

INTO THE WILD

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SMARTSTONE 086 176 2781

Hard landscaping sets the scene as you are led to the front door via an impressive paved driveway by SmartStone. The concrete cobble pavers are laid in a pattern that adds a rich texture to the exterior, enhancing the double-volume stone-clad entrance. Seen here is the Huguenot cobble in a combination of sizes, produced in an earthy tone. A design-led company, SmartStone pays special attention to ensure that its creations are a perfect complement to the architecture of each home.



RIDL CONSTRUCTION 033 343 4897



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIOS 073 334 6744

There's something so magical and grounding about the wilds of South Africa, where zebra and giraffe pass their time out in the open sun, silhouetted against the horizon as each day draws to a close. For the owner of this large, but unassuming, home, this was the dream: to build a home in the heart of African wildlife. With an abundance of game and some of the most unforgettable inland views, a father and his three sons enjoy paradise on a daily basis.

TOP: KwaZulu-Natal company Ridl Construction partnered with the owner in realising his vision for this grand home. In addition to the primary construction elements and finishes, Ridl Construction co-ordinated the project right through to occupation. The high-quality internal finish was achieved with one-coat projection plaster and a vast amount of fine stone cladding. The project included interesting challenges associated with building in the environmentally sensitive game reserve without the usual municipal services, reflecting the company's expertise in undertaking even the most challenging residential projects.

Set on a 1 000ha KwaZulu-Natal game farm, this traditionally inspired farmhouse needed meticulous planning to ensure it did not impede on municipal and park restrictions. Overseeing and undertaking the work was a local construction firm. Alongside the owner, who was involved throughout the process, the construction firm dealt with wetlands buffer zone applications, environmental approvals and the challenge of no mains on site.

A number of highly engineered systems, such as

ABOVE RIGHT: With a backdrop of such natural beauty, the landscaping of this garden required careful execution. Gary Cox from Environmental Studios took on the task, ensuring cohesion with the existing bushveld, while creating a low-maintenance garden for the owner. Large paperbark acacias and a stone water feature add texture and break up the expanses of lawn.

hydronic underfloor heating and the water filtration system, are testimony to the self-sufficiency of the home. You will not find a geyser anywhere on site; heat pumps are used to effortlessly serve this 97m-long house.

With a masculine influence, you will find no clutter; the interior flavour is contemporary with a minimalist edge.

The glass corridors allow the connection with the bush to remain intact. Natural light pours in from all angles; the double-glazed aluminium windows and doors keep even the largest rooms cosy in winter and cool in the summer months.

The exterior LED lighting brings the house to life at



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OPTIMA KITCHENS 011 792 1216



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ABOVE RIGHT: Founded in 1991 and represented nationwide, Optima Kitchens was brought on board having successfully installed a kitchen in the owner's previous residence. Finished in white oak veneer with deep grains of stained chocolate from Monocoat, the kitchen is framed with Caesarstone in Buttermilk. Siemens appliances were introduced to finish the top-end look.

LEFT: This unique and eyecatching 5m-high bar area was designed and implemented by Optima Kitchens. Following the same theme as the kitchen, the rich timber finish adds warmth and elegance. The feature white Perspex back panels light up, softening the look and setting the mood to enjoy this area of an evening.

night, enhancing the green living wall at the entrance. The master bedroom and main living areas reveal the bones of this home by way of decorative exposed roof trusses, an honest form of architecture that brings depth to the interior design. The sheer scale of the home hits you as you enter the formal lounge. Giant pillars of stone cladding flank the room, adding grandeur and texture. The oversized abstract rug adds vibrancy and anchors the seating area.

Boys and their toys mean this home has everything required for entertaining. A large rim-flow pool with a spa bath and firepit alongside provides a great place for the boys to hang out with their friends of a weekend. And for the cooler months, there's a whole room dedicated to entertaining indoors, which is partitioned from the main room by a glazed wall, so Dad can keep a distant eye on proceedings.

"You could say this home is the ultimate man cave, a boy's paradise," says the owner. "We have a dam here



TEVA WINDOWS 086 183 8272

ABOVE LEFT: In such a tranquil setting, generous doses of natural light flood this home, thanks to aesthetically pleasing TEVA windows and doors. Boasting energy-saving properties, they ensure that homes stay cool in summer and warm in winter, and with such large expanses of glass, the owners are able to enjoy unhindered views.

RIGHT: Specialising in new builds and renovations, Plumbman was responsible for the fitting of the elegant and spacious bathrooms. Behind the scenes, the company also took on the task of installing an efficient pressure pump system to ensure provision of instant hot water throughout the house.

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to fish in, and also a cricket net set up to one side of the house."

With only a handful of houses in the park, this home allows you to experience privacy on another level. It's a place where you get to experience nature at its best, where you really can get away from it all. ■

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