

Designing the beauty that is

Elephant



Point



MAGNIFICENT ELEPHANT POINT LIVING

A place of natural heritage, wildlife and ultimate luxury in the heart of the African bush

One of nature's greatest gifts to man is the Elephant. A stoic beast that is kind and loving, a creature of rock solid family values, a propensity to remember where it has been, where it is going and what its purpose in the circle of life is. Perhaps even more staggering is the way in which it mourns and respects its dead, returning to 'burial' sites to pay homage to loved ones lost, not dissimilar to its human counterparts.

It is this grandiose creature that continues to enthrall and enrapture people the world over that has been the inspiration for the latest development, currently being constructed by Legacy, in the heart of the Sabie River region, Elephant Point.

Elephant Point, in its development phase, is situated on one of the most beautiful stretches of the South African Bushveld. It is a 290 Ha private reserve bordering the Kruger National Park and through which the mighty Sabie River runs, providing a glorious backdrop to an area where elephant's themselves still roam free.

The development has been architected and designed by Didi Maresch, from JD Maresch Architects, and is said to pay a true tribute to the area and the nature that surrounds it. Didi, an Austrian who came to South Africa in 1967, has been working with Legacy CEO Bart Dorrestein for decades on a variety of projects around the continent. But says that he has never before worked on such a natural jewel as Elephant Point.

"I have worked in the Pilanesberg, in Kenya and assisted with the original design and build of Kwa Maritane as an architect and a friend to Legacy, but have never been given such a beautifully natural canvas as I have with Elephant Point," he says. "As an architect you must follow the trends in

the industry and you must stay ahead of the latest concepts in designs and building, but you must also pay attention to your client's brief and most importantly you must do justice to the surrounding environment where you are working."

"As architects we must not just throw away a client's brief and build monuments to ourselves or for ourselves. What we build must be functional and it must be timeless, we need to create buildings and spaces that blend with their environment."

According to Didi the Elephant Point development has been an exciting venture where the collective team of client and architect have been on the same page since day one.

"This property has been a work in progress since the day we arrived there. Much of the inspiration for the design has come from the area itself but it has had to change as we have gone along," adds Didi. "There is 4.5km of river frontage courtesy of the Sabie River, so we had to spend a lot of time on the site looking at what works with the river and what captures it at its best. A number of the proposed elements in the initial design have as a result had to change due to the changing nature of the



A PERSPECTIVE OF THE LODGE

"This property has been a work in progress since the day we arrived there. Much of the inspiration for the design has come from the area itself but it has had to change as we have gone along."





AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

environment and the contrasts between seasons.”

“But instead of reinventing the wheel we went to Namibia and looked at the desert properties and styles of the buildings and homes there. Drawing inspiration from these we have tweaked the style and have opted for a more tasteful architecture that emulates the desert styles but that also complements the surrounding environment.”

The environment has been the biggest inspiration in the creation of Elephant Point, but it has also been the greatest challenge. Didi says on one of his first visits to the site he arrived to see 35 elephants in the river, frivolously wading, splashing and washing. Not wanting to take away from this marvel, he again went back to the drawing board and changed some of the positions of the homes to ensure they didn’t discourage the elephants to the area.

“The views are breathtaking and we needed to harness that for each resident,” states Moresch. It is with this in mind that the current development team is building not only beautiful homes with magnificent views, but also homes where each resident is assured of their privacy and get an optimal taste of the bush that surrounds them.

According to Peter Foaden, managing director of Magic Breakaways, one of the key features of the area is its biodiversity and the role that the community has played in its development.

“Many years ago this area was farming land. While it is nestled right next to the Kruger, its predominant use was agricultural,

so it fell to ruin,” states Peter. “While a lot of people think developers come into areas to break them down, we did exactly the opposite at Elephant Point. We came in to build it back up and revive its natural glory.”

“What was formerly a buffer zone between the local people and the Kruger is now a beautiful area with a fantastic biodiversity and that is presenting itself as a true natural and conservation asset to the region. Perhaps more exciting is that the local community is also behind the project,” adds Peter.

To ensure the right balance has been struck at Elephant Point, none of the houses have been built too high, ensuring they don’t hide any of the river footage. They have

also been designed to follow the natural flow of the river so that they meld into its banks like they were purposefully placed there by nature herself. The houses, when finished, will also not have game fences around each one. This will encourage the wildlife to carry on as normal in the area.

“In my mind it is the most beautiful site, there is simply no other commercially available site where you can have a view of the Sabie as well as the Kruger Park all in one,” adds Didi.

Adding impetus to Peter’s comments around the involvement of the local community, Didi says: “This is tribal land and we have to respect that so we have leased the land from the community. We have also



PROPOSED DESIGN AT ELEPHANT POINT

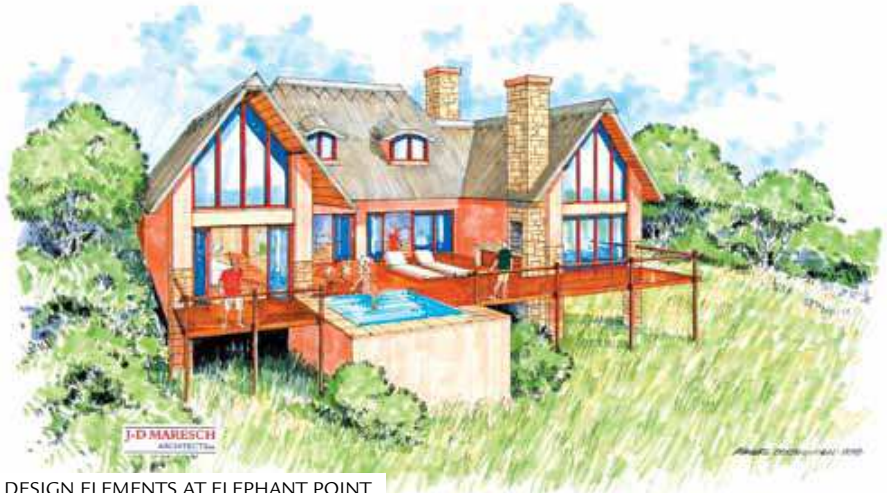
employed the community on site and we pay them their monthly lease fees, which have encouraged job creation and has provided massive upliftment for people who have been part of a very remote area where employment options have been few and far between.”

If you are looking to stake a claim in Elephant Point you can do so by leasehold arrangement where the property will be leased to individual owners for a 50-year period, renewable for 20 years after that. This ensures that the community continue to benefit from the development.

Unsure of this model? Then perhaps you should also take into consideration that you can at any stage place your home in the Legacy managed and run rental pool, which will ensure a return on your investment, as well as earning potential from day one. Alternatively you can also acquire Fractional Ownership, which is available by acquiring an interest in the Legacy Private Residencies luxury lodge’s to be built at the Elephant Point resort.

The property will be home to 65 lodges as well as a five star, 60 room, luxury hotel on the slope of the Sabie River’s bank which will form the centre of the development and will provide residents and guests access to a myriad of facilities such as conference venues, a private health spa, top dining areas and restaurants as well as a range of world-class amenities.

Security will be provided by Legacy, and gates and game fences will be set up around the outer boundary of the property, to ensure



DESIGN ELEMENTS AT ELEPHANT POINT

the safety and security of the residents but letting the animals roam free between neighbours. In addition, Elephant Point is a mere five-hour drive from Johannesburg or simply 60 minutes from the Mpumalanga Kruger airport following a 45-minute flight from Johannesburg.


As per the conception of the development the lodges or homes will have to meet a certain standard exterior design. While each owner will be able to develop the inside of their own homes to whatever specification they chose, the outsides will need to follow a standard format so as to ensure consistency as well as keep to the brief of not encroaching on the environment.

“Some of the homes are on sites well above the river with views looking down on it, while others are closer to it and offer a

more up-close and personal feel,” says Didi. “We have designed it to meet the tastes and needs of a wide ranging clientele.”

While the homes will appear the same externally this is not a cookie cutter development. Each position is so dramatically unique just by virtue of its positioning that you would be inclined to believe that each one was in fact built with a different set of plans.

If you have dreamt of owning your own acre of Africa, then Elephant Point is the ideal place to make an investment. It is naturally beautiful, offers access to game and flora in abundance is private and secure enough to enjoy family holidays at, yet still offers access to facilities and amenities that you would expect to find in the city.

elephantpoint.co.za 



AFRICAN ELEPHANTS STILL ROAM FREE AT ELEPHANT POINT

MAKE AN INVESTMENT

- The first phase of 20 sites is now on sale
- Secure a stand and be part of a Turnkey Project Management Agreement
- Unit titles comprise a 50-year lease on the property with the right to extend for a further 20 years
- At the end of the lease period, owners will receive compensation for their property based on ruling market value
- Legacy Hotels & Resorts will also operate a rental pool, enabling investors to generate an income whilst their property is not in use
- Fractional Ownership is also available by acquiring an interest in the Legacy Private Residencies luxury lodge’s to be built at the resort