

Words Jonathan Murphy Photographs Alfred Lor

Bella Arabella!

If it's security, prestige and investment returns you're after, look no further than Arabella Golf and Country Estate.



TOP The rustic roof trusses and wooden ceiling contrast well with the sleek fitted kitchen. **ABOVE** Unusual windows add graphic interest to a lounge area; sliding doors maximise space in the bedroom; a ceiling-high window affords the bath beautiful views; a funky translucent wine rack updates an age-old craft for the 21st century.

I never struggle to find my keys anymore. Can't miss 'em, really... considering there are now eight keys on my cumbersome bunch, not counting all the chunky remote-control devices.

Security is a major priority for South Africans, especially for those in the process of buying property. Most of us are accustomed to locking, bleeping and arming our way through the day every time we arrive at or leave our homes. But I think I've finally found a place

where locked cars, security gates and even keys are history...

The prestigious Arabella Golf and Country Estate is set on the gently rolling landscape of the pristine Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, just a few kilometres from Hermanus and Walker Bay. Cape Town is only about an hour's drive away, but the absolute peace and tranquility of the surroundings make the strife of the big city seem much further away.

Maxabella Luxury Homes is currently

developing breathtaking homes – ranging in size from 320m² to 650m² – at Arabella. As the development's showhouse, 102 Herron Road provides a shining example of Maxabella's holistic approach.

'That's pretty much the concept I'm selling...' explains owner Mads Viuff as he leads me over the timber decking that straddles a duo of sky-blue pools, up to the front door. 'I have a very specific vision – or call it aesthetic, if you want,' he explains, 'and the beauty of this vision is that

every aspect of the home is complementary to the next.'

Mads currently has quite a few homes already under construction within the development, and there are more in the planning phase. Ultimately, Maxabella provides a complete space to live in, supplying all fittings, fixtures, appliances, paint and décor – even most of the furniture. Clients may specify their requirements and expectations, and describe how their lifestyles would best be catered for. But the holistic design of each home

is achieved by using a single developer for the whole process: Maxabella is responsible for every detail, from the initial concept to the technical implementation and creative finishing.

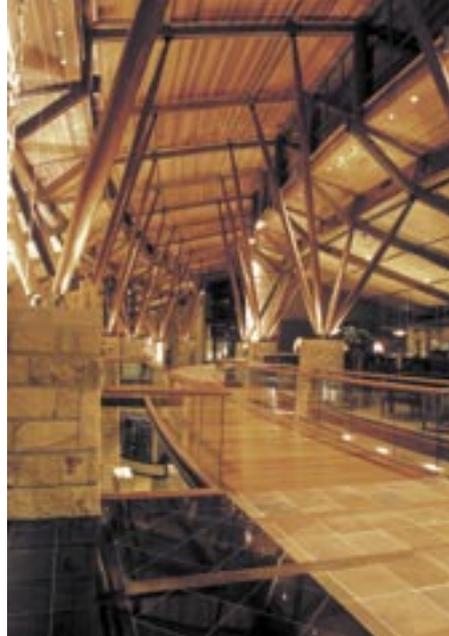
Mads describes his style as 'contemporary European minimalism, with an African touch.' The design is certainly modern while at the same time retaining a sense of warmth.

The main living area looks out onto the two sparkling pools through a wall of windows, and includes an open-plan kitchen and dining room. It's light and airy thanks to the clever use of double-volume spaces and alternating levels. A spacious mezzanine lounge flows from the kitchen. On a lower level within the same space, there's a sun-splashed sitting area with views over the water of the lake and the golf course. The beauty of this design is that family members can each happily do their own thing within the main living area – be it cooking, watching television or relaxing with a book – while enjoying one another's company at the same time.

The bedrooms are on the lower level of the house, and all enjoy incredible views of the lake and the mountains in the distance. A patio runs the length of this lower level, allowing each bedroom its own indoor-outdoor flow – very handy should you wish to nip out early in the morning for a few rounds on the world-class golf course, or just to take a stroll to enjoy the rich bird life and lush vegetation. The lower level also offers additional living space, a wine cellar and a maid's quarters. Modern touches have been seamlessly integrated into the design of the home: examples include state-of-the-art sound and entertainment systems, a keyless entrance system, moody designer lighting and a built-in vacuum-cleaning system. Many modern homes are now fitted with these features, but in very few cases have they been as subtly installed as in this house.

The Arabella Golf and Country Estate is all about exclusive luxury and easy living. The nearby Western Cape Hotel and Spa offers world-class spa facilities, distinguished restaurants, a wine cellar and extensive conference facilities.

As I wander around the estate in the late afternoon, I notice that many houses have a golf cart parked in the driveway. Most residents prefer to get around the estate in these silent vehicles, which means that the avenues are quiet and safe for pedestrians and children. The elements of peaceful, stylish country living all come together perfectly at Arabella. Now that I've saved up enough for a golf cart, I just need to come up with the dough for the home... 🍷



MAXABELLA AT ARABELLA

Maxabella Luxury Homes is an officially appointed developer on the Arabella Golf and Country Estate. Substantial lifestyle facilities are all already in place on the estate. Maxabella is currently constructing five extra homes ranging in size from 320 to 650m² - all with incredible golf course and mountain views, as well as views over the water - in addition to the 17 that have already been sold. Prices range from R6.5m (including VAT) for a home with four en-suite bedrooms, a pool, garden, appliances, all furniture and air-conditioning, to R12.9m for a six-bedroom home with all the above features and more. Viewing from 9am to 6pm daily. For more info contact Mads Viuff on +27 84 5000 841 or visit www.maxabella.co.za



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