

SOUTH AFRICAN

HOME OWNER

R34,95 (VAT incl) Other countries R30,66

APRIL 2007

**BATHS IN
THE BOUDOIR**

**NEW
KITCHEN CRAZES**



EXCLUSIVE ESTATE LIVING



House number 35

Text MARI SCHAFFER





HOUSE NUMBER 35 is indeed a special place. It is a place full of light and full of hope - in more ways than one. It is a place, which goes so far as to be symbolic of the regeneration currently taking place within our country.

This is a beautifully constructed home, with 25km of unobstructed views of the Kogelberg Mountains. However, this highly endearing aspect is not what makes this home so special; but it is rather the men and women behind the project who gave it an added dimension.

The inspirational aspect to the home is that it is primarily constructed out of natural materials, including glass, teak, marble, sandstone and slate. Also, it was executed only in earthy colours. Offering a slight contrast to its organic feel, the home is truly modern in its style and has been built with a high-tech European flair. The theme of nature and high quality organic material make this an enviable eco-friendly composition.

The tendency towards eco-friendly homes such as this one, is becoming

increasingly prevalent throughout the world, and through this trend, we are witnessing an increased consciousness of our environment. Today, it is possible, even within the context of extreme luxury such as this, that those who have the desire to care for the environment can make their aspirations a reality.

Beyond the home's element of "earth wellness", the builders have been conscious of another type of upliftment - determined to be proactive in enhancing our country and the earth at large. Despite this local building company's specialty in luxury homes, Maxabella is not your average development company. It does not merely develop properties, but actually invests greater emphasis on developing its staff potential, with an intense focus on expanding company talent. Maxabella is thus an emblem for true empowerment, as at least 95% of employees are from previously disadvantaged communities.

The team is over four years old now and through passionately inspired apprentice programmes and supervised contracts,



they have retained and developed excellent people and superior skills and well developed craftsmanship, to become fully fledged and sought after artisans.

Mads Viuff is Maxabella's owner, and is responsible for bringing the design

concept itself from Denmark. The homes he builds make use of large double volume spaces, which in Denmark bring in light in the lengthy winters, and here serve to maximise on the precious views. The overall design of this home is subtle

despite the high level of technology and art within its walls, which includes indulgent features such as back to back plasmas and a floating bar. The company director frequently travels overseas to gather the latest trends, and improve on homes it undertakes to build.

Despite Mads' social wisdom, he also has practical advice for potential builders. His byline is that mistakes will be made, especially with the first home. Mads suggests that you maximise on the site, without trying to force something that is not there, and once the theme has been chosen, it must be adhered to. With décor, for example, it is important to not get too emotional, but rather to stick to a concept.

At the tip of Africa, we often forget that this kind of expertise is available to us. We also pay less attention than we should to the importance of eco-friendly solutions. But the moral of the story is that it is important to realise that a very high level of skill, knowledge and talent is available locally and that it is possible to simultaneously be conscious of our micro and macro environment, whilst obtaining a home that is slick in design and technology. 🏡

