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SANDCASTLE FORT

Architect Wynand Wilsenach's Blouberg beach house prevails without pretence against wind and weather, creating a calm space where a couple entertain their extended family.

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It was architect Wynand Wilsenach's almost obsessive eye for detail that initially impressed the owners of this Blouberg beauty. "He carefully considered the finishing of every square centimetre of the house: every surface, window and door, every skirting, light switch and wall plug," commented the owners on Wynand's restoration of a family member's home.

Other than excellent detailing, Wynand believes each building should look and feel at home on its site and in its context. This is why, when it came to this Blouberg escape, he chose materials that echo the seaside environment. Black crusher stone replicating the rocks on the beach was used for the garden walls and main entrance. The exterior was covered in Australian jarrah wood that would attain the same silver-grey patina of driftwood over time, while a plastering technique using ground seashells created the look of a sandcastle.

Wynand also designed the house as a fort against the wild wind and weather for which the Cape of Storms is known. Inside, a protected courtyard, complete with a roof that opens and closes, lets plenty of light into the open-plan kitchen, living and dining area.

The colours and textures of the surroundings were continued inside with the sand-coloured larch wood and distinctive seashell plaster, complemented by understated interior design from David Strauss. "I wanted to create a foundation for the owners that would develop with time as they made each room more lived-in," he says.

The owners concur: "We wanted a seaside home that mirrored something of the beauty of the West Coast. A home where you feel you can kick off your shoes, visit with friends and family, and play with the grandchildren." **V**

· An edited version of the article published in VISI 47

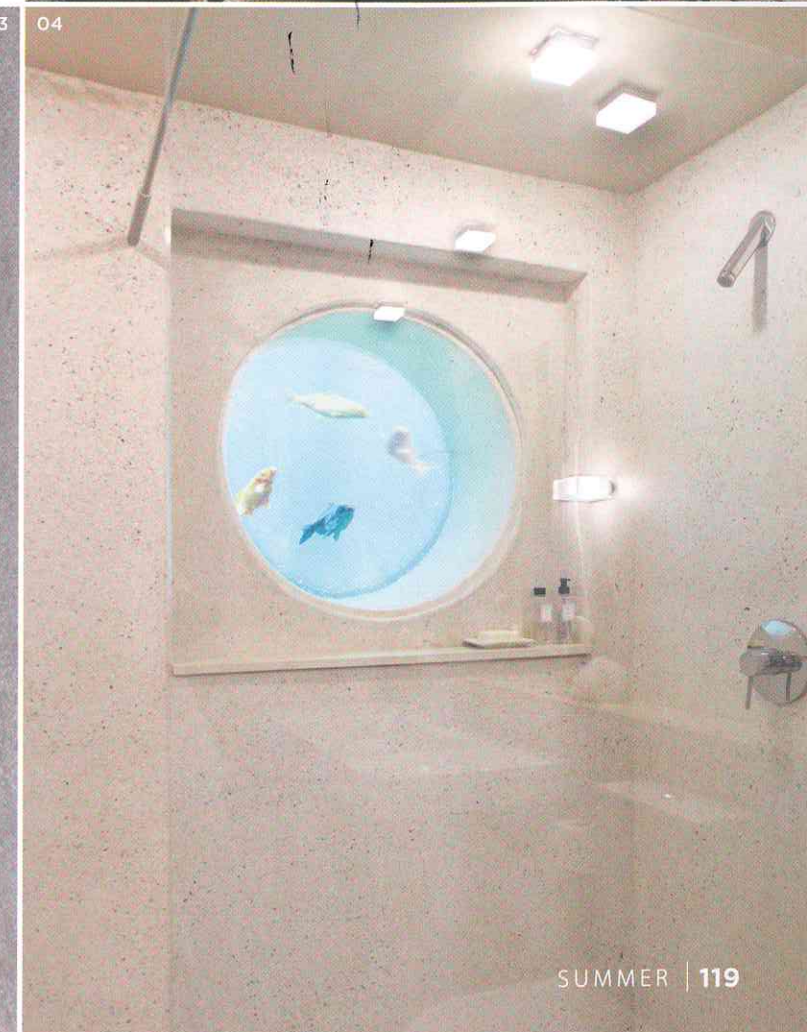
- 01 Wynand says the more the jarrah wood ages, the more visible the little shells in the plaster will become. He borrowed maritime elements, such as cabin windows, for the design of the house.
- 02 The sheltered braai patio has large shutters on the northern side that can be opened up to the sea view.
- 03 A front door with a view. Wynand feels a wonderful outlook can be appreciated even more when it's framed like a beautiful painting.
- 04 The bottom floor, which houses the wine cellar, playroom and a bedroom, features cabin windows that look into the fish pond, as seen in this shower in the en-suite bathroom.



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