

**INNOVATION  
AWARDS 2019**

# **DISCLAIMER**

To keep things fair, all entries included in this judges' pack are shown exactly as they were submitted. We Are Africa has endeavored not to edit for spelling, grammar or readability - as such, please be aware that we take no responsibility for such errors.

# **Design Africa**

Whether it's a showstopping installation, interiors overhaul or pace-setting new build, these are the designs changing the look of modern Africa

# andBEYOND AFRICA

andBeyond Tengile River Lodge

**DATE(S) THE EXPERIENCE WAS FIRST OFFERED**

1 December 2018

**WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?**

&Beyond Tengile River Lodge challenges the dynamic in the world-renowned Sabi Sand Game Reserve. The lodge offers a fresh and contemporary take on safari tradition, while providing guests with the luxury of space. At over 200 square metres (2 150 square feet) per suite, the lodge has some of the largest rooms in the Sabi Sand.

The rooms are designed to highlight the magnificence of the setting, with bespoke materials and designs that echo the colours and textures of the bush.

The lodge's design connects with &Beyond Kirkman's Camp, &Beyond's existing property in the Sabi Sand, and celebrates the history of this piece of land. It draws inspiration from the history of Harry Kirkman, the big game hunter who became a conservationist. Design elements such as the striking patterns and bespoke furniture pieces that combine style and comfort tie back to Kirkman and how he learned to live at harmony with his surroundings. Inspiration is drawn from nature, such as the textures of tree bark and animal hides.

Stone from the Selati Railway has been used to create the terrazzo floors. Slatted raw wood is used for the ceiling, creating the illusion of a cabin. The high ceilings create beams of natural light that prevent the rich interiors from feeling dark. Existing material has been repurposed, from steel sheets to railway sleepers. The use of rainforest green marble echoes the contrasting contours of the land seen from a bird's eye view, reinforcing the idea of the river and its tributaries.



## THE MOST OUTSTANDING PART OF THE PROJECT

Almost every single interior piece in the lodge has been specially made and designed in collaboration with a South African designer. The lights, couches, beds and chairs are all locally designed, as are the screen designs and shop fittings. The fabrics for curtains and upholstery are individually hand-painted by a group of artists in Cape Town and feature wildlife prints and elements of nature. The lodge places the guest as close to nature as possible without compromising on the luxury experience, while also treading lightly and leaving a minimal footprint on the natural environment.



# BABYLONSTOREN

Fynbos Cottages

## DATE(S) THE EXPERIENCE WAS FIRST OFFERED

1 January 2019

## WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

abylonstoren has 25 cottages clustered around the historic market garden (please see [www.babylonstoren.com](http://www.babylonstoren.com)). Since it is also a wine farm, we wanted to diversify the experience by creating 6 cottages on non-arable land right amongst the vineyards, behind a large dam.

## THE MOST OUTSTANDING PART OF THE PROJECT

The design of these cottages retain a link to 18th century vernacular Cape farm architecture. Guests reach the spot via the vineyards and up a gradual incline, past a dam and on a slight elevation. Along the way guests breathe air fragrant with fynbos. Perhaps the word “cottage” is misleading, because these living spaces are drawn in elegantly clean lines. Light streams in through glass walls. The views are of the Simonsberg peaks, the Banhoek heights, across the water to the Dutoitskloof Mountains, a balance pleasing to the eye. Bathrooms are quite theatrical: fragrantly coaxing you into a spa-headspace.



## BOSCHENDAL FARM ESTATE

The Tree House

### DATE(S) THE EXPERIENCE WAS FIRST OFFERED

DECEMBER 2018

### WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

We wanted to create an exceptional edu-play concept as an added value experience for guests on Boschendal, unlike anything in Southern Africa right now. We felt that the award winning sustainability model at the farm should be distilled into a format that is accessible for children. The concept is the "The Tree House - Free Range Kids". We renovated an old car park and cottage on the farm into a space where activities spanning the entire day and into the evening are created around the core values of food growing, farm to table dining, recycling, conservation and animal husbandry; everything that makes our farm so special. We have found that since its opening in December over 400 kids aged 4-14 have been enthralled and engaged until the moment their parents collect them and we hope for long after they leave.



The Tree House is an exciting edu-play centre which offers kids ages 4 - 14 a chance to enjoy an authentic farm and forest experience while learning the importance of sustainability.

Parents take a well earned break and leave your kids fully supervised and very busy with our trained Tree House leaders. The daily program is available and complimentary for all Accommodation and The Wolf Restaurant guests.

|             |                          |                        |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 09:00-10:00 | MTB/HORSE ADVENTURE      | Additional cost        |
| 10:00-12:00 | FARM FORAGING            |                        |
| 12:00-14:00 | OUTDOOR FIRE COOKING     | Meal included R105p.p. |
| 14:00-15:00 | FREE PLAY                |                        |
| 14:00-15:00 | MTB ADVENTURE            | Additional cost        |
| 15:00-17:00 | NATURAL ARTS & UPCYCLING |                        |
| 17:00-18:00 | NATURE WALK & EXPLORE    |                        |
| 18:00-20:00 | OUTDOOR FIRE COOKING     | Meal included R105p.p. |



### THE MOST OUTSTANDING PART OF THE PROJECT

What we found amazing is that with the design and input of our Tree House Manager, Tracey Van Wyk, and the incredible skills of our woodwork and farm teams, almost everything you can see now was made or up-cycled on the farm. We are educating our future guests and giving kids the opportunity to buy into our philosophies and experience them through play and exploration.

# ULTIMATE SAFARIS NAMIBIA

The Nest @ Sossus by Ultimate Safaris

## DATE(S) THE EXPERIENCE WAS FIRST OFFERED

August 2018

## WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

An eight year project, including a three-year build, has resulted in one of Africa's most extraordinary private villas. The Nest @ Sossus is an architectural and geometrical masterpiece which was the winner of the 2019 Wallpaper\* Design Award for best private house in the world. Inspired by the Sociable Weaver nest and built almost entirely from thatch, roof to floor, The Nest was designed by Porky Hefer, one of Africa's most awarded creative personalities, created by landscape conservationist Swen Bachran, and decorated by interior designer Maybe Corpaci.

Stylish modern minimalist furnishings compliment large spacious living areas including outdoor and indoor lounge and dining areas, an open-plan library, and an open-plan kitchen. Both contemporary and mid-20th century pieces coexist harmoniously, with most furniture being sourced in Africa from both established and up and coming African designers. Doktor & Misses, Mia Wildlake's Studio 19, Douglas & Co, Bofred Cape Town, Jo Carlin, Diana Ceramics, Mungo Design, Hay & Tadition, Flos and Muuto are just some of the creators of pieces utilized in The Nest.





Outside areas boast installations by Angus Taylor and others, along with a discreet children's playground, large pool and a variety of sitting areas set under ancient camelthorn trees. Outdoor furnishings include pieces from Italian based Moroso, designed by Marc Thorpe, Sebastian Herkner and Jonathan Levien. Local Namibian artisans also manufactured a number of custom pieces, made both locally and onsite, whilst some of the best quality Namibian granite was used for table tops and other features.

## THE MOST OUTSTANDING PART OF THE PROJECT

The Nest was featured on the cover of Conde Nast Traveller and a five page spread in Wallpaper\* so has certainly seized the attention of the design world. A world class experience is offered, where guests are hosted on an exclusive, all-inclusive basis by one of the finest tribes of Journey Magicians in Namibia, including discerning, sophisticated management, one of Namibia's best naturalist guides, a private butler, and an award-winning gourmet chef. The Nest @ Sossus only offers the finest, and it is set to benchmark a new level of hospitality at iconic and exclusive private retreats in Namibia.



# ZURI ZANZIBAR

## DATE(S) THE EXPERIENCE WAS FIRST OFFERED

2 July 2018

## WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

From the very beginning, Zuri was to be a unique boutique hotel experience, with barefoot luxury, absolutely authentic Zanzibar, off the beaten African track. Zuri is about the incredible turquoise colour of the Indian Ocean, a local way of life, the richness of Zanzibar's spices, invigorating, cheerful and optimistic. The project has been designed by the well-known London and Prague-based interior designers Jestico +Whiles, who have been regular award winners for their projects throughout Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Australia and India. 55 villas, suites and bungalows take inspiration from a typical village atmosphere, epitomizing modern-meets-traditional African design. Surrounded by a bounty of indigenous plants and foliage, the villas are an expression of African ethos and have been informed by an environmentally and socially sensitive approach to building, design, and operations. The architects worked with local people from the very start, understood how they live, what they value, and how their unique history has developed.



The resort was conceived as an enormous tropical spice garden, and having created the concept which was to use inspiration from local historic village planning, then sought to 'tweak' the position of every building to enable the construction team to keep almost all of the young and mature plants and trees which already occupied the site. The architects spent many weeks studying the local buildings, visiting spice gardens, wild green areas and beaches to engage with the local people and almost every craftsman and antique collector on the island of Unguja.

## THE MOST OUTSTANDING PART OF THE PROJECT

Designed by Jestico+Whiles and a member of Design Hotels, Zuri Zanzibar combines elegant contemporary design with a considerate, sustainable build and an authentic African atmosphere. The resort provides its guests with handpicked amenities, and services from local, sustainable, and fair-trade organizations. To ensure the hotel's footprint is as light as possible, all of its roofs are made from either "nyasi" (a Tanzanian grass) or local wood shingle, offering a more sustainable alternative to the typical Makuti roof, whilst the Zanzibari brand 'Dhow Furniture' provides furnishings made from the recycled wood of old fishing boats.

