

# HOUSE & GARDEN®

SOUTH  
AFRICA

MAY/JUNE 2020 R60,00 (INCL. VAT)  
OTHER COUNTRIES R52,17

## LIVING COLOUR

REINVENT YOUR STYLE WITH CONFIDENCE  
30 PAGES OF RULE-BREAKING DECORATING  
LOCAL DESIGNERS AHEAD OF THE CURVE





# A VISION *with a view*

*The renovation of Johannesburg 1207  
pays tribute to the farm's rich history  
and magnificent location*

TEXT EDWAIN STEENKAMP PHOTOGRAPHS STEPHANÉ VAN ECK



Like most good stories, the one of Johannesdal 1207 started with a group of friends and a simple dream. Theirs was to create an exclusive venue with spectacular views to share with those closest to them. And it was not that hard a dream to bring to life considering the location of the farm. Set in the breathtaking mountain range of the Banhoek Valley, the last century has seen this area occupied by wild elephants, the Huguenot settlers and humble fruit farmers. The rich and diverse history of this stretch of the winelands was ultimately what inspired architect Johann Slee to turn the simple farm into a premier destination for holiday-goers.

The farm had existing structures, including terraced orchards, ponds, cottages and an old farmhouse, which served as the centre of the renovation project.

‘The farmhouse had poorly executed extensions,’ says Johann. ‘And so it needed a complete rebuild. From there, the other existing structures could be renovated to fit in with our vision.’

Wanting to ‘retain the ghost’ of the original house, Johann designed what he calls a ‘contemporary garden shed’, set among the orchards and gardens. While the result is striking, each element was carefully considered and kept purposefully simple and pared back.

‘The architectural palette is simple and honest,’ he says. ‘The *klompie* brick floors, timber-clad ceilings and internal walls speak to that.’

Johann adds that while there is an air of simplicity that resides on the farm, there also exists an undeniable sense ▶



RIGHT THE MOUNTAINS SURROUNDING THE BANHOEK VALLEY OFFER VIEWS FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE FARM. THE ENTRANCE TO ‘DIE VOORTUIN’ LEADS DIRECTLY INTO THE JOHANNESDAL HALL, A LARGE VENUE WITH FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS THAT CAN BE USED FOR EVENTS







‘The architectural palette is simple and honest... *klompie* brick floors, timber-clad ceilings and internal walls’

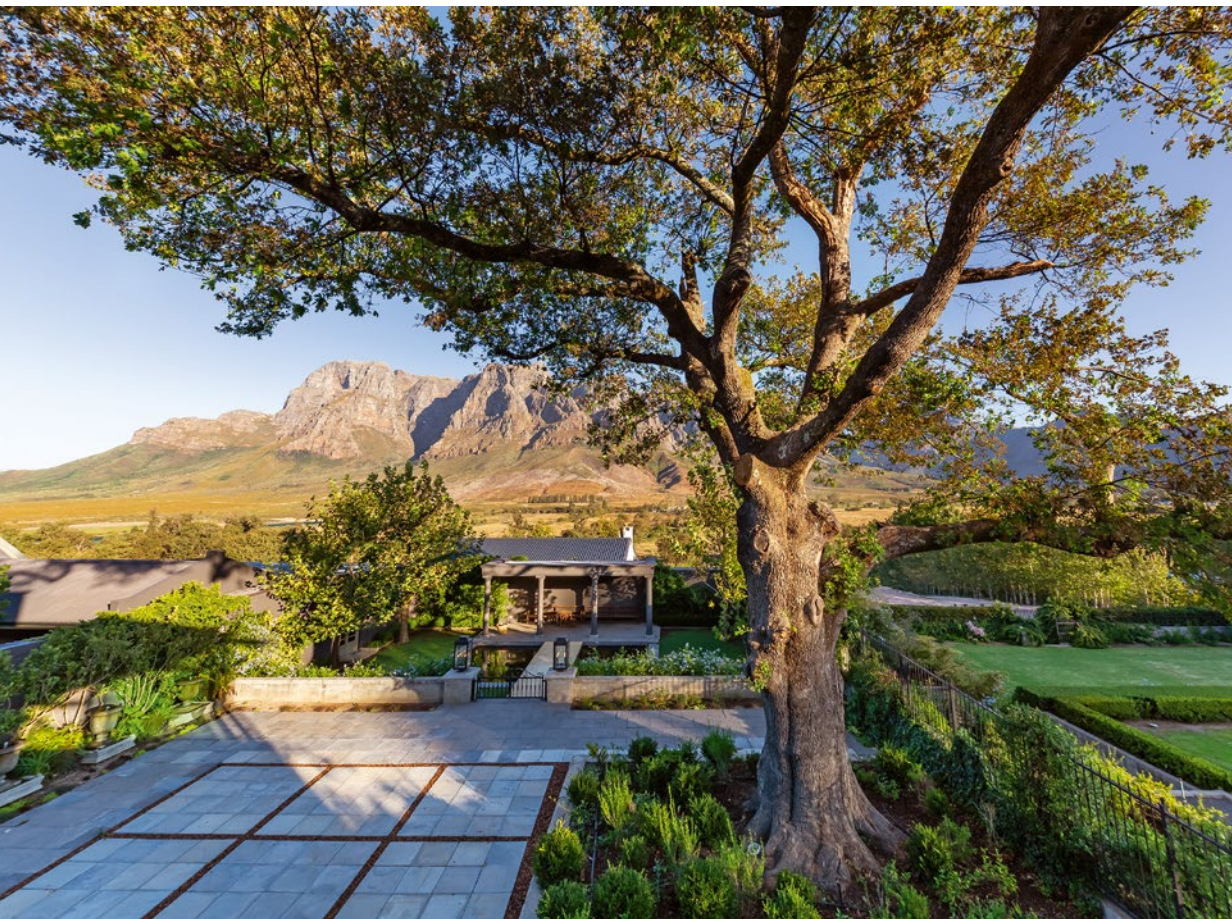
JOHANN SLEE

OPPOSITE PAGE  
THE ‘KARDOMOM’ ROOM  
IS A SECLUDED BEDROOM,  
IDEAL FOR A QUIET AND  
INTIMATE STAY ON THE

FARM. THE ROOM ALSO  
HAS A BALCONY WITH  
UNINTERRUPTED VIEWS  
OF THE SURROUNDING  
MOUNTAINS







LEFT  
'ONDER-DIE-EIK  
TERRAS' IS AN  
OPEN, PAVED  
SPACE THAT  
LEADS TO  
A WATER  
GARDEN  
NEARBY. IT IS  
ANOTHER IDEAL  
PLACE FOR  
FUNCTIONS AND  
GATHERINGS

BELOW  
THE  
'SILWERBOOM'  
SUITE IS  
A PRIVATE  
ROOM WITH  
A LARGE AND  
SPACIOUS  
BATHROOM  
THAT OPENS  
UP DIRECTLY  
ONTO A  
VERANDAH

of modernity and luxury. The farm has five suites for guests to stay in. These rooms, while boasting modern comforts (television, Wi-Fi and a minibar), have for the most part been kept simple, quiet and unpretentious, perfect for those escaping the bustle of city life. Each room has a private verandah where guests can take in the views in complete quiet and isolation.

The renovation also saw the completion of a function hall (with enormous floor-to-ceiling windows, with space to seat around 200 people), the Blue Room (which doubles as a conference space or a cocktail venue), as well communal breakfast areas named 'Die Veranda' and 'Die Stoepkamer', which are both also available to guests who are staying overnight.

But, of course, the main attraction on the farm is the outdoors, which Johann made sure guests could enjoy to the fullest. The terraces, water garden and lawns complete the experience of this hidden gem, making it the ideal place for an unforgettable and picture-perfect getaway. ■ **Johannesdal 1207** 📞 [johannesdal1207.co.za](https://johannesdal1207.co.za); **Slee & Co Architects** 📞 [slee.co.za](https://slee.co.za)

