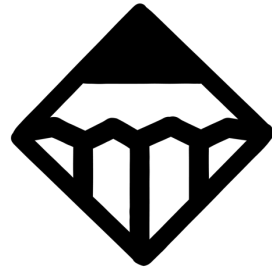




**WE ARE
AFRICA**

awards

2023



Extraordinary
DESIGN

Whether it's a show-stopping art installation, interior overhaul, or pace-setting new build, we want to see the designs changing the look of modern Africa.

ONGAVA

ORC Discovery Centre

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY - ORC DISCOVERY CENTRE

Midst the harsh Etosha landscape to present compelling information in an understated yet inspiring setting where scientific knowledge across the spectrum – below the ground, above the ground, the heavens above – is attractively presented for visitors to Ongava to gain insights and perspective of the fundamental drivers of the living planet, the anthropogenic hazards and the options to manage them.

The scientific consensus is clear that mankind's impact on Earth poses tremendous challenges for future generations. It is our responsibility to mitigate the worst of these environmental disasters.

Wildlife-based nature travellers are particularly interested to learn and understand the ecological issues and what can be done to mitigate them. Modern travellers look beyond the superficial, they know that rigorous evidence-based scientific knowledge is required in order for well-informed solutions to be conceived.

The Ongava Research Centre Discovery Hub is an inspiring design with constantly updated exhibits where kids aged 9 to 90 years are equally motivated by nature's endless cornucopia of surprise and delight. A deepening of the commitment to make a difference is evident, visitors return to their communities and workplaces more determined than ever to make a difference.

Like Africa's Rhinoceros's, the Ongava Research Centre quietly awaits the inquiring visitor, and like a spiritual Rhino sighting, is unexpected and at short distance, it's bulk initially disguised, hidden behind the sharp shadows of tree scrub on a harsh landscape, the landscape of the Rhino;

The visitor's focus is drawn mesmerically toward the vernacular, mysterious and spiritually rounded form of the " Okuhepa " (Herero - Ok-U-Heepa) the "place of exhibition" containing the secret history of the Rhino within, with its sloping ochre rich walls rising out the scrub, and a subtle Namibian sand dune roof, indicating there will be a welcome shade refuge inside.

A man-made walkway, lined in form and raised slightly off the ground, announces the axial path to be taken to get into this sloping rotunda shaped thing; and enhances the perspective of approach and feeling of procession into the interior of the edifice.

Traversing this axial path, the visitor realises they initially have only seen the front face of the rotunda, as the Okuhepa extends backwards beyond the initial vision, containing facilities as an entrance vestibule, and a lecture space, as well as a roof-top "Star deck", for use at night in Namibia's unbelievably clear skies.

Once inside, the Rhino research and history exhibition regresses from the vestibule and leads the visitor into a deep, curved rear space, based on the circular spiral of a Nautilus shell, known in African sacred art patterning and beadwork terms, as an " Ndoro "

In traversing the spiraled exhibition space, the visitor ends up back in the same space where they started, eliciting a feeling perpetually in nature.

The interior form of the Ndoro, drawing the visitor in, elicits feelings of being inside a giant animal 'rib-cage', as if inside the 'bowels of the Rhino', so to speak: this due toradiating laminated Spruce beams which are curved like animal ribs, supporting a curved ceiling and insulated roof skin, over the Ndoro part of the Okuhepa.



ONGAVA

ORC Discovery Centre

Recessed soft lighting and LED starlights highlight Rhino and associated exhibits on wall mounted and glass table displays, following the processional flow of the Ndoro, and against the same oche rich walls.

Natural shaded Light and a feeling of calmness and cool greenery is obtained from an inner courtyard, the centre of the Ndoro, where small trees and vegetation are kept wet and cool with a hydroponic system, offering visual relief to the incredibly harsh landscape, just outside.

Egress to the other side of the Okuhepa from the vestibule has the facility of another deck veranda, where refreshments are served: from this side of the glazed vestibule and veranda, and at another short distance, the Research Laboratories are seen through further tree-scrub, and rise out the ground with vernacular stone buttresses and vertical mopane latte, with enormous shaded windows, displaying white coated scientists going about their work, reinforcing the feeling of "spirituality" both of the ancient, and of today's super-technology and knowledge.

Axially, and accessed internally, is a lecture room with a high hemispherical projection ceiling, able to seat up to 35 visitors, for interactive lectures by scientists, and that of the Celestial Systems, that occur directly above the roof - Neil Hayes-Hill, Architect.



MORE FAMILY COLLECTION

Cape Cadogan & Upper Union Restaurant

MORE Family Collection - Cape Cadogan Boutique Hotel & Upper Union Restaurant

Designer's Name: Caline Williams-Wynn of Artichoke Interior Design Indigo Architects

Closed during 2022 – Reopened 19 December 2022

Cape Cadogan Boutique Hotel is part of the Kloof Street Neighbourhood and is a grand old dame with National Monument status dating back to the early 1800s. Cape Cadogan has undergone an extensive refurbishment in 2022 to feel like a new hotel that has 19 rooms designed around the historic features without losing any of her charm.

The colour palette created an elegantly styled hotel in beautiful emerald-greens, classic black and white, and touches of gold. Elements within the design and wallpaper at Cape Cadogan are there to delight our guests, such as Cara Saven's Roseate Spoonbill wallpaper design in our spa, and the St Leger & Viney jungle frogs' wallpaper at reception.

Guest areas have been prioritised with two pools, a sunroom, and courtyard. Our focus on wellness includes a new onsite spa and a hotel gymnasium.

Part of the Cape Cadogan offering is our destination restaurant, Upper Union, which follows a similar theme and is found alongside the hotel and where our guests have breakfast.

The 80-seater restaurant is split across two levels. The ground floor is where much of the restaurant's seating is situated, both inside and outside on the terrace, as well as a comfortable pause lounge and service bar. While upstairs is the private dining room and the cocktail bar.

An array of local makers and artisans were brought on board to custom create a plethora of the design elements - from the one-of-a-kind mosaic 'carpet' at the entrance to the Victorian-inspired stained-glass windows to the hand-painted custom commissioned tiles which cover the venue's five fireplace chimneys.

Further eccentric twists were incorporated into the chairs which have been covered in a host of elaborate fabrics, the likes of houndstooth, zebra print, and a delicious monster motif; and the stained-glass windows in a modern interpretation of Victorian design and the cabinet of curiosities - by artist Gina Walden which runs along the right-hand side of the eatery's back wall.

Bringing a touch of Cape Town inside, the stairway between the two levels features Cara Saven wallpaper printed with an image of the city, while the private dining room features an ode to Africa with its wallpaper of stylised animal illustrations, complimented with black and white candy cane stripes. Pressed ceilings, dado rails and checkerboard tiling - in the restrooms and on the terrace - and larger than life crystal chandeliers complete the Victorian aesthetic.

"It was about using the building as the inspiration and then enhancing it. We leaned into the details of Victorian design, but it was important that it was our own contemporary take on it." - Caline Williams-Wynn, Artichoke Interior Design

The green theme of Cape Cadogan is calming and timeless and creates a tranquil space amidst the bustling Kloof Street. The trellis curtain design compliments the Victorian structure of the building. The Sunroom is reminiscent of a Victorian home with bamboo wallpaper also synonymous with the era, and the pool design is inspired by the Victorian bath houses with full tiled spaces.



MORE FAMILY COLLECTION

Cape Cadogan & Upper Union Restaurant

Upper Union, curated for the creative and curious with its artistic interpretation, play of light, and with a seasonally evolving menu by Chef Amori Burger, means it is fast earning a reputation as one of the top restaurants in Cape Town.

Cape Cadogan is consistently recognised in the Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards, a recognition from our guests that we truly appreciate.

In 2022, Cape Cadogan placed at No 3 in the Top 15 Hotels in Southern Africa; and at No 42 in the Top 50 Hotels in the World.

Social tags relevant to this design

<https://www.instagram.com/capecadogan/>

<https://www.facebook.com/capecadogan>

https://www.instagram.com/upperunion_restaurant/

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperUnionRestaurant>

www.upperunion.co.za



WEAREAFRICA

MOLORI SAFARIS

The Art Rug Project

In the last quarter of 2020, during the pandemic, the Molori Safari team embarked on an interior and art collection update with the objective of giving our guests a neo safari experience.

Known for our bold eclectic aesthetic, we carefully chose an interior partner, Hesse Kleinloog, to create a light interior upgrade with a focus on art as a safari differentiator for our guests. Artworks from the owner's personal collection such as, Lady Skollie, Edoardo Villa, Norman Catherine, Dylan Lewis among others, were introduced to the lodge.

In line with the art theme, Andrea Kleinloog of Hesse Kleinloog approached Koos Groenewald of Jana+Koos to find out if he new of a supplier who could create an organically shaped carpet and that included an artwork. Koos, an artist in his own right, jumped at the challenge.

It started with just one rug, but as he began talking to other globally acclaimed, local artists about creating contemporary artworks to weave into large and colourful floor rugs, the excitement was palpable. It was soon dubbed 'the art rug project' and they began to look at rug manufacturers who could help realise their vision. In the end, they discovered the highly professional team of skilled craftspeople at Brabetz Carpet Mill in Durban.

It was high-risk – there were no colour charts, no one was able to visit the mill during lockdown, and everything was done over video and phone. A collaborative force of trust, indeed!

Andrea, said; "we started this project in the deepest, darkest depths of Covid uncertainty, and it was such a spark of joy in such a dark time. In many ways, the absolute fun and frivolity of colour and joy of engagement was so welcome in the disjointed, masked-up world. At the same time, it was inspirational to be planning for visitors to come back to South Africa".

The six artists all contributed to the designs of the rugs and visited Molori only once they had already been installed. They were blown away by the craft and skill of interpreting their artworks into these grand rugs that feature in every suite in the lodge as well as one in the main lodge area. The rugs are artworks in their own right!

It has been a delight to witness our guest reactions to these gorgeous and somewhat humorous artworks on our floors. Objective achieved - a neo safari experience!

The result of this design project is enchanting. Our philosophy is to delight our guests with the unexpected and we believe we have achieved this with our immersive, high-fashion experience, one that is unexpected in the African bush. It celebrates the country's vibrant cultures and love of colour, while pushing creative boundaries and raising the bar, proving that even in the heart of a pandemic, South Africans were particularly good at 'making a plan'.

The art rugs defy all other genres that we see in the safari world. Molori Safari now gives an adventurous, spirited vision of a safari – it's about unabashed joy and humour. Our guests have been delighted by the artworks on the floors.

The Art Rug Project came about as a result of an interior update at Molori Safari which included a large installation of artworks from the owner's diverse personal collection, taking the guest art experience up another level.



MOLORI SAFARIS

The Art Rug Project

The talented interiors team, Hesse Kleinloog, realised that the organic floor spaces would be the place to start as many of the walls were curved and ideally suited to colourful rugs that would complement the bold new artwork.

We collaborated with six of South Africa's most provocative, contemporary artists who agreed to have their artworks interpreted and woven into magnificent rugs that feature throughout the lodge.

The globally renowned artists are Athi-Patra Ruga, Cameron Platter, Jody Paulsen, Maja Marx, Nabeeha Mohamed and Koos Groenewald.

Jana+Koos applied their graphic design ability and worked with Brabetz to skillfully interpret the artworks into digitized patterns, enabling South African weavers to produce these grand creations.





ANDBEYOND

Grumeti River Lodge

With luxury sustainability at our core, our design objective was to use the existing lodge footprint, re-imagining the traditional safari 'tented lodge' concept in an exciting and contemporary way that expanded the entire guest offering, whilst still using traditional canvas, lightweight structural elements and local craftsmanship to create a more refined and environmentally responsible design.

The redesign of &Beyond Grumeti Serengeti River Lodge, shaped around the existing footprint of the original lodge structures, presented the ideal opportunity to integrate a sustainability focus from the very outset, without compromising the guest experience.

We were very careful to observe the strict protocols of the Tanzania National Park Authority (TANAPA) when building in this sensitive environment and to ensure that the architecture has as light an impact on the natural landscape as possible.

The result was the creation of &Beyond Grumeti Serengeti River Lodge; a lodge reborn sensitive to its setting, inherently sustainable and deeply luxurious with an authentic sense of place, whilst providing an &Beyond experience that is unrivalled.

Through our unique design, we have brought an originality to the artistry, craftsmanship and attention to detail of &Beyond Grumeti Serengeti River Lodge, inherently working with the natural landscape in a meaningful and innovative way using the steel frame and locally sourced construction materials.

The buildings harness a variety of environmentally sustainable measures such as solar power production and low-energy fittings. However, the most innovative aspect of this lodge is truly its relationship with the Serengeti itself. A sense of luxury can be found in the details of the interiors.

Beautiful textures are creatively worked into deeply comfortable furnishings and bespoke, often hand-made, fittings. The guest experience is centred on the views over the oxbow loop of the river. All spaces are light, airy and generously proportioned.

The internal skeleton provided by the lightweight steel frames allowed us to achieve greater spans and therefore a bigger internal volume, with taller doors and openings providing more natural light throughout. The canvas, banana fibre and hardwood cladding adds a layer of richness and texture to this otherwise utilitarian steel frame.

This all serves to create a series of lodge buildings that are practical, sensitive to their setting, inherently spacious and deeply luxurious. Wherever possible, pieces from the original lodge were upcycled or repurposed and the use of locally produced recycled glass features as a strong design element alongside artefacts made by the talented Tanzanian craftspeople.

The flow of movement through the guest areas has also been improved by creating a series of unified spaces under a single roof, including larger yet understated dining and sitting rooms. The dramatic, sweeping arc of the guest area pavilion, with the circular bar a prominent and iconic feature, set amongst the indigenous trees and against the banks of this bow in the Grumeti River is unique to the Serengeti region. All these spaces are well protected and shielded against inclement weather, while still providing magnificent riverside views.



ANDBEYOND

Gourmet River Lodge

The previous camp's traditional canvas safari tents have also been reinterpreted in a way that has allowed them to evolve into a more luxurious, sustainable offering.

By changing the layout, increasing the footprint and creating new, contemporary canvas suites, we have created light, space and a sense of luxury, connecting guests directly to the bow in the river and surrounding landscapes.

More than doubled in size, the lodge's refurbished guest suites are now flat-roofed light-gauge steel frame structures, with canvas walls and banana fibre ceilings featuring colourful 'kanga' and 'kitenge' fabrics and slatted 'mukwa' detailing throughout. All suites now incorporate a bath as well as a shower and a plunge pool, two elements that its predecessor did not have.

The indoor shower has been constructed in such a way that it too offers riverside views, creating the illusion of showering in the midst of nature when all the screens are open. A purpose-built Family Suite has also been added.

Humbled to be operating in remote and sensitive locations like the Serengeti, ensuring to fulfil our innate responsibility to work with natural, locally sourced and environmentally sustainable materials and designing a lodge where sustainability and luxury go hand-in-hand; we also invested approximately USD 700 000 in specific energy-saving elements, which include:

Solar Power:

The lodge has a 130-kWh solar power system, designed in collaboration with renewable-energy partner New South Energy (NSE), which enables the lodge to run on 80% renewable energy. All back-of-house roof space (such as staff accommodation) is used for solar panels.

Energy Saving:

All the previous hot water systems have been replaced with new, energy-efficient water heating systems, and LED low-energy fittings have been used throughout.

Water Management and Measurement:

Wastewater from the laundry is recycled and used for activities such as washing the safari vehicles. This is enabled by an underground water-treatment system. 10 000 litre capacity rainwater collection tanks have been installed at every suite to harvest water from the roofs, which is treated and recycled to re-fill the private plunge pools, wash the various wooden deck areas and irrigate the natural landscape surrounding each structure.

The lodge's borehole has a special meter installed to monitor the underground water level and ensure that borehole capacity is not exceeded. This innovative measure is also used by the park authorities to create a water-conservation reference point which will inform and guide future lodge development. Day-to-day water conservation is reinforced by the use of low-flow shower heads in all staff showers, regular checks on all systems for water leaks, and the rigorous monitoring of water usage.

Plumbing provides for the later implementation of a per-suite Hydraloop grey-water treatment system which will enable further water savings.

Plastic Elimination:

Zero plastic, illustrated in successful initiatives like the removal of plastic straws at all our lodges, remains a consistent focus across our lodge operation. In addition, on-site water bottling plants have eliminated tens of thousands of plastic bottles, and translated into significant water savings



ANDBEYOND

Grumeti River Lodge

Based on our 2019 measured data, the lodge's on-site water bottling plant will not only eliminate 11 385 plastic bottles, but will also save 34 155 litres of water (3 litres of water are used in the making of a 1 litre plastic bottle).

This clear intention extends to the use of refillable stainless-steel pods in the Nespresso machines on the game-drive vehicles.

What's more, a discipline of measurement through annual lodge sustainability audits not only underpins all of the above elements, but also supports the bold vision of our powerfully scaled Vision 2030.

Situated on an offshoot of the Grumeti River, in the remote western reaches of the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, the original &Beyond Grumeti River Camp was built by Arches Safaris in the early 1990s, comprising ten safari tents, and two small thatch-roofed buildings, all sited on heavy concrete bases. After two cosmetic refurbishments over the course of its lifetime, plus the flooding of the lodge when the Grumeti River burst its banks, it was time for something new.

Seeking to redefine the traditional 'safari' concept in a luxurious and contemporary manner with a far lighter and more refined touch, while remaining mindful of the authentic rustic and tactile nature of the previous camp, the lodge underwent an extensive redesign resulting in the creation of &Beyond Grumeti Serengeti River Lodge.

Utilising the existing footprint of the old lodge structures, enhanced by its exceptional location, which is quite unusual in the Serengeti where there are very few lodges with a riverside setting, the redesign reflects both the surrounding natural landscape and the Serengeti's cultural context and history.

The architectural design philosophy of the new lodge draws inspiration from the nomadic pastoral Maasai 'Manyattas' that proliferate across the plains of the Serengeti's Western Corridor, the circular 'swoop' of the iconic Maasai beaded necklace as well as the Great Lakes of the broader region, whilst simultaneously paying tribute to the lodge's distinctive position along the natural arc of the river bend.

Working in remote, sensitive locations like the Serengeti, at &Beyond, we believe we have a responsibility to work with natural, locally sourced and environmentally sustainable materials. This not only means that the lodges we create are inherently responsive to their environment, but that they almost appear to subtly emerge from the landscape itself. This is especially true of &Beyond Grumeti Serengeti River Lodge, where not only the colour palette and the building's materials but the very concept behind the lodge has been drawn directly from its surroundings.

The buildings are constructed from a light-gauge steel frame, clad in natural canvas and sustainably sourced local hardwood. This design approach stages a dialogue between the authenticity of traditional, vernacular buildings and the longevity and robustness of contemporary construction materials and techniques, allowing for the buildings to float over the landscape without the need for heavy concrete foundations and concrete slabs.



ANDBEYOND

Gourmet River Lodge

This simultaneously reaffirms our intention to respect the natural landscape and touch the earth lightly, whilst also dealing with the practical concern surrounding any future flooding.

With the shores of Lake Victoria less than 50 km (30 mi) away, the lodge's vibrant, sophisticated interior design serves to celebrate and capture the spirit of the Great Lakes region of central Africa and its local craftsmanship, providing an innovative approach to responsible travel. Bright, boldly patterned 'kanga' and 'kitenge' fabrics worn by the woman in the villages, locally hand-blown glass light installations, existing stone walls and the vibrant colours of the fishing communities surrounding Lake Victoria are featured throughout. The purple-grey tones of hippo hide have also influenced some of the textile choices, creating a calm yet detailed interior while the circular simplicity of the Bunda pot has also played a role in the styling and composition of original, nature-inspired furniture pieces for the lodge.

The redesign also incorporates brand new technology for power generation and water saving, bringing it up standard within the &Beyond portfolio of lodges, still providing magnificent riverside views.



CHISA BUSANGA

Camp

The design objective was to create luxury safari accommodations that felt fresh and exciting to travellers yet familiar and nonintrusive to the local ecosystem. This meant a twofold challenge: elevating African safari design to draw the attention of a global audience and grounding the camp in its wild location.

The natural answer was to draw inspiration directly from the immediate flora and wildlife - or, as it turned out, birdlife - and then ensure that this biomimicry led to a visually unforgettable design.

Chisa Busanga Camp has exceeded expectations on all fronts. Most importantly, the wildlife in the area has responded by changing absolutely nothing about their habits. Almost every sunset, a resident elephant herd wanders below and between the Nests towards its preferred watering hole, giving guests an unbeatable sundowners view from the privacy of their rooms.

And the international travel community has not been so oblivious to Chisa's impact. Although the pandemic slowed down the 'Chisa effect' by making it impossible for guests to experience the property first-hand.

Since opening in 2021, Chisa has been listed as a pioneering design in leading magazines such as Lonely Planet, National Geographic, the Times, and in 2022 it was the runner-up in the Conde Nast Traveller Hotel Awards.

Chisa Busanga Camp's woven Nest rooms are fast becoming one of the most iconic examples of contemporary safari architecture. Inspired by the weaver bird nests in the area, Chisa is perhaps the first property in Africa to adopt not only its shape, style, and structure from nature but also its materials and building processes.

This pioneering example of biomorphic design was the brainchild of Green Safaris founder Vincent Kouwenhoven. To create accommodation that would be unique and unforgettable for guests and yet nonintrusive to the local wildlife, architect Bert Meerstadt designed each Chisa room to resemble a weaver bird nest.

The challenge was to create a structure that could be built in the middle of a seasonal floodplain without harming the environment. This was overcome by metal-working 'wizard' Riaan Langeveldt, who found a way to use a network of aluminium frames to imitate the internal structure of a weaver nest: unlike weaver birds, the Green Safaris team could build these frames off-site.

Four frames were painstakingly shaped in South Africa and transported to the Busanga Plains, where they were installed amongst the terminal trees.

The nests were raised at least four meters off the ground to minimise the impact on the local ecology and wildlife.

One was designed to incorporate a simple metal lift so that travellers with limited mobility could easily reach the Nest. Local artisans then collected fallen twigs, vines, and sticks from the immediate area and wove them around each framework, incorporating the electrical wires and water pipes and hiding them between the metal and the sticks to make anything non-natural practically invisible.

Chisa Busanga Camp is entirely solar-powered and is the only camp in the Busanga Plains to operate Silent Safaris, where electric game-drive vehicles with no intrusive engine noises enable guests to get that much closer to the wildlife.



CHISA BUSANGA

Camps

Like its namesake, the weaver nest, each Chisa room has a large circular opening at the front that maximises its stunning view over the Busanga Plains.

Everything inside each Nest is magnetised around this view, from the queen-sized bed to the indoor-outdoor shower and cosy seating nook.

Each Nest is also lit from within by a large, handmade chandelier from Katundu in Malawi. Each chandelier comprises strings of seeds in another subtle nod to the weaver birds. Chisa means 'Bird's Nest' in Nyanja, and every detail of these nest rooms has been carefully crafted to bring this inspiration to life.



AFRICAN BUSH CAMPS

Lolebezi

The design objective was to offer a space that is unique and luxurious, with top-of-the-line amenities, while paying tribute to the natural surroundings and beauty of the Lower Zambezi. The designers incorporated recycled and local materials, to build a bold and artistic space that marries nature and luxury.

Lolebezi has won numerous awards and gained features in travel media because of its immaculate design and style. It has fast become one of the most sought-after destinations in Zambia.

Lolebezi is a luxury lodge operated by African Bush Camps on the banks of the majestic Zambezi River. This safari lodge was designed by renowned architects FoxBrowne. Lolebezi is the epitome of modern and artistic design, hand-crafted features, and incredible finishes. From thatch, and wood, to Italian marble countertops with acacia patterns. Each corner offers a sight to marvel at. property first-hand.

