

CONDÉ NAST

House & Garden

SOUTH AFRICA

MAY 2001 R19,50 (incl. VAT)
NAMIBIA N\$19,50 OTHER COUNTRIES R17,10

GARDENS

Cape proteas
Midlands terrace garden
Designer planting

TRENDS

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BOLD SEASIDE SPIRIT
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New Zealand's
new lodges

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Gourmet in the Swartland

30
STYLE-SETTING
LAMP SHADES



LIFE'S A BEACH

TAKE ONE
TIGHTLY-KNIT,
HIGH-ENERGY
JOHANNESBURG
FAMILY, ADD
A PERFECT
BEACH HOUSE AND
IT'S SALVATION
FOR MIND, BODY
AND SPIRIT





When it comes to beach life, I can't think of a better place in all the world,' says the owner of this beachfront home located on South Africa's fabled Garden Route coast. 'There are many wonderful places throughout the world, but this has the best of everything in one package: perfect weather, perfect ocean, with just the right amount of sunshine, all set against spectacular mountains.'

That said, the Pretoria-born owner is also quite passionate about her adopted city, Johannesburg. 'It's the only place to live in South Africa,' she says without a hint of irony. But her cheery demeanour can't hide the fact that Johannesburg is an incredibly demanding city that saps the minds, bodies and spirits of its fast-paced residents. The logical answer is a forced slowdown at a coastal holiday home, a popular solution that's as old as Johannesburg itself.

The owners commissioned Johannesburg-based architect Menno Meinesz, who's known as a master when it comes to interpreting vacation needs, having designed some 30 holiday homes along the

Garden Route. His original brief was for a thatched home, an idea that never saw the plucking of the first straw. 'It was an interactive and mutually respectful relationship that grew from there. The clients were a delight to work with. And a good rapport between client and architect makes all the difference, as both parties, ideally, should be happy.' The end result is so clever that the owner shuns objets and paintings in favour of architectural lines and windows: 'With architecture and scenery like this, who needs embellishments?' she notes.

Meinesz says he 'simply designed around the owners' lifestyle' — the house had to be no fuss, easy-going and practical. One of the biggest challenges came from the fact that the owners have four adult children, plus their respective spouses and partners. Quite often it's a case of holiday-à-deux, with the husband-and-wife owners grabbing a week of beach walks, backlog reading and cozy dinners. Other holidays see a veritable familial tribe flying in from far and wide, with up to 10 adults staying in the house. The way in which space was interpreted was crucial, as the owners, ►

BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT Old Cape *kas* and wrought-iron curtain rails, custom-made by local craftsmen; built-in shelves holding a colourful collection of Mexican glassware; the study has chairs covered in 'Blue Basket' by Pierre Frey. The ottoman is covered in a paisley-style throw; painted-wood Indian cow's head from Jos Graham, London **OPPOSITE, TOP** One of the guest bedrooms with a moulded built-in headboard, painted watermelon pink

