



# a journey

Jo Sinfield, a free-spirited adventurer, has created a sanctuary for fellow travellers at The Library, an intimate home for hire in Franschhoek

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**W**hether it's sailing solo down the Irrawaddy River in Myanmar, travelling

through southern Africa in a jeep or exploring the primeval forests of the Balkans – his most recent adventure – Jo Sinfield likes to travel. And when he returns to his home in Franschhoek, he likes to recharge with a good book, prepare a feast of a lunch for friends or sit back and enjoy great views of the Franschhoek Mountains; his London-based business partner, Tom Priday, shares the same vision. So when designing The Library, they made sure that the property offers similar opportunities for travellers and holidaymakers wanting to unwind.

In Franschhoek, where lavender and roses reign supreme, the polka dots of Irish moss planted on the undulating verge outside are the first hint that this three-bedroom new build is an original, offering visitors quirky surprises such as outdoor lamps made from upturned buckets.

“With The Library we wanted to retain the feel of the area to a degree,” says Jo, “so I looked at old buildings in Cape Town for inspiration. I used colour and mouldings on painted face brick to bring out new textures.” The building line is set close ▷

OPPOSITE PAGE: The blinds for the glass doors in the living area at the top of the stairs were made from kikois from Jambo Imports. Pages of David Livingstone's diary were printed onto fabric by Imaterial to create artworks. The chairs were upholstered by The Treasury in coffee sack fabric. RIGHT, FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: ● A portrait of David Livingstone can be rolled down to hide the TV when it's not in use. ● Irish moss on the verge and mature trees greet you at the gate of The Library. The face brick was painted in Midas Earthcote, Stone Green, while the mouldings and sash windows were painted white for contrast.



Jo Sinfield





to the front of the property, which allowed for more private space in the back garden and gave more light to the neighbours. Jo worked with the builder to keep the three established jacarandas and the grand old oak tree that were already on site. "The architecture is in the style of Franschoek to a degree with sash windows and mouldings," says Jo, "and people comment that it doesn't look new – largely because of the mature trees."

When entering the house you walk

into a hallway decorated simply with coir carpeting underfoot and large photographs printed on fabric on the dark walls. Two bedrooms flank this hallway, which leads into the garden, and a staircase takes you up to the first floor living area. "We worked on the design of the stairs a lot as we wanted to draw the eye through to the garden as you enter," says Jo, "and we used dimmers on all the hallway lights to create ambience in the entrance."

The bedrooms open onto the garden where there is a pool and a stand-alone garden suite which looks back at the house. The entire upstairs area is an open-plan kitchen, dining and library, with a skylight and exposed rafters. "It's a comfortable space," says Jo, "you can lie back on a sofa, read a book and enjoy the peace and quiet."

For Jo rooms have to be spacious and filled with light, so floor-to-ceiling doors open fully onto the verandas and the garden, and windows are deliberately positioned for the best views. "A porthole

window was placed above the kitchen sink to allow stunning views of the oak tree outside when washing up," he says, "I'm thinking of putting an owl nesting box in the branches." In addition to the porthole windows, there are a number of other nautical elements, including the staircase, the horizontal veranda railings and clapboard on the bathroom walls.

The library shelves are packed with classic books on adventure and Africa that Jo has picked up in second-hand bookshops, as well as a good selection of recipe books as he is keen on cooking. A portrait of David Livingstone above the fireplace rolls down to cover the television. "I don't like looking at a telly," comments Jo.

In the kitchen a raised counter made from African mahogany hides the pots and pans and also serves as a great bar top. The dining room table, inlaid with onyx and inspired by the Planet Bar at the Mount Nelson, is fitted with uplights which are used at night. >

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: ● A corner of the library features safari chairs, drawers made from old desks and a bucket lamp. ● A skylight floods the living, library and kitchen areas on the first floor with natural light. The large sofas are from The Sofa Studio. ● The shelves, made from recycled wood, are filled with books from second-hand book shops like Cafda and My Bookshop. THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: ● The bucket bar stools at the kitchen counter are by Pedersen + Lennard. The blinds and light shades were made from kikois from Jambo Imports. The dining room table, inspired by one at the Planet Bar at the Mount Nelson, has an onyx strip down its centre. The chair fabric is by Skinny laMinx and the chairs were made by The Sofa Studio. ● The upstairs veranda has an amazing view. ● View of the house across the pool from the garden suite. The loungers are from Jungle Furniture.

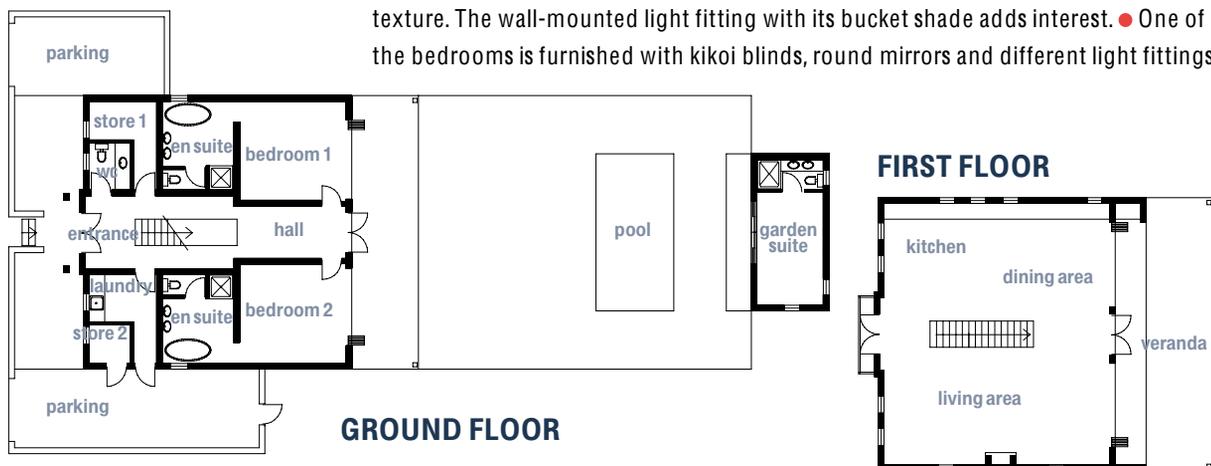




Throughout the house Jo has recycled interesting materials, such as the shutters which became drop-down cupboard doors, and old school desks (complete with carved names) that became chests of drawers. At The Library you will find French linen and Le Creuset, alongside bucket lights and bar stools, and even a lion trap on the book shelf. "I like to be different," says Jo, "it makes for a more memorable experience." **GMH**



ABOVE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ● Clapboard was used in the bathroom to introduce texture. The wall-mounted light fitting with its bucket shade adds interest. ● One of the bedrooms is furnished with kikoi blinds, round mirrors and different light fittings.



#### SOURCES

**Cafda** 021 674 2230 or [www.cafda.org.za](http://www.cafda.org.za) **Imaterial** 021 593 3110/1/2 or [www.imaterial.co.za](http://www.imaterial.co.za) **Jambo Imports** 021 448 0951  
**Jungle Furniture** 083 325 2173 or [www.junglefurniture.co.za](http://www.junglefurniture.co.za) **Le Creuset** [www.lecreuset.co.za](http://www.lecreuset.co.za) **Midas Earthcote** [www.earthcote.co.za](http://www.earthcote.co.za)  
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or [www.sofa-studio.co.za](http://www.sofa-studio.co.za) **The Treasury** 082 782 4936