

Wallpaper

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TOP 20 REASONS TO BE IN... SOUTH AFRICA



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SOUTH AFRICA

It's a long way from Camps Bay to Soweto, but across South Africa there is a push to remap the old geographies and build new communities, creative and otherwise

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TAMILLI PRETORIUS, ELLIE STATHAKI, NEKI TENNIN



Light design, set design, art direction
and image by Thierry Dreyfus
Assisted by Mathias Wendzinski

'Crystal' coat, €3,385; jacket (worn as a top),
€2,670; 'Crystal' trousers, €820; sandals,
€110; necklace, €674 all by Lanvin.
Tel: 44 20 7491 1629 (UK), www.lanvin.com

Fashion: Mathie Omeron/Wight Hair: Mark
Hampton for Redo Hair Salon using Davines
and Bumble. Make-up: Martina Luzzati using
M.A.C. Model: Gwen Lora at Pioneer Models.
Lighting assistant: François Bechet.
Light supplier: J.J. Park, thanks to Fred Colwell.
Production: Laura Holmes Production

01

Soccer centre

A future-focused football academy in Soweto

PHOTOGRAPHY: JULIAN ABRAMS

The Nike Football Training Centre in Soweto, designed by Canadian firm RUF Project, is a study in contrasts. The impressive 1,300 sq m facility, recently shortlisted for a World Architecture Festival award, is the first of its kind in Africa. Intended as a community resource that would have a life beyond last year's World Cup, the centre sports two full-sized artificial pitches and a clubhouse, yet its location meant that the safety of the young players it hosts was a primary design consideration. Working to a tight FIFA deadline, RUF directors Alyssa Schwann and Sean Pearson pushed the project from design to construction in eight months and, using a palette

of local materials that included sandstone and Soligna (the Soweto version of Douglas fir), they hoped the building would become part of a new architectural language, as well as a symbol of a new, unified South Africa. And their design has largely succeeded in evoking this sense of unity. There is an absence of any dark, hidden spaces, and light lines are everywhere. 'In Jo'burg, it's all about fences and gates,' says Pearson. 'But we wanted the centre to be about the kids that were using it. We wanted to create a sense of fluidity, but we had to respond to security issues. The challenge was to make it secure, yet open.' www.rufproject.com



06



07 MISSIBABA ▲

Missibaba was established in Cape Town in 2006 by London College of Fashion graduate and leather aficionado Chloe Townsend. Her 'Cha-Ching' bag has become a must-have item, but there's no need to worry that someone else might have your bag – accessories are made to order and can be customised according to taste. Townsend's latest collection, The Owl and the Passycat, features lots of her signature bright, acid colours with an offbeat twist. www.missibaba.com

HAIR OF HONOUR

Above, Mary Sibande's Long Live the Dead Queen looms large in Johannesburg. "The body, for me, particularly the skin and clothing, is the site where history is contested and where identities play out," she says.

Left, 'Wild West' clutch, ZAR500 (R245); 'Cha-Ching' purse, ZAR750 (R302), both by Missibaba.

Right, 'Anchor' necklace, ZAR170 (R70); 'Vetri' pendant, ZAR870 (R413), both by Fathom; 'Amethyst' pendant, ZAR60 (R26); heart and bead necklace, ZAR50 (R21); crystal and bead necklace, ZAR90 (R36), all by Steffany Roup Photography: Duane Nasis, Fashion: Ursula Gotschmann, Hair: Seithe using Humble and Bamble, Make-up: Sang-Hyun using DMC Models: Decca of Select

08 MARY SIBANDE ▲

Relevant and powerful, yet not heavy handed, artist Mary Sibande employs the human form as a vehicle to explore the identity and stereotypical depictions of women, particularly black women. Her work has been exhibited internationally, most recently making waves at the 54th Venice Biennale with a squadron of 17 life-size sculptures. But it was her

celebrated Long Live the Dead Queen series that put Sibande on the map. Shown on 16 building wraps across Johannesburg in June 2010 to coincide with the FIFA World Cup, it was public art at its provocative best. Look out for Sibande's work being auctioned at Sotheby's New York in November to raise funds for orphaned African children.



09 FATHOM ◀

Sven Duncker spent a decade working as a goldsmith and stone-setter for some of South Africa's top jewellery companies. Last year, he started his own line, Fathom, which focuses on platinum and palladium, but also includes a line of witty sterling silver pieces. Fathomjewellery.co.za

09 STEFFANY ROUP ◀

Handmade mostly from sterling silver, brass and copper, Steffany Roup's pieces include a swallow necklace influenced by her mother's jewellery box and heart necklaces made using recycled coins. Roup also designs a clothing line with fellow jeweller Marietjie Beeslar. steffanyroup.com

02 JUNGLE JIM ▼

With the intention of producing a cheaply printed, cheaply sold, but visually arresting publication, Hennes Bernard and Jenna Bass launched *Jungle Jim*, Africa's first genre-based pulp fiction magazine. Each bi-monthly issue explores popular Western forms of pulp such as science fiction and trash romance within an African context (stereotypes and clichés fully embraced). Illustrated with a bold graphic style. Most of all, the pair are determined the mag be a provocative read: 'We both like seals and chainsaws. We are somewhat obsessed with the inappropriate.' www.junglejim.org



05

CRYSTAL BIRCH

Hats off to a whimsical milliner

Inspired by the irreverent work of Philip Treacy, as well as South African-born milliner Albertus Swanepoel, Crystal Birch believes that a hat is the exclamation mark of any outfit. With her outlandish creations, she brings an injection of the hypermodern into an age-old tradition. A weekend in Ireland was the catalyst for her first hat, which originated as a dowdy paisley lampshade, plucked from a wall and adapted for wearing. Many more adaptations ensued. From plates of egg and bacon to Amazonian greenery, Birch, one of South Africa's leading fashion stylists, knows how to use the materials available to her to create truly surprising headgear.

03 HIPPO HOTEL ▶

The Red Bull Suite at Cape Town's new Hippo Boutique Hotel, designed by Ricky Lee Gordon (founder of inspirational gallery A Word of Art), is a homage to South Africa's vibrant street art culture. Photographs, used concert tickets and postcards bring a lived-in intimacy to the space, while a series of empty spray cans add a surprisingly decorative punch. Meanwhile, the walls are crammed with the work of more than 15 specially commissioned local artists, including Faith47 and Paul Seryol. hippohotel.co.za

04 ENMASSE MASSAGE

Tiring of the hustle and bustle of Wall Street, and inspired by an open-air massage at a beach party in Thailand, Murray von Hirschberg returned to Cape Town to open Enmasse, the city's only membership-based massage house, which aims to promote Thai massage as an integral part of daily life rather than an occasional treat. Massages need not be pre-booked and are conducted in semi-private spaces, fully clothed and without oil. Directly after a massage, clients are ushered into the tea house, or encouraged to take a nap. enmasse.co.za

**Preservation under
Woodmiller Centre**

Completed in 1976, architect Roodol Uytendogaard's Woodmiller Centre, in the Cape Town suburb of Claremont, unlocks strong emotions. 'The building is an extraordinary creative and technical achievement,' architect Heinrich Wolff has argued. Artist Angela Ferreira disagrees. In April 2010, she devoted an exhibition to the building, arguing that it is a failed modernist utopia. Its sub-standard performance as a retail hub has prompted its owners to seek a demolition order. For now it stands defiant on Main Road, but its days are numbered.



11 MONAGHAN FARM ▶

Huge housing estates with high fences and golf courses are very popular around Johannesburg, but Prospero Bailey, the man behind Monaghan Farm, a 1,260-acre low-energy modernist housing estate near Johannesburg, is ploughing a different furrow. The ethos begins with the architecture of the houses, which are designed to blend into the natural environment. Each is unique, but there are staunch criteria, like being as energy efficient as possible. Nguni cattle roam freely and the farm makes honey and grows cut flowers. The estate also houses a restaurant, business centre, pool and gym. Bailey is fast proving that idyllic open space living and a sense of community without poisoning the environment is possible. www.monaghanfarm.co.za



12 VICTORIA VERBAAN ◀

Durban illustrator Victoria Verbaan's fantastical, magical illustrations also inspire her range of bags, cushions and rugs, which are constantly in demand. Her new range, House of Orange, inspired by Dutch tulips and windmills, will also feature on ceramics, which Verbaan will paint. www.victoriaverbaan.com

13 NKULI MLANGENI ▼

Two years ago Nkuli Mlangeni (below right) curated an irreverent festival celebrating the life of pop diva Brenda Fassie. Having taken time out to have a child, she is now coordinating a magazine produced by young township residents. Live mentors talents by partnering them with media professionals. lvityafrica.com



LIVING COLOUR

Above, Xhosa-inspired knitwear designed by Laduma Ngxokolo
Left, stylist and curator Nkuli Mlangeni's face was seen around the world before she was well known, in 2003, a photograph taken by Nontsikelelo Veleko of her in a bright yellow dress with her friend Cindy was exhibited internationally
Far left, Victoria Verbaan's illustrated canvas shoppers



10 70 JUTA STREET ◀

Property developer Adam Levy is steadily transforming Jo'burg neighbourhood Braamfontein. 70 Juta Street, a multi-coloured collective of boutique stores and offices, is evidence of how successful Levy's regenerative efforts have been. High calibre tenants include the Brodie/Stevenson Gallery, the Afronova Gallery, and the Dokter and Misses design studio. A Nike Concept Store is in the works.



15

14 MOUNTAIN HOUSE ▶

At the foot of Table Mountain, in Cape Town's Oranjezicht suburb, Mountain House is the latest offering by Cape Town-based Van Der Merwe Miszewski Architects. The building features several internal and external stone walls as a reference to the nearby cliffs, while its signature wavy concrete roof curves in both directions, echoing the area's rolling hills and the site's specific contours. The façade's large front openings are shaded by horizontal wooden blinds, while a combination of terraces and clever landscaping helps the house to blend effortlessly with its setting. vdmma.com



15 LADUMA NGXOKOLO ▲

He's just 25, but Laduma Ngxokolo is making big splashes with his knitwear inspired by traditional beadwork of the Xhosa tribe. His passion for patterns won him first prize at the Society of Dyers and Colourists Design Competition in London last year, and one of his sweaters was nominated for Design Indaba 2011's Most Beautiful Object in South Africa competition. Ngxokolo has incorporated the colours and geometric motifs of the Xhosa culture, such as the axe and arrow, but the designs have a modern flair that appeals to the tribe's increasingly fashionable youth. africanknitwear.com



17 LIAM MOONEY

Designer Liam Mooney's Micro collection of household objects is underpinned by a singular philosophy – all the objects are manufactured by individual artisans, micro-enterprises or community uplifting organisations using either reject materials or resources particular to southern Africa. Based in Cape Town, Mooney is also a rare designer moving out of Woodstock, rather than in, taking space in the new CBD 'arts precinct', Commune.1. www.liammooney.co.za



18 JASON BAKERY

For four years, Jason Lilley enjoyed much success with his Cape Town hole-in-the-wall café Jardine Bakery. Now he has a new bakery occupying the entire ground floor of the former Jardine restaurant. Get acquainted with real crocodile in the Croc Monsieur, or try his Bunny Chow – rabbit confit served on brioche with baby carrots – which plays on the name of a traditional local dish. jasonbakery.com

19 HAAS COLLECTIVE

Cape Town is loving the on-site bean roasting and well-pulled espressos at Haas Coffee Collective, the latest addition to the Haas empire, which also includes next-door concept store Haas Design Collective and art space Haas Gallery Collective, across the road. Also recently launched is another new venture, an ad agency called Haas Communications Collective. www.haascollective.com



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16 CINDY POOLE ▲

Cindy Poole, designer of Cape Town-based label The Summit, describes her range as 'a unique twist on an age-old staple'. The label pays homage to historic menswear through a nostalgic range of small leather goods, including bow ties, cravats, briefcases, wallets and belts, providing the modern day gentleman's answer to old-world style. With a background in filmmaking and fine art, Poole says she likes to do things slowly, noting that her brand is not about trends or fashion. This measured approach is a sure nod to the sense of timelessness that The Summit radiates. Poole also tries to use local manufacturers as much as possible, only sourcing from further afield if she cannot find something of a high enough standard. www.thesummitcloset.com

20 PEET PIENAAR

Cape Town designer Peet Pienaar has undergone many transformations: from provocative performance artist to fêted graphic designer to avant-garde retailer. Now festival entrepreneur can be added to that list of guises. Pienaar runs design studio The President, which curates the successful Toffee Popular Culture festival. This has recently been expanded to include a food festival, featuring talks, tastings and markets. As is the norm with any event Pienaar supervises, the festival was promoted by design elements created in his studio's signature clean-line vector graphics style. thepresident.co.za