

SEASIDE APARTMENT

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THE APARTMENTS OF EBB TIDE NOT ONLY

OFFER VISITORS A SLICE OF SEASIDE

PARADISE IN THE LAP OF LUXURY BUT

ALSO FULFILL A CHILDHOOD DREAM

OF OWNER AND DEVELOPER

DAVID HIGGINSON

GOOD TIDINGS

THIS PAGE The muted palette of white and grey is punctuated by touches of blue in the artwork by XXXX, the Stitch stool and the blue Bird chaise longue from Cappellini, reflecting the colours of the seascape view. **RIGHT** Superior craftsmanship combined with top-quality finishes such as the bleached and limed American White Oak floors and Greek Volakas marble cladding result in a classic world-class interior. **OPENING SPREAD, LEFT** Greg's obsessive attention to detail ensures elegant, simple solutions such as the gravity-defying floating stairs. **RIGHT** The plains and stark lines of the balcony is offset by the organic lines of the Shadow chaise longue also from Cappellini.





“I

am going to take you somewhere that’s going to change your life my friend Paul said to me while we were sitting at Birmingham airport,” recalls David Higginson. The year was 1989 and they were waiting to board a flight to South Africa for a trip to explore investment opportunities. What was supposed to be a week-long business trip became a three-week holiday, by the end of which David’s life was indeed utterly changed.

“I have travelled a lot: I have lived in Bermuda and New York, and spent a lot of time in Europe. But there it was: the mountain, the beach, the cosmopolitan city – everything Cape Town had was what I’ve always wanted,” he muses.

After that first trip David returned for an annual pilgrimage to escape the chilly winters and the demands of running several pubs, restaurants and a hotel in Nottingham. But by 1998 he had had enough of the hospitality industry. David sold his business interests in the UK and decided to take a six-month sabbatical in Cape Town. “I returned to London for a month after that but knew that I could never replicate the lifestyle I had in the Mother City – the quality of life was irreplaceable.” That’s when David packed up and shipped out to Cape Town for good: “When I brought my golden retriever over I knew this was not a short-term thing.”

David not only lost his heart to South Africa but also to a South African woman. He and Lauren have been married for three years and, together with their two-year-old son Oliver, they are living out

David’s childhood dream of living by the sea.

“As a kid growing up in Nottingham, an industrial town in the UK Midlands, we would only have an annual seaside holiday to Devon or Cornwall,” he recalls. “This morning I was on the beach at 6:15 with Oliver and the dogs – it’s priceless.”

As a seasoned hotelier and restaurateur, David now draws on his extensive business and hospitality experience by developing and investing in holiday rentals, which also give other people the opportunity to experience the slice of paradise he calls home. He currently owns several holiday apartments in Camps Bay and Caledon, with the Ebb Tide luxury apartments forming the latest addition to his portfolio. Located on the boundary between Camps Bay and Bakoven, overlooking the exquisite Barley Bay, Ebb Tide is the culmination of almost nine years of planning.

David bought the property, which included a derelict house, in 2000 with the intention of developing it into four holiday apartments. Lengthy negotiations with neighbours and the City Council meant his plans were delayed for several years. But persistence paid off and in 2003 architect Greg Wright was tasked with the challenge of creating four top-end contemporary apartments. Greg rose to the challenges presented by a small site and prescriptive limitations to create a cohesive building that houses four individual apartments, each with its own distinctive layout.

“We worked hard to find a solution that would be both discreet

for the neighbours and sculpturally exciting, creating a presence on the street,” Greg explains.

The interior of each apartment was designed to optimise its view and make the most of the natural sunlight. The result is in an open, transparent arrangement of spaces where the boundaries between interior and exterior.

A cool, simple palette of finishes and meticulous attention to even the smallest detail combine to ensure an overall sense of harmony and unity. “We are a little obsessive in that department,” Greg admits. “Nothing gets left to chance and everything is considered and anticipated well in advance.” For example, the height of the imported Viking fridge determined the placement of the kitchen cupboards so that all the elements in the kitchen line up. Slabs of Greek Volakas Marble were imported and cut to size, eliminating unsightly joints. Greg believes the mood someone feels in a particular space is the culmination of the level of detail during the process of putting that space together – a process that ultimately transcends the physical and enters the realm of emotion.

Ebb Tide gives visitors a chance to experience the lifestyle that convinced David to make Camps Bay his home – even if it is only for a holiday, and, in the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, to “Live in the sunshine, swim the sea; Drink the wild air’s salubrity”.

• To rent or buy one of the Ebb Tide Apartments, contact Audrey Matthews of Ronnie Matthews Estates on 083 254 4477 or at audrey@ronniemat-

ABOVE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT The glass patio doors slide back into the wall cavities to create an effect of a wall-less, windowless indoor-outdoor living, maximizing the exquisite setting that Barley Bay offers; All the apartments are fitted with a fully automated Dynalite lighting, sound and blinds system; The state of the art kitchen sports the best in Italian technology such as magnetic self-close drawers, integrated Miele appliances and a custom built Viking fridge; The informal study offers a quiet corner where the sharp angles are contrasted by the seductive line of the S-chair by Tom Dixon from Cappellini. **NEXT SPREAD, LEFT** A radical departure from traditional en-suite bathroom design, the spaces become fully integrated into the bedrooms. The versatile Quartz Carpet floor finish is used in the bathroom. **RIGHT** Drink in the ever-changing view while you recline in the bath.

HOW TO design a perfect en-suite bathroom

When space is at a premium, the en-suite bathroom is often where compromises are made, turning what should be a luxurious space into a cramped, functional room. Avoid falling into this trap by taking some lessons from Ebb Tide.

- **NO BOUNDARIES** All doors and dividing walls between the bathroom and bedroom were done away with and both spaces were integrated, creating a more generous, spacious effect.
- **GOOD DEFINITION** The two rooms are still well defined with different floor finishes, carpet for the bedroom and Quartz carpet for the bathroom and strategically placed room dividers.
- **THE RIGHT FITTINGS** The choice of beautiful New Form fittings means these functional items add to the aesthetic of the room.
- **OPEN SHOWERS** The bathrooms are designed as wet rooms. This means showers don't have to be enclosed separately, which would require additional space.
- **USE GLASS** Rather than solid enclosures, the toilets are given more privacy with the use of frosted glass.
- **USE THE VIEW** By integrating both rooms, the view is maximised for both spaces, allowing occupants to even enjoy the vistas from the bath as well as the bed.

