

PROPERTY

# THEIR OWN PIECE OF NATURE

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011 743  
Specialising in building materials, particularly wet works such as bricks, blocks, decorative masonry, alternative building modes, cement, sand and stone, Baksteenmel used high-strength foundation bricks, plaster, SABS tagged cement, face and stone filling, sand and stone throughout the build in keeping with the owners' request for the use of high-quality building materials in the construction of their home, the company made use predominantly of stock bricks, which were plastered and painted to achieve a warm and homely ambience.

The brief for this property was simple: design a home that would cater for the owners' needs once they reached retirement age, while not compromising on elegance or the surrounding natural views.

In meeting this request, the architects created a fully functional ground floor, including the main bedroom, with an upstairs loft area especially built for when the grandchildren would stay over. "The entertainment areas were to open to the outdoors, with plentiful views of the dam within the estate," architect explains.

**ABOVE:** South African architectural firm Gottsmann Architects focuses on the design and documentation of residential homes, multiresidential developments and commercial architecture. For this property, the firm was tasked with creating a contemporary home in which the residents could retire. This was achieved by creating a space for both privacy and openness, through the use of varying volumes, exposed trusses, a garden atrium and open-plan design. This allows in a generous amount of natural light, while taking in the ample views of the surrounding environment.

**RIGHT:** Larger Than Design's Lizeel Viljoen also manufactures sculptures. As her father is a steel merchant, she makes use of all the resources that she has on hand. Lizeel found that, in the modern movement, there is a lot of scope to introduce abstract sculptures to accentuate a minimalist space.

GOTSMANN ARCHITECTS 011 979 7116  
LARGER THAN DESIGN 083 957 8144

**BELOW:** Summer Place Spas specialises in the manufacture and supply of spas, portable spas and jetted baths. The company supplied the Mini Gemini Flushdeck Spa for the outside deck, featuring a circular design that softens the area, and an overflow feature that ensures no spillage or water loss. The external decking and screens were supplied by NewtechWood, a manufacturer and supplier of composite decking, cladding, screening and pergolas. The deck looks natural and is maintenance-free, and comes with a substantial warranty.

As the owners value privacy, there was the challenge of incorporating four garages on a stand that had a narrow street boundary. To achieve this, the firm ensured that the design of the street facade culminated in a simple yet texture-rich street entrance, where multiple garages invariably become the face of the home, separated into two distinct yet integrated faces framing the recessed entrance into a private courtyard. >

SUMMER PLACE AND NEWTECHWOOD 011 463 7775

COUNTRY STYLE INTERIORS 011 867 7890

**LEFT:** Country Style Interiors is a designer and manufacturer of custom-designed painted and wooden cabinetry. The company prides itself on its offering of exquisitely planned kitchens, available in any style from French Provincial to rustic and modern and its design of built-in cupboards, studies, bars and bathroom vanities.

**BELOW:** Larger Than Design, an interior design company that also offers project management services, provided the interior decor for the home. Setting out to create a home that had a warm and inviting touch, the company used a prominent palette with grey and charcoal-grey hues, natural beiges and whites. The use of a narrow sea-sliding on the feature walls at the entrance makes a very bold statement, setting the trend for the rest of the interiors.

LARGER THAN DESIGN 083 557 8144

**OGGIE 011 262 3117**  
**ABOVE:** Oggie, a specialist in hardwood flooring, provided the wide-plank oak flooring that features throughout the home, which is not only elegant in appearance, but adds to the natural warmth of the open-plan design. Web Interiors hardwood is specifically designed for long-lasting stability, engineered for long-lasting stability.

"The landscaped courtyard allows the house, both visually and spatially, to open up to the views and natural light - where various materials have been utilised, an equilibrium achieved through the perfect mix of steel and timber," adds the architect. "The landscaped courtyard allows the house, both visually and spatially, to open up to the views and natural light - where various materials have been utilised, an equilibrium achieved through the perfect mix of steel and timber." adds the architect. "The landscaped courtyard allows the house, both visually and spatially, to open up to the views and natural light - where various materials have been utilised, an equilibrium achieved through the perfect mix of steel and timber." adds the architect.

The main bedroom boasts a serene connection to nature, with comfortable yet elegant furnishings. It benefits from a sophisticated en-suite bathroom and an expansive walk-in dressing room. To reflect the serenity of the surroundings, the interior decorator saw to it that each area in the home has a natural palette, particularly beiges, greys and whites. The bathrooms include double-volume vanities, sleek and elegant frameless glass showers, and have ample room, which boosts the tranquil nature of the home. >

The architects exposed timber trusses throughout the home in order to achieve connections to nature in areas particularly where it is not visible.