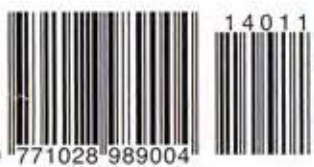


CONDÉ NAST  
**House & Garden**

SOUTH AFRICA'S FINEST DECOR MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2014 R49,50 (incl.VAT)  
OTHER COUNTRIES R48,42



*Objects of Desire*

**65 Covetable Buys  
To Take Home**

*Generation Game*

**When Good Decorating  
Runs In The Family**

A photograph of an outdoor dining table set on a patio. The table is rectangular with a light-colored top and wooden legs. It is set with plates, glasses, a pitcher of water, and a bowl of lemons. There are wooden chairs around the table and a wooden bench with blue patterned cushions on the right. The background shows a lush garden with white flowers and a house in the distance.

**GREAT STYLE**  
**INSIDE AND OUT**

**COLOURFUL  
COASTAL  
GARDENING**

**DESIGN IDEAS  
FOR SUNNY  
LIVING**

**PLAN YOUR  
ULTIMATE  
POOL**



In this all-white lounge the shades of wood and rope are warm and raw. Unknown artisans and established artists display equal expertise in basketry



# light and shade

TEXT RENAUD LEGRAND  
PRODUCTION MARIE KALT  
PHOTOGRAPHS MATTHIEU SALVAING

A GROUP OF LOW-LYING PAVILIONS MAKES UP A BRIGHT, UNIQUELY PORTUGUESE BEACH HOME, DRESSED IN WARM NATURAL TEXTURES







A

n hour south of Lisbon, the region around Comporta is punctuated by small towns and ports. The village is a well-kept secret known only to the Lisbon high society and trendsetters like French designers Jacques Grange and Christian Louboutin, German painter Anselm Kiefer and even the Casiraghi royal family. With infinite beach, dunes and sea and rice paddies as far as the eye can see, here, nature is wild.

French interior designers Daniel Suduca and Thierry Mérillou discovered Comporta 15 years ago. And so, when they were invited to put life back into an old fisherman's house, it was the love that they have for the

place, its history and its spirit that inspired them. 'If there is one place that makes me feel good just thinking about it, it's Comporta,' confirms Daniel.

It was a project of rebirth. With only the shell of a building remaining and a magnificent fig tree, they added two other pavilions to create a house in three parts. The first holds the kitchen and dining room, the second comprises four en-suite bedrooms and the third houses the living areas. Connected by a central patio and wooden pathways, the house seems to have a scope that goes beyond its walls.

'The person in charge of the rehabilitation was Nuno Carvalho, a local builder with traditional savoir faire,' reveals Daniel. His role was vital because he ensured that the soul of the place was captured during the rebuild. Namely, its timelessness. It was ▶

FROM FAR LEFT A vintage pine-and-wrought-iron rack from Daniel Suduca and Thierry Mérillou's store Galerie Saint Jacques; the property is comprised of three low houses surrounded by a sandy yard, which is dominated by a fig tree. Here, the designers relax with friends on the terrace; in the dining room, a 1950s ash table is surrounded by 1940s Danish chairs, which fit in perfectly with the vintage French basket pendant. Bright ceramics hang on the wall above a Portuguese pottery statue



## Sourcebook

The house's vintage-cum-traditional look is all about the natural, woven materials – straw, cane, wicker, rattan and hemp. Here are some suppliers that stock similar products

**Flooring and walling**  
Natural coir and sisal rugs in different shades and patterns can be found at Rowley & Hughes. For grasscloth wallpaper, try Hertex Fabrics or St Leger & Viney.

**Decor accessories**  
For stools, chairs, ottomans and smaller items like cushions, visit Cécile & Boyd, Block & Chisel and The Private House Company. Contact Madwa for

a list of stores that stock its tableware and screens.

**Baskets and storage**  
Champions of local craft, Design Afrika has a range of decorative baskets, bowls and bins.

**Custom pieces**  
Cape Town Society for the Blind stocks a huge variety of ready-made items at its Salt River showroom, but also does commissioned pieces to size and specification.



necessary to avoid harsh architecture in the renovation because, here, houses are mostly cabins built on sand and even new homes look as if they've always been here. They are low and topped with thatch and shingles, as dictated by tradition and the nearby rice fields. For this reason, the large patio was left sandy and natural, enhancing the sense of authenticity. This area was built up in collaboration with landscaper Louis Benech, who used mimosa trees, pines, oaks and fig cacti – all from the region.

This is an open home, where one moves from full sun to shade at different times of the day. The sun is everywhere though, in some form or another – plentiful in the central patio, softened under the covered terrace or alluded to in the house – and was a major source of inspiration for the duo.

Inside, the walls have been whitewashed and the beams of the ceiling are exposed. The furniture? Portuguese, naturally. The architects have interpreted the simplicity of the vernacular style (while reinventing it) through a combination of antique furniture, mostly supplied by their store Galerie Saint Jacques in Toulouse, and raw materials such as wood, rope, raffia and wicker. This was also achieved by avoiding beiges and browns in favour of the clean, cool white. The only touch of colour is the Jean Lurçat ceramics – plates and dishes scattered on the walls like tattoos.

A metaphor for the house itself, where less is more and the rustic setting has been allowed to dictate the low-key look. 'Nature is wild but at the same time soft; there is a rhythm, a light,' comments Thierry. ■

**This is an open home, where one moves from full sun to shade at different times of the day**



FROM LEFT A guest bedroom is simply and graphically composed under the pitched ceiling. The black of the handwoven wool throw is picked up on by a ceramic artwork; the terrace brings together vintage pieces including a bed by Charlotte Perriand from the 1940s, rattan 1950s armchairs and an Audoux-Minet coffee table, all under the fragrant shade of a mimosa tree  
OPPOSITE PAGE Each bedroom has its own ensuite bathroom. This one features a brickwork bath, a 1980s Jean Girelli chair and towels by Hermès