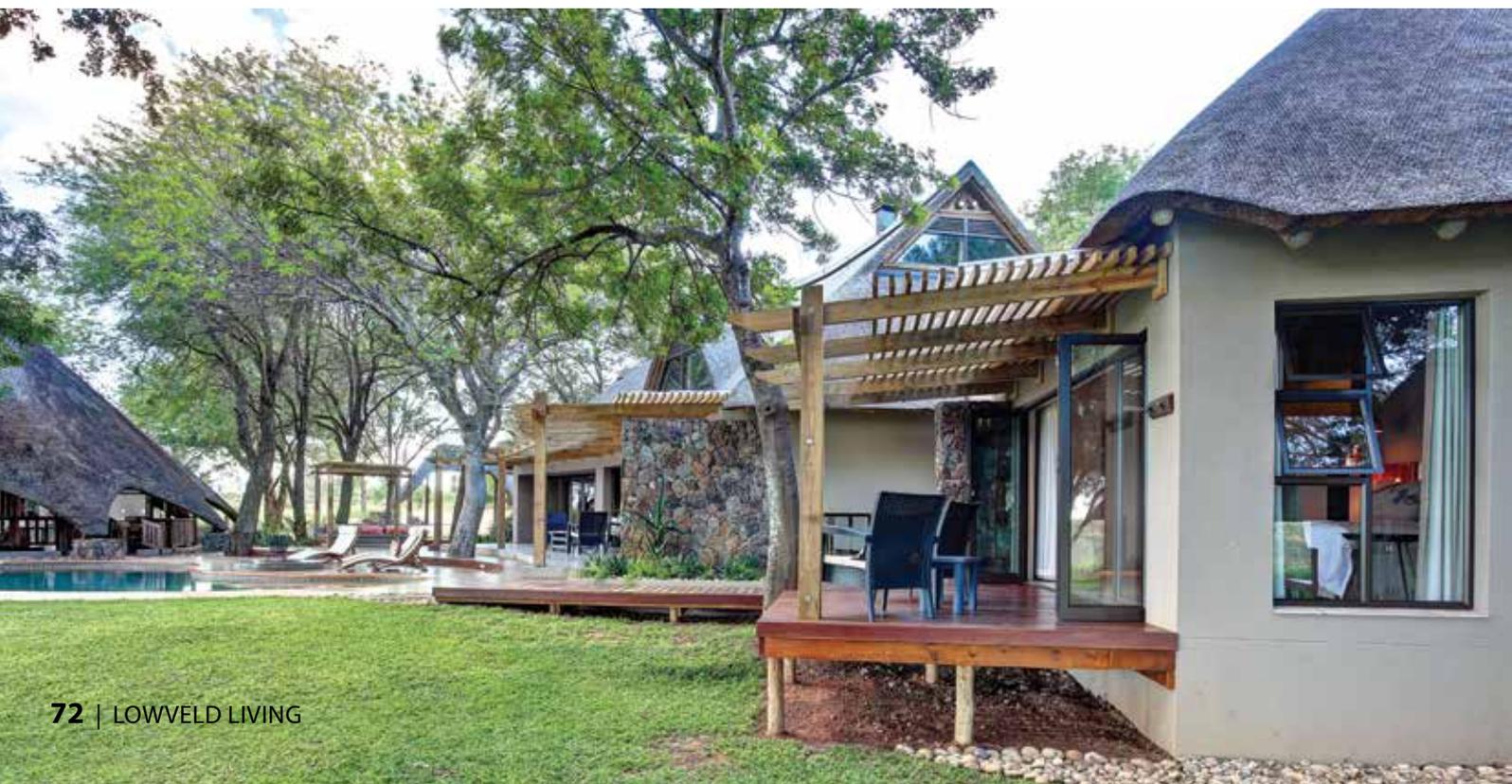
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**“THE CLIENTS EMPHASISED THE INTERACTION OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS, AND PRESERVING THE HAPPY MEMORIES THEY HAVE OF VISITING THE FARM FOR SEVERAL GENERATIONS”**



This lodge, named Clive's Camp, has been family owned for 45 years and is today used as a weekend and holiday escape. The family engaged architect Robin McIntosh of Intersect Architects with a brief to create a retreat incorporating free flowing living areas and outdoor spaces. "The clients emphasised the interaction of family and friends, and preserving the happy memories they have of visiting the farm for several generations before they owned it. Most of the original chalets were actually built by the new owner's father."

Apart from the central public area, which was over 60 years old, Robin saw no point in knocking down perfectly good structures, which were steeped in nostalgia for the family. The answer was to upgrade the old chalet bedrooms, and design a new feature building for the living area. His challenge was to link the old and new with a common language, using the flow of air and light that modern bush homes carry off so well.

For the main building, he designed a curvaceous space as "a softer response, which draws the building through itself." Transparency and simplicity were the new bywords. The furnishings and décor installed by interior decorator Soekie Van Rensburg of Classic Imports and Exports, was in keeping with that notion, although Robin did allow himself the occasional flourish. "I added antique style roller catch fridge handles to the kitchen. I searched high and low and my wife eventually tracked them down in New York. They were duly imported at significant expense even though I wasn't sure the client would like them."

Elsewhere, the modernisation can be seen in mosaic details, outdoor showers, a contemporary bush kitchen and the boma where Robin created another organic shape in the form of the large floating seat, lit from below for atmosphere as well as a deterrent for night time creepy crawlies.

Among all the quiet tones, the hot red feature fireplace in the living room is a roar of vivid energy. Its oval shape was specifically designed for the movement of people around the room. The colour choice was a leap of faith for the conservative clients. It was "a dismal grey" until



perfect precision.  
flawless function.



*The bedrooms and bathrooms were modernised with outdoor showers.*



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## SPACES

Robin confidently insisted that they go rich red. When the paint was applied, the special plaster used underneath, which had not yet settled into its true colour, turned it a spectacular lipstick pink. "The client sent me a polite text with a photo asking if that's what I had in mind. Suddenly I wasn't as sure of myself." But with time the plaster settled and the red paint regained its dignity. The fireplace is now a favourite feature.

Robin's experience on this project suggests that people facing a rebuild hit the pause button before they send in the wrecking crew.

"Take careful stock of what you have. Give it the opportunity to add value to the project in terms of cost saving and to provide a familiar canvas that allows the old to shine through. Here, the greatest achievement is that we were able to retain buildings built by the owner's father, which gives real meaning to the name, Clive's Camp."

*The magnificent thatch roof was done by Hoffmans Thatch. The key to successful thatch interiors is to avoid visual disturbance by painting or varnishing the cross beams and poles.*



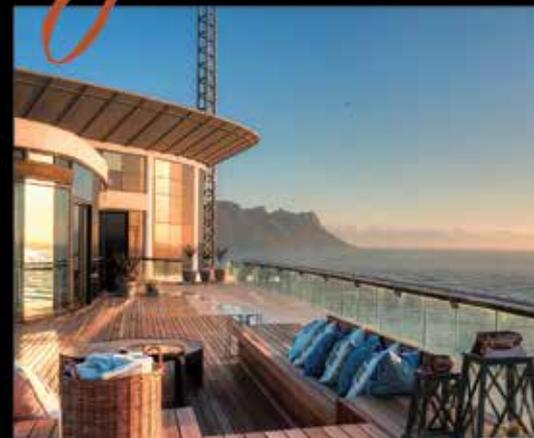
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