



BEFORE

THIS PAGE THE FORMAL GARDEN LEADING TO HEATHERFIELD MANOR IN CAPE TOWN IS A FAVOURITE FEATURE OF OWNERS HOFNI SCHOEMAN AND ALBERT COETZEE.

#6

grande dame

HIDDEN BEHIND THICK SHRUBBERY ON A VERY BUSY CAPE TOWN STREET SITS A HISTORIC MANOR THAT WAS RECENTLY GIVEN A FABULOUS FACELIFT

TEXT **LYNETTE BOTHA** STYLING **IAN MARTIN** PHOTOGRAPHS **MICKY HOYLE**



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT AMAZING ARTWORKS AND TRINKETS ARE ON SHOW THROUGHOUT THE HOME: A PAINTING OF ALBERT'S MOTHER AND THE COUPLE'S THREE YORKSHIRE TERRIERS, BY MIA CHAPLIN, HANGS PROUDLY IN THE ENTRANCE HALL; THE KITCHEN IS ONE AREA OF THE HOME THAT WAS COMPLETELY REDONE.

Concealed as it is between two churches on Cape Town's energetic Kloof Street, you're unlikely to notice Heatherfield Manor unless you're looking for it. Previously a rectory for priests of the neighbouring churches, the historical estate is now owned by real estate agent Hofni Schoeman and his partner, Albert Coetzee. Lovers of old houses full of character but in need of restoration, Hofni and Albert were on the lookout for a big property with an expansive garden within walking distance of town in mid-2013, when the opportunity to buy the manor arose. 'I saw the estate for the first time in 2012 while working with a client in Tamboerskloof, and loved it,' says Albert. 'When it came on the market again, we were actually just about to buy a property in Fresnaye. A real estate agent alerted us that Heatherfield was for sale but pretty much told us that we'd have to make a decision right then and there if we wanted it – and of course, we did.'

The couple moved in immediately and knew they'd need time in the manor before renovating. 'I believe that you have to live in a place for at least a year before you decide to make any alterations,' says Hofni. 'You need to see how the house changes with the seasons, and only by living in it do you pick up on all its nuances.'

Before the site became a parsonage, the gardens were much larger, extending to the Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel. The previous owner started to sell off pieces of the land, and the plot where Heatherfield stands today was donated to the church. Hofni and Albert love the history of the property as well as the fact that celebrated British architect Sir Herbert Baker designed it in 1895. 'We never intended to change the manor's original structure or drastically alter it as we wanted to preserve the style. We only▷



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BIG IDEAS
COURTYARD

By working with their landscaper Franchesca Watson, Hofni and Albert were able to create a beautiful enclosed outdoor courtyard with picturesque charm. Thanks to its position and the slatted roof, this space is beautifully protected from the elements, which is key when entertaining outdoors.

THIS PAGE THE PICTURESQUE COURTYARD GETS JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF SUN AND SHADE THROUGHOUT THE DAY. **OPPOSITE,** **CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT** THE BREAKFAST AREA LEADS OUT ONTO A BEAUTIFUL CONTAINED COURTYARD; JUST SOME OF THE COUPLE'S MANY PIECES THAT DECORATE THE HOUSE; HOFNI WITH HIS AND ALBERT'S THREE YORKSHIRE TERRIERS; THE CONSERVATORY AT THE FRONT OF THE HOME IS ONE OF THE ROOMS WHERE HOFNI AND ALBERT SPEND MUCH OF THEIR TIME.



THIS PAGE A PAINTING BY CHRIS DENOVAN HANGS PROUDLY IN THE BREAKFAST ROOM ABOVE AN ANTIQUE MARBLE AND BRASS TABLE BOUGHT AT AN AUCTION. **OPPOSITE** THE WALLPAPER IS A BLOWN-UP DUTCH ARTWORK THAT THE COUPLE WERE DRAWN TO AS IT LOOKS AS IF IT COULD BE SOMEWHERE IN CAPE TOWN.





THIS PAGE AN EN SUITE BATHROOM REVOLVES AROUND STATEMENT WALLPAPER BY ETIENNE HANEKOM. **OPPOSITE, FROM LEFT** WOODEN ELEMENTS FEATURE HEAVILY THROUGHOUT THE MANOR, SUCH AS A CUPBOARD AND BED IN ONE OF THE BEDROOMS FROM VARIOUS AUCTION HOUSES; THE ENNEAD OF ARTWORKS IS BY BJ BROEKHUIZEN.

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#6



BIG IDEAS
BEDROOMS The biggest structural change made to Heatherfield Manor was converting six small rooms into three large, airy bedrooms. 'We decided on three large bedrooms each with their own large bathrooms, patios and comfortable sitting areas flowing into dressing rooms,' says Albert.



BEFORE

ever planned to restore it and modify it slightly to our tastes,' says Hofni. The tiles, staircase, stained glass windows and shutters are all original, and most of the house's structure is still in place, too. Working with architect Craig Kaplan and project manager Douglas Austin, the couple converted the bedrooms from six small rooms into three large ones. The breakfast room now flows into the newly-renovated kitchen, and the conservatory was also restored. 'We wanted to maximise the views in every room. Now, no matter where you are in the house, you can look out over the Mother City – whether it's Table Mountain, Signal Hill, Lion's Head the harbour or CBD, there's a little piece of Cape Town visible everywhere,' says Hofni.

The gardens also received a huge overhaul. 'I always wanted a formal garden leading to the entrance of the home, so that's what we created,' says Albert. 'There used to be a parking lot at the front of the house and unkempt lawn below the front staircase, and we redesigned the area with our landscaper, Franchesca Watson. It's now one of my favourite parts of the property.'

As avid art collectors, Hofni and Albert have adorned almost every wall in their home with artworks by both established

and emerging artists, and in the dining area you'll find beautiful wallpaper created from a Dutch piece depicting a landscape that looks very similar to Cape Town. Two other works that stand out are a portrait of Hofni's mom, commissioned to *The Great South African Bake Off's* Alice Toich, and a portrait of Albert's mom and their three Yorkshire terriers, painted by Mia Chaplin, who merged two photographs of Albert's mom and the dogs to create the piece.

Hofni is an animal lover and the pets are key to the home – the couple has three Yorkshire terriers, a cat and an array of other farmyard friends, including chickens, a pig and a rabbit, all with names. When asked what they love most about the location of the property, both Hofni and Albert agree that it's the energy of the surrounding area – the bustle of Kloof Street, the fact that they can walk pretty much everywhere and also, of course, the views. Albert notes, 'People often ask if we are bothered by the noise of the city but for me, it's a sign of life; the sounds, the vibe, people going about their daily tasks – I love it! We're not ready for the quiet life just yet.' **Heatherfield Manor is available for exclusive events on request. Call XXX XXX XXXX or visit XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX. Find the specialists' details in the Black Book (page 124)**