

# LIFE

DESIGN &  
CRAFTSMANSHIP



ISSUE 17 | FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

LEXUS.CO.ZA



## EXECUTIVE FASHION

A style statement in the boardroom

## ABOUT TIME

Collectable, limited edition luxury watches

## UX 300e

Introducing Lexus's first all-electric vehicle

# THEY SAY HYBRIDS LACK POWER

NOT IN OUR WORLD



Lexus Hybrids are dual-energy powerhouses that get your pulse racing straight off the line. With two sources of energy, these cars exhibit incredible performance, responsiveness and efficiency. Lexus Hybrid Drive is an innovative system that adds to the overall performance of our cars. During initial takeoff from a stop, the high-output battery provides power to the electric drive. As speed increases, the potent petrol engine is engaged. And, when extra acceleration is desired, power output from both sources is optimised to deliver an even greater boost. The result is powerful acceleration without the jarring shift points experienced in a conventional vehicle.

[lexus.co.za](http://lexus.co.za)

**h** | **LEXUS**  
EXPERIENCE AMAZING



## CAN AN ENTIRE RANGE OF SUVs BE SOPHISTICATED YET BRAVE?

We evolved and expanded the RX range to break the conventions of traditional SUVs. Take on any journey in the dynamic RX 350 EX, be more eco-conscious in the RX 450h SE, experience sportier finishes in the RX 350 F SPORT and never leave anyone behind in the spacious RX 350L EX. Elegance has never been so exciting.

# CHALLENGE EVERYTHING



[lexus.co.za](http://lexus.co.za)

South African vehicle specifications may differ.

THE NEW  
**RX**

 **LEXUS**  
EXPERIENCE AMAZING

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## Thought Leader

## AFRICA, THE INFLUENCER

A respected voice and influential authority in the design industry, **CATHY O'CLERY** explains how and why Africa is making real waves in global design

For any country to develop a healthy and sustainable design economy, it needs to have an active and irreverent young street culture. Creativity at street level is a catalyst for future growth. Anyone who has the chutzpah to challenge the norm at a young age will be part of the future establishment – as the artist, the architect, the fashion star or the designer. When you have a place where people sense a freedom to express themselves, in any form, they gather with like-minded individuals who do the same. And when the fashion promenading starts, you see an emergence of people-watching through a new café society.

With a vibrant street life, a place like, say, Braamfontein soon sees burgeoning enterprises – and, though still rough around the edges, these neighbourhoods start to thrive. That pushes the creativity further as people begin to create viable businesses. The globally switched-on start to engage – the photographers, stylists and art directors who, in turn, post on Instagram, report to trend and fashion magazines, or create edgy exhibitions around what they find. Then the international ad agencies, influencers and big brands all come to tap into the cult of the street and bring a wokeness to their clients' campaigns.

This is what has been happening in Johannesburg and all over Africa, from Accra to Addis and Dakar to Durban. We are seeing an unprecedented move towards urban life across the continent, with an increasingly young population who have unlimited access to social media platforms and are way more worldly than their parents ever were.

Cultural tourists are beginning to seek out and engage with what is being reported around the world, and the culturally savvy tend to spend a lot of money on lifestyle – shopping, bars and restaurants – while they are here. For example, in Accra, the annual street festival Chale Wote started as a challenge to the establishment through controversial performances and urban installations. Now, several years later, although that still remains the festival's thrust, there are new

gallery exhibitions, panel discussions, international artists and support from the presidential office of Ghana. Major media outlets – CNN, BBC and *Vogue* – regularly send reporters to photograph the cutting-edge fashion that circulates around the event.

Design developments across the continent are bursting forth in an unstoppable wave, primarily in fashion, but with design and architecture following suit. We have rising stars who are pushing out into the world at a fantastic rate. Where once Europe and America sent their creatives and reporters to culturally pillage this continent, thanks to being outed on social media, and through the discovery of our young talent via the same channels, they have started to engage with them instead. Now a fashion story shot in Nairobi is not only going to feature Kenyan designers, but is also likely to be styled by local creative directors and shot by African photographers.

And local promoters in the ever-expanding world of collectable design – such as Cape Town-based Southern Guild – are actively taking the best of our talent to top events like Design Miami/. Where once they were considered an outsider gallery, they are now listed in the top attractions of the show by media outlets such as *The New York Times* and *Architectural Digest*.

Across the world, Africa is being watched. Most of what is happening is still raw and visceral, but it has immense energy, laced with a new confidence to make a mark. There have been dynamic shifts in the perception and conception of what African design is. The past few years have seen the emergence of Afro-futurism, which uses the framework of fantasy and science fiction to challenge the world's perceptions of African identity and creatively explore what it means to be an African of today.

The new generations are exploring Afro-urbanism, to create a confident Afropolitan society. They are content to be here; to develop their own style on home ground and then broadcast it to the world. It's no accident that in the pursuit of everything new, global brands are looking to Africa – because in design terms, Africa is not just cool; it's sizzling-hot.

**MOST OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IS STILL RAW AND VISCERAL, BUT IT HAS IMMENSE ENERGY, LACED WITH A NEW CONFIDENCE TO MAKE A MARK**



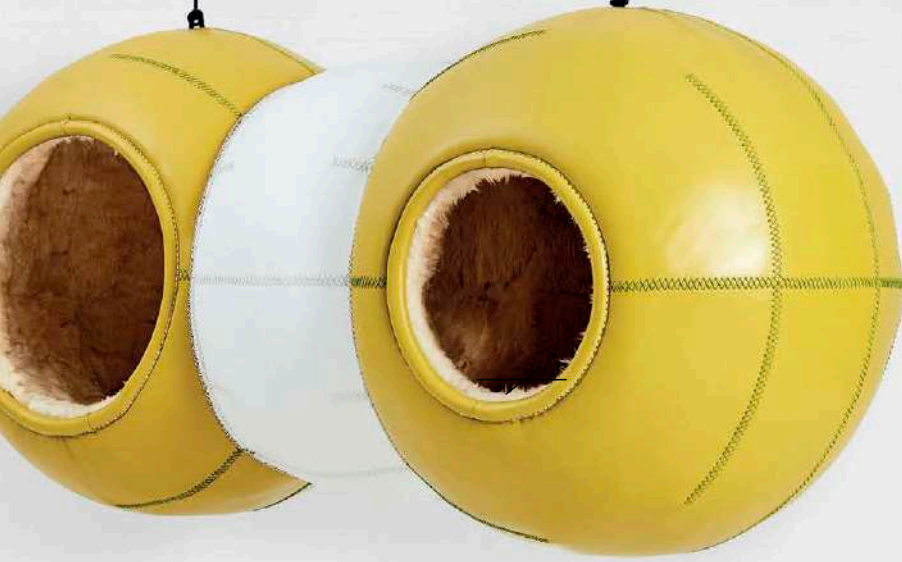
CATHY O'CLERY is the creative director of Platform Creative Agency, which specialises in commercial and cultural curation in Africa, from designing and creating museum experiences to conceptualising and strategising forward-thinking marketing campaigns.

# MADE FOR MIAMI



With Lexus once again the official automotive partner, we visited the recent **DESIGN MIAMI/** to pore over the 70 exhibitions from 13 countries – including a very popular South African one

Curated



— / —  
**WITH THE MARQUE'S  
PASSION FOR DESIGN,  
THIS WAS A NATURAL  
ENVIRONMENT FOR A BRAND  
LIKE LEXUS**



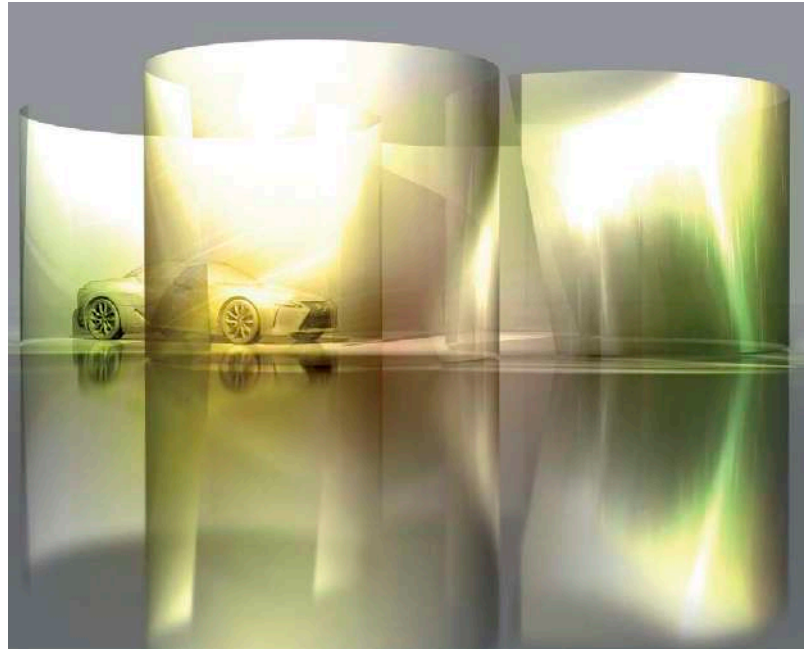
**SOUTHERN GUILD**

One of the standouts was the collection of South African designers represented by Southern Guild. Described by Design Miami/ as “some of the most avant-garde contemporary designers working out of Africa”, the stand included works by Zizipho Poswa, Rich Mnisi, Justine Mahoney and Madoda Fani, as well as Porky Hefer’s hugely popular “Molecules” (pictured here).

Down here on the tip of Africa, exotic Miami may be better known for a pair of good-looking detectives who drove fast cars and rolled up their jacket sleeves – but it's also home to the annual Design Miami/.

Located behind South Beach's wonderful Art Deco-adorned beachfront, on the lawns of the botanical gardens, the 15th edition of this influential design week involved gallerists and designers showcasing anything from 19th-century pieces to contemporary items that were more about collectible value than functionality.

With the marque's passion for design, this was a natural environment for a brand like Lexus, which fit comfortably among the global forum for the most influential collectors, designers, curators and critics. Supporting the event's sustainable theme with an all-hybrid fleet to chauffeur the fair's VIP guests, Lexus also commissioned Tokyo-born New Yorker Nao Tamura to create a special piece of art. The immersive multimedia installation, called "Sunshower", was Nao's response to Design Miami/ 2020 theme of "Elements: Water". With the new LC 500 Convertible as the centrepiece, she created a relaxing space with fabric and lighting that reinforced the brand's commitment to omotenashi (hospitality), takumi (artisanship) and the indoor-outdoor philosophy of engawa.



#### GALERIE PHILIPPE GRAVIER

Appropriately titled "Splash!", the neon-coloured, abstractly shaped lacquered-wood tables were more of an attention-focusing showpiece than anything you'd necessarily get comfy around.

#### FUNCTIONAL ART GALLERY

A reinterpretation of the Abstract Gallery from Peggy Guggenheim's ground-breaking 1942-1947 Art of This Century gallery.



#### AGO PROJECTS

The Mexico City-based designers' space was a riot of colour and texture, and featured Fernando Laposse's charmingly odd long-haired pink coffee table made of jute fibre, sisal and wood.





### LES ATELIERS COURBET

A collab with the estate of 20th-century French film-maker Jacques Tati, Les Ateliers Courbet showed bright and cheerful mid-century designs sourced from Tati's 1958 film *Mon Oncle* ("My Uncle"), including a yellow rocking chair and the simple (but not entirely practical) Mrs Arpel's Sofa.

### GALERIE PATRICK SEGUIN

Icon of mid-century design Charlotte Perriand – a pioneer among female designers and currently the focus of a major exhibition at the Louis Vuitton Foundation in Paris – was the big drawcard here. The major piece on display was her cabinet, made for the Cité Cansado in Mauritania.



### TODD MERRILL STUDIO

Standout items included the striking geometric sofa by Hannes Grebin, and some wonderfully wacky (and alien-looking) Brecht Wright Gander standing lamps.

### MERCADO MODERNO

Dedicated to Brazilian design, this gallery specialises in vintage design from the 1950s to the 1980s. At Design Miami/, it celebrated the life and works of Portuguese-born Joaquim Tenreiro, creator of the first examples of modern Brazilian design.



Curated

# BOLD, BRIGHT, BRAVE

If 2019 highlighted simplicity and minimalism, this year, bright and bold are on the radar. Here are four standout trends that will be gracing local and international spaces

## GEOMETRICS

Choosing a curated standout piece, as opposed to combining a variety of items, is what 2020 is all about. Picking statement geometric furniture or a striking print speaks more loudly than an uncoordinated jumble of elements.



### WALL UNIT **BY KAST**

Designed by Maarten Van Severen for Kast, the modular storage unit doubles as a sideboard for optimum space-saving.

**R9 254 | cremadesign.co.za**



### CUBOID SIDE TABLE **BY BIRBA**

Combine a few of these gel-coated fibreglass side tables for a sleek aesthetic.

**R1 600 | birba.co.za**



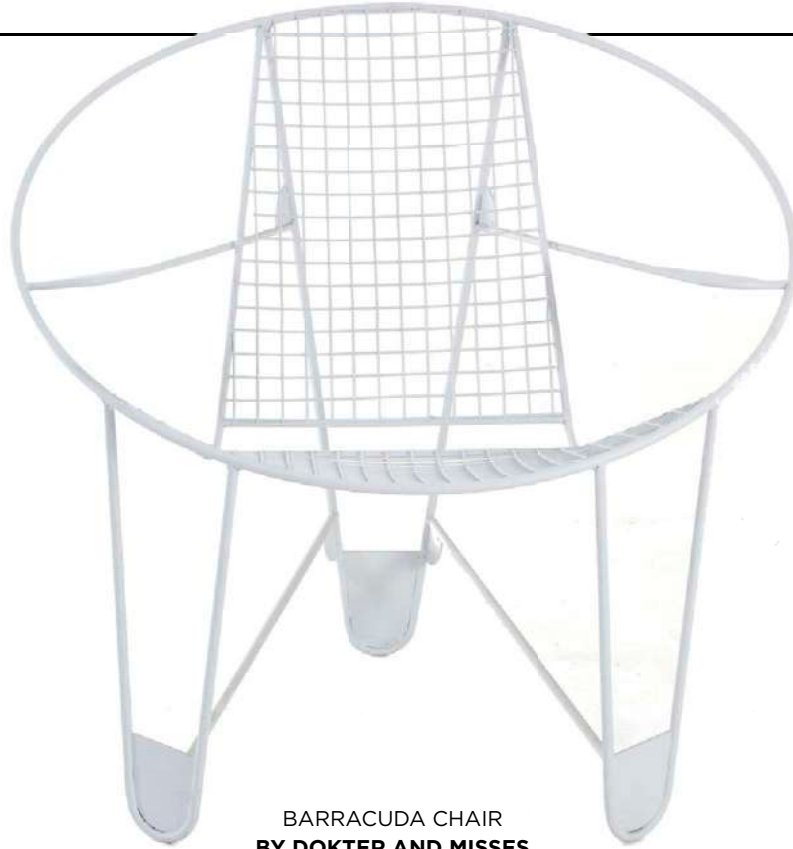
### UTEN SILO **BY CRÉMA DESIGN**

Organise your kitchen, office, bathroom, bedroom or workshop with this wall-mounted container in white, black or red.

**R6 108 | cremadesign.co.za**

## BOLD MONOCHROMATICS

Nothing says sophistication like black and white. Curating a room around the idea of solid colour as a theme can be incredibly dramatic. Using one of these, or slightly varying tones and shades around black and white, is guaranteed to create a bold effect. Add decor items in a contrasting shade as a monochromatic juxtaposition.



BARRACUDA CHAIR  
BY DOKTER AND MISSES

Suitable for both indoor and outdoor use, the Barracuda is a modern take on a retro classic, and is available in a variety of colourways.

**R3 750 | dokterandmisses.com**



TILLY PLANTER BY SIXTH FLOOR  
A bold, matte-black iron planter is a striking home for your indoor or outdoor plants.

**R499 | superbalist.com**



EMMA WALL CLOCK BY COUNTRY ROAD  
Understated and chic, this contemporary wall clock works as a decor feature, not just a timepiece.

**R1 399 | woolworths.co.za**

## BAUHAUS

Referencing all the way back to 1919, when it was founded by Walter Gropius, Bauhaus has always held a firm place in interior design, combining elements of architecture, industrialism, repetitive patterns, boldness and symmetry through textiles, furniture, art and decor. This revolutionary design style is pared back in a way that speaks volumes, with pieces that are loud and commanding without being overly obtrusive.



HEES COFFEE TABLE

**BY BIRBA**

The classic surfboard shape is complemented by a painted MDF top and solid oak legs.

**R4 950 | [birba.co.za](http://birba.co.za)**



PERRY WEST WOVEN RUG

**BY SIXTH FLOOR**

Tie together a room with this hand-woven symmetrical rug, available in 160cm x 230cm.

**R1 699 | [superbalist.com](http://superbalist.com)**



ABSTRACT CUSHION

**BY CRÉMA DESIGN**

This thick and durable cushion comes in two colourways – neutral and wine – and is hand-tufted by local craftsmen.

**R2 555 | [cremadesign.co.za](http://cremadesign.co.za)**

## AFRO-MODERNISM

Supporting local is a must – and buying from small businesses and entrepreneurs is not only sustainable, but also leads to owning bespoke, one-off pieces rather than their mass-produced counterparts. Afro-modernism is a perfect blend of contemporary design and classic Afro-chic.



XHOSA CHAIR  
BY LULASCLAN

This contemporary chair's mid-century frame is complemented by bright, bold prints in primary colours..

**R8 850 | [lulasclan.com](http://lulasclan.com)**



YAMI SERVER  
BY AFRI MODERN

Afri Modern founder Sifiso Shange's custom Imiqha Yami server is inlaid in 3mm polyurethane Duco on 16mm white oak in solid and veneer finish, on a powder-coated mild steel base frame.

**R35 000 | [@sifiso\\_s](https://www.instagram.com/sifiso_s)**

GRAPHIC SOLDIER STOOL

BY DOKTER AND MISSES

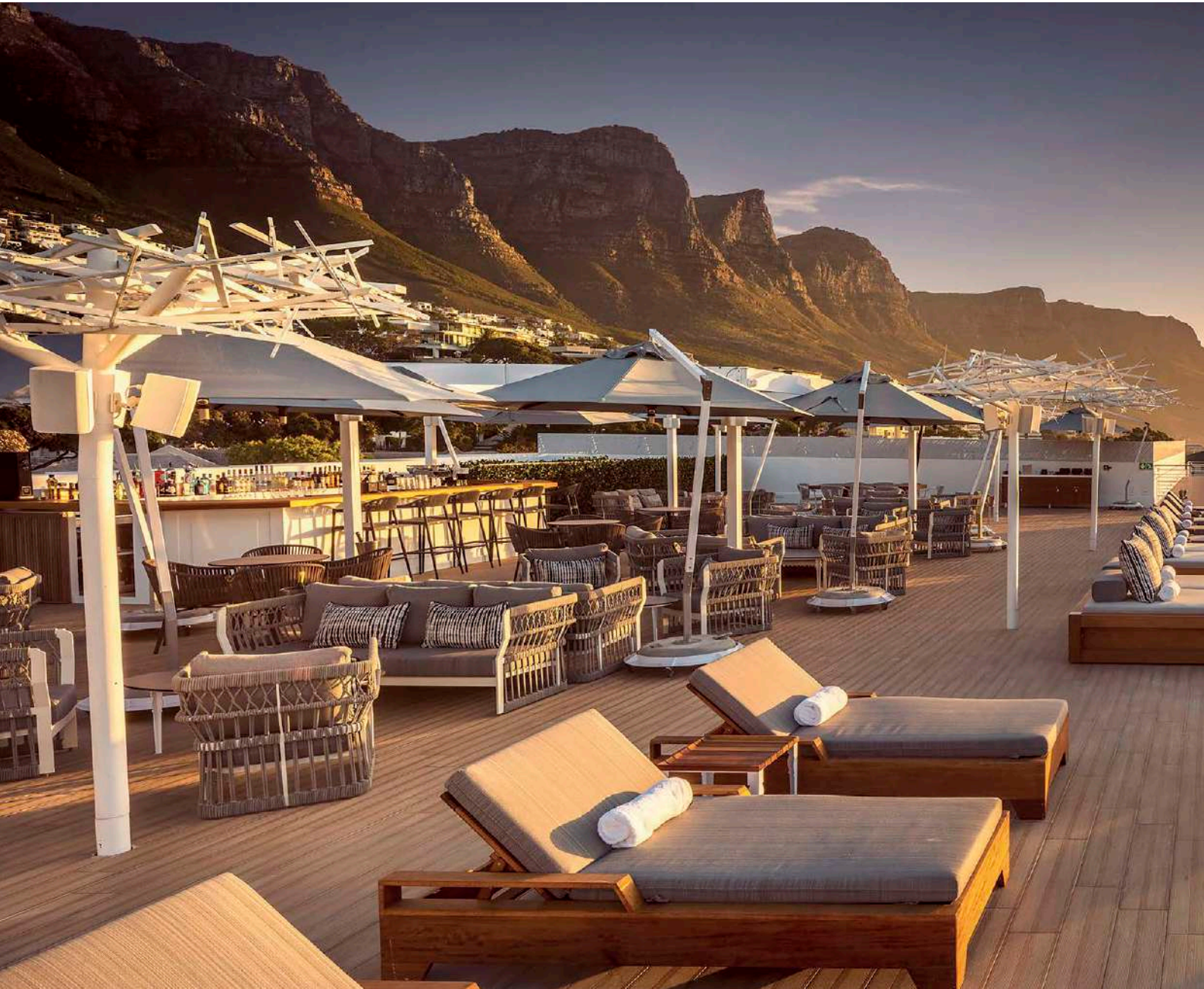
This woven seat stool is a collaboration with Gone Rural, a group of weavers from Swaziland. The stool can double as a side table, and is available in three different heights.

**R2 530 | [dokterandmisses.com](http://dokterandmisses.com)**

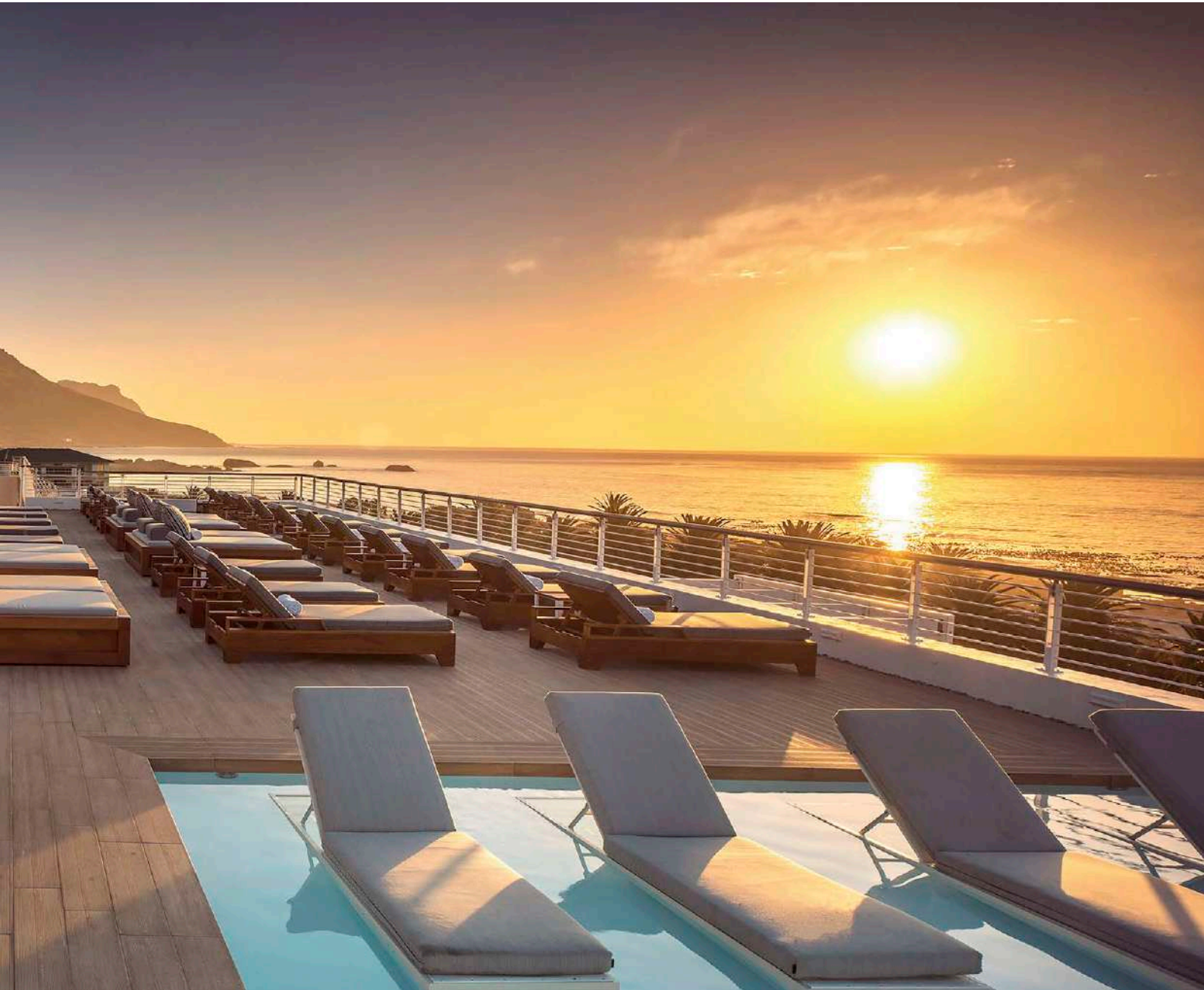


The Art of Living

# THE MORE - ISH



**THE MARLY** boutique hotel and spa in Cape Town recently expanded its luxury offering to maximise its postcard-perfect location on Camps Bay's ultra-cool sunset strip



MARLY

## The Art of Living

**T**he birth of the Instagram #traveller in an era of “experiences-not-things” has reshaped the travel landscape. Modern explorers want freedom, flexibility and unique experiences; to be embedded in a city, rather than just a tourist on the periphery. They’re discerning. They want options and exclusivity.

In a nutshell, they want The Marly.

For one thing, there’s its world-class location. Camps Bay manages to catch the last glimpse of the sun as it sets, and then sensuously basks in the dusky afterglow, making it the ultimate sundowner destination. Beautiful people spill out of trendy beach bars along the main strip. Hidden in plain sight, The Marly is right in this mix, discretely located on the top floors of a vibrant shopping and dining precinct. From up here, the panoramic views of the sparkling turquoise Atlantic and amphitheatre of mountains are sensational.

Then there’s The Marly’s unique offering. Originally an 11-bedroom hotel, a five-month-long upgrade saw the addition of 27 suites, a spa, a boutique, a state-of-the-art gym and – its crowning glory – a roof deck. Crowning being the operative word: the Château de Marly was the Sun King Louis XIV’s decadent countryside residence within the Versailles complex, where he took his family to escape from the bustle of the main palace.

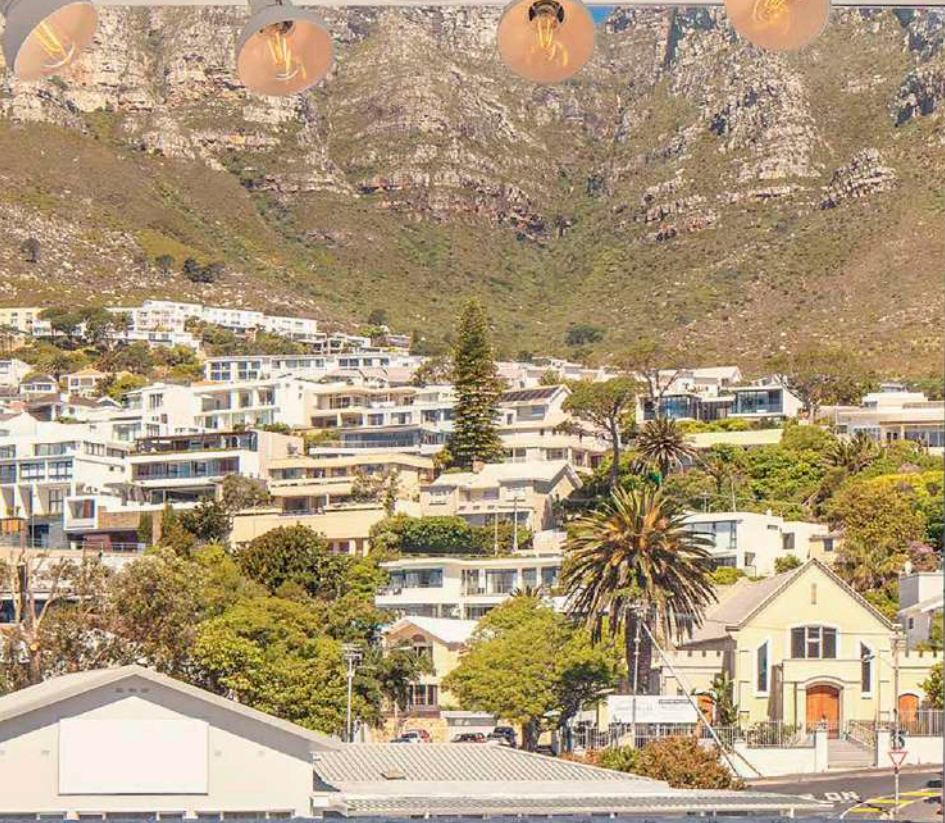
Twenty-first-century travel royalty wants choice, and that’s what makes The Marly stand out. It’s part of the Kove Collection’s hospitality portfolio, which includes several popular restaurants in Camps Bay, each with its own personality. Rather than dining at a dedicated hotel restaurant, The Marly’s guests can choose one of the Kove Collection’s seven restaurants, all located in the centre, allowing a different experience with every meal and the feeling of a personalised itinerary.



**“THE SUCCESS OF  
THE MARLY FORMULA IS  
ACTUALLY QUITE SIMPLE:  
OUR GUESTS CAN  
HAVE IT ALL”  
- PAUL KOVENSKY**







## The Art of Living



“The success of The Marly formula is actually quite simple: our guests can have it all,” explains founder and MD of the Kove Collection Paul Kovensky, who settled on the name while sitting at the Café Marly at the Louvre Museum in Paris. “We’re catering to someone who appreciates unbeatable ocean and mountain views, five-star luxury accommodation in close proximity to the city, a world-class spa and gym, Camps Bay beach across the road, and seven incredible restaurants and bars to choose from in addition to the rooftop pool and lounge.” Of course, guests would be forgiven for not wanting to leave the sea- or mountain-facing suites, so there’s always room service.

Inspiration for The Marly’s design came from travel and research, says Paul. “I knew I needed to combine this timeless old-world story with Camps Bay seaside cool.”

There’s been a contemporary, sexy interpretation of French classicism. Ornate panelling has been flattened and stylised, and turned into a two-tone wall covering used throughout. In the bedrooms, Piero Fornasetti-inspired cloud wallpaper runs up the wall behind the bed and onto the ceiling in a dreamy, modern trompe-l’œil. White-on-white is fresh and suitably coastal – and the



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## THERE'S BEEN A CONTEMPORARY, SEXY INTERPRETATION OF FRENCH CLASSICISM



1      3   4  
2      5

1. The neutral palette is both contemporary and coastal. 2. Loungers on the rooftop pool deck look towards the iconic Lion's Head. 3. The walls are adorned with charcoal portraits by artist Riaan van Zyl. 4 & 5. The Marly Spa is a haven amid the buzz of Camps Bay. PREVIOUS SPREAD The Twelve Apostles stand watch over the hotel. OPENING DPS The Baptiste Rooftop Pool Bar & Lounge is perfectly positioned for guests to marvel at Camps Bay's incredible sunsets.

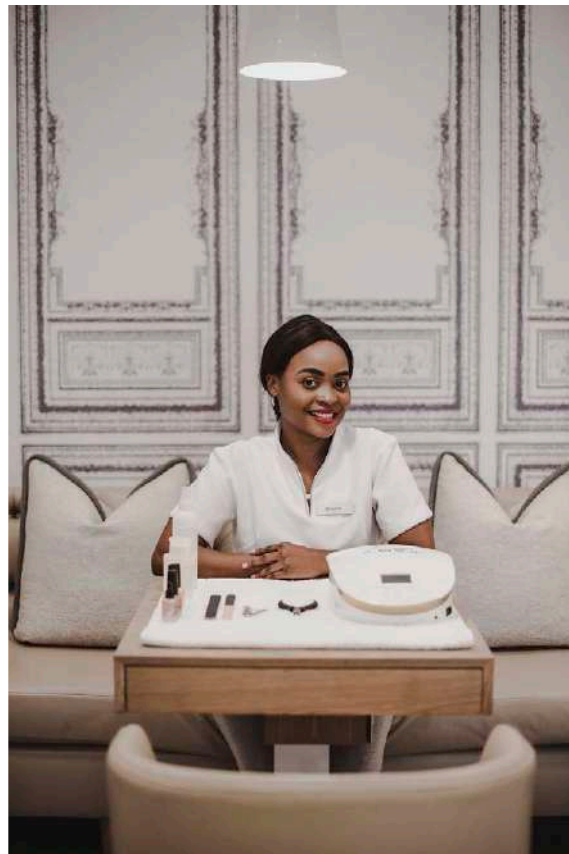
perfect backdrop for minimalist mid-century-inspired designs, white and cream leather, blonde wood, chrome, marble and mirrors. The walls are adorned with charcoal portraits. A Scandi-style lampshade chandelier replaces a more ornate version, and slim spotlights illuminate quirky room numbers: individually crafted hands painted in a Delft style hold the sleek chrome number cards.

"We want the guests' first impression to be about the decor, views and all-round luxury," says Paul. "But what we want them to remember is the staff, service and care they received from the team. Creating memorable guest experiences – that's what will bring people back."

Is more expansion on the cards for The Marly?

"I believe in Cape Town and in Camps Bay," says Paul. "If the opportunity presents itself and the project feels exciting, expansion is always on the cards."

[themarly.co.za](http://themarly.co.za)



# ABOUT TIME

From a 16-decade stalwart to a re-imagined classic, these **LUXURY WATCHES** will turn heads



# I.

## **TAG HEUER CARRERA 160 YEARS SILVER**

The elite watch manufacturer celebrates 160 years of excellence with the limited-edition Tag Heuer Carrera 160 Years Silver. Restricted to a production run of just 1 860 (a nod to the year that Heuer was founded), each timepiece is engraved with “ONE of 1 860” and “LIMITED EDITION” on the underside. A close replica of its predecessor, this interpretation additionally benefits from a power reserve of 80 hours, a thinner case design for improved comfort, and a frequency precision of 4Hz (28 000 vibrations per hour).

**POA | [tagheuer.com](http://tagheuer.com)**

## 2.



**LONGINES HERITAGE CLASSIC  
CHRONOGRAPH 1946**

Staying true to the spirit of Longines  
– modern elegance that honours  
legacy – the Heritage Classic

Chronograph 1946 is a reissue of a  
piece originally created in the forties.  
Within the 40mm stainless-steel case is  
a self-winding chronograph movement  
developed exclusively for the brand.

An anti-reflecting sapphire crystal,  
set atop blue leaf-like hands, elevates  
the sophistication of this  
dreamy timepiece.

**R41 340 | [longines.com](https://www.longines.com)**

## 3.

**ZENITH ELITE COLLECTION**

The newly revamped Elite collection  
of unisex watches is sleeker, more  
confident, and strong in graphic identity,  
with timeless lines and proportions.

Honouring the past in a contemporary  
way, Elite watches don't repeat the  
past, but rather rejuvenate the code of  
mid-20th-century watch-making. With  
two models available in two sizes (and a  
number of case and dial combinations),  
the Elite Classic and Moonphase models

set the tone for Zenith's vision of  
contemporary elegance. The line caters  
for those who value the enduring appeal  
of watches from a bygone era, with just  
enough modern accents to ensure they  
never feel antiquated.

**POA | [zenith-watches.com](https://www.zenith-watches.com)**





4.

#### **ROLEX OYSTER PERPETUAL SUBMARINER DATE**

Add colour to your day-to-day with the classic Rolex Submariner re-imagined in green. The iconic timepiece has been subtly redesigned to include an Oyster case, a distinctive dial with large, luminescent hour markers, a graduated rotatable Cerachrom bezel, and a solid-link Oyster bracelet. Waterproof to 300 metres and with a power reserve of 48 hours, it's a perfect reincarnation of the robust original.

**R133 400 | [rolex.com](http://rolex.com)**

#### **TOP 5 INVESTMENT WATCHES**

*Clockmaker and horology enthusiast Darryn Clarke selects five brands that watch aficionados should consider investing in.*

##### **Philippe Dufour**

"This Swiss master watchmaker manufactures every component of the watch mechanism and the case. He produces at most 10 watches per year, and is considered one of the finest craftsmen in the trade today. He puts incredible effort into creating exceptionally high-quality mechanisms, with an often simple but well-made casing."

**You're looking at...** R3 500 000 or more.

##### **Konstantin Chaykin**

"I have been following this luxury watchmaker for a long time. I love his designs and attention to detail – he has a variety in his range that expresses combines unusual design with top-quality mechanisms. You'll definitely find a piece in his collection that will suit your style."

**You're looking at...** Anywhere from R200 000 to R1 500 000.

**[konstantin-chaykin.com](http://konstantin-chaykin.com)**

##### **Itay Noy**

"This is another watchmaker I've kept my eye on for years, and one of the few independent timepiece makers in the world. His design style really appeals to me, especially his more mechanical iterations."

**You're looking at...** Between R30 000 and R90 000.

**[itay-noy.com](http://itay-noy.com)**

##### **Akrivia**

"Up-and-coming young watchmaker Rexhep Rexhep's apprenticed under Patek Philippe for six years. His brand Akrivia is based in old-town Geneva. Over the years, he has developed his own range of timepieces in collaboration with other watchmakers, including his brother, and produces pieces of impeccable quality."

**You're looking at...** R900 000 to R2 200 000.

**[akrivia.com](http://akrivia.com)**

##### **Hout Bay Watch Company**

"I'm not biased... but I have to include my own company! The quality of antique pocket watches is often far better than many modern watches. This means you can get a high-quality vintage timepiece for much less. Because we service the watches and keep their original parts, we often increase the value of the watch – it becomes worth far more than when we received it."

**You're looking at...** Anything up to R30 000.

**[timemenders.co.za](http://timemenders.co.za) | [houtbaywatchco.com](http://houtbaywatchco.com)**

S.

**ZENITH DEFY MIDNIGHT**

For its first purely feminine watch, Zenith sought inspiration in the universe. The versatile, sporty-chic DEFY Midnight has a uniquely celestial dial, and is housed in a 36mm stainless-steel case embellished with brilliant-cut diamonds. Available in deep-blue or grey, the dial features a glossy finish with a vertical gradient and the brand's faceted star emblem as the highest, brightest point in the depicted "night sky". Completing the celestial landscape are stars of different sizes – some of which glow in the dark – and a star-shaped oscillating weight that brings a galactic element to the case-back view.

**POA | [zenith-watches.com](http://zenith-watches.com)**







The Art of Luxury

# CITY

Sartorial inspiration for the savvy professional

# SMARTS

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Shirt | **R429, H&M**

Blazer | **R1 399, Country Road**

Slacks | **R599, Trenergy**

Tie | **R399, Trenergy**

Belt | **R1 990, That's It!**

Shoes | **R3 500, Europa Art**

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Asymmetrical shirt | **R1 800, Hse of Bespoke**

Coat | **R8 995, That's It!**

Miniskirt | **R459, Zara**

Spectacles | **Model's own**

Earrings | **R259, Zara**

Heels | **R2 990, Europa Art**

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Dress | **Rene Mariane, R4 499**  
Handbag | **R3 999,**  
**Lipault @ Samsonite**  
Sunglasses | **Stylist's own**  
Earrings | **R260, Convoy**  
Heels | **R2 990, Europa Art**

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Shirt | **R429, H&M**  
Blazer | **R1 399, Country Road**  
Slacks | **R599, Trenergy**  
Belt | **R599, Trenergy**  
Shoes | **R3 500, Europa Art**

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Blouse | **R2 990, Rene Mariane**  
Slacks | **R599, Zara**  
Earrings | **R259, Zara**

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Blouse | R2 799, Rene Mariane  
Slacks | R599, Zara  
Spectacles | Model's own  
Necklace | R100, Green Grass Design

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Shirt | R429, H&M  
Blazer | R1 599, Treneri  
Slacks | R699, Country Road  
Shoes | R3 299, Europa Art  
Backpack | R2 390, Samsonite

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The Art of Luxury



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Dress | **R2 999, Rene Mariane**  
Shoulder jacket | **R899, Rene Mariane**  
Earrings | **R295, Convoy**  
Handbag | **R900, COOP<sup>2</sup>**  
Heels | **R1 990, Europa Art**

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Shirt | **R429, H&M**  
Blazer | **R1 399, Edgars**  
Slacks | **R499, Edgars**  
Belt | **R499, Country Road**  
Laptop bag | **R4 500, COOP<sup>2</sup>**  
Shoes | **R3 299, Europa Art**

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IMAGES  
Graeme Wylie  
STYLING  
Karin Orzol  
MAKEUP & GROOMING  
Tamzin Reynolds  
MODELS  
Faith/Boss Models  
Wayne/Boss Models  
LOCATION  
Silvio Rech+Lesley Carstens  
Architecture+Interiors  
© silviorechlesleycarstens

## The Art of Living

THE MASTER  
STEPHEN

In an age of hi-tech materials and mechanised mass production, this master hand-crafts bespoke fly rods from bamboo

BOSHOFF

“In the end, you are alone,” says rod builder Stephen Boshoff, channelling the teachings of Russian-born woodworking legend James Krenov. “You decide on your standards. On what you deliver. There is no-one to blame for mistakes.”

Stephen works in bamboo, crafting exquisite fly-fishing rods in a classic, old-school style. When it comes to such immaculately balanced instruments, designed to aerialise a fly line and ultimately deliver a tiny, hand-tied, feather-and-fur insect imitation to a wily trout in a small mountain stream, there is nowhere to hide from those mistakes.

Indeed, in an era where the fly-fishing niche is experiencing something of a nouveau-punk popularity resurgence, and with space-grade materials and mechanised production processes being all the rage, a custom builder is perhaps only as good as their last rod.

Not Stephen. This South African has for years been recognised as one of the finest in his field, worldwide. Among the devout bamboo rod followers (a highly discerning group in what is an already fussy subculture), his wands are highly sought-after.

Between five and 10 rods emerge each year out of his beautifully lit studio in Scarborough on the Cape Peninsula. Each is a usable work of art that requires around 300 hand-tooled labour hours to complete. “The bamboo blank is the core,” he says. “Components should not draw away from, or dominate, the blank. Each part should be finished flawlessly – there should be no glue joints in varnish, and guide feet and ferrule serrations should be perfectly finished.”

Any experienced fly-caster who has welded a bamboo rod will tell you that a well-made item has a special feel. “Generally, they are slower and

gentler than graphite rods, and specifically graphite rods made recently,” Stephen says, referring to the way they cast a fly line. However, this “feel” is becoming less relevant. “Many bamboo makers have made very fast rods (aggressive, if you want), and some modern fibreglass rods approach the feel of traditional bamboo. So the ongoing specialness of bamboo lies elsewhere.”

This “specialness” for Stephen lies in many things. There is the tradition, the material, and the interpretation and use of other influences. He draws on influences and inspiration from a variety of sources, with the woodworking philosophies of the late Krenov as a mainstay.

If Stephen is fascinated by the history and the process of his craft, he is completely enamoured by the material. “Bamboo – specifically *Arundinaria amabilis* – and its journey from growing and harvesting in a small area northwest of Canton, China, to the workbenches of the makers and the users of the rods in many parts of the world, is special,” he says.

“Personally, I prefer to engage with nature – and especially the small streams of the Cape kloofs – with things that are made by hand. I think people are becoming increasingly aware of the wastage and destruction associated with the manufacture of much of what we use.

A bamboo rod, in some ways, adds to engaging with streams and nature more ‘lightly’”

In the end, it is that user – the fly-fisher – who counts. Those who commission Stephen to craft them rods do not shop on price point: they buy into the process and the material, and engaging with nature through the allure of fishing with a piece of art.

“Every piece is made in pursuit of the best,” says Stephen. “And then every best piece that’s completed is to be superseded by a new pursuit of the best...”







**BETWEEN FIVE AND  
10 RODS EMERGE  
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HIS BEAUTIFULLY  
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EACH IS A USABLE WORK  
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— / —

**THE UX 300e  
HAS A LOW CENTRE  
OF GRAVITY, WHICH EQUIPS  
IT WITH WONDERFUL  
HANDLING  
CHARACTERISTICS**

The Art of Driving



ELECTRIC  
AVENUE

As part of **“LEXUS ELECTRIFIED”**, the brand’s global electrification strategy,  
meet the very first Lexus EV: the UX 300e

T argeting a fundamental leap in vehicle performance, handling, control and driver enjoyment, Lexus Electrified is a strong indicator of where the Lexus brand is heading. And as the first production model under this banner, the all-electric UX 300e has been specifically developed for top on-road performance, while retaining the distinctive design and all the utility characteristics of the UX crossover.

— / —

**LEXUS HAS APPLIED  
THE SAME LEVELS  
OF QUALITY AND  
COMFORTABLE OPERATION  
TO ITS VERY FIRST  
PRODUCTION EV  
AS IT ALWAYS HAS WITH  
ITS OTHER VEHICLES**



**DRIVETRAIN SPECS** Output: 150kW and 300Nm • Battery type: Lithium ion • Capacity: 53kWh



In addition to the bold and sophisticated exterior, which is reminiscent of tough and agile driving, the UX 300e gets specially developed aerodynamic wheels and underbody cover.

• Range: 400km • Charging speed (AC): 6.6kW max • Charging speed (DC): 50kW max

## The Art of Driving

### POWERTRAIN

In developing the UX 300e, Lexus harnessed the knowledge acquired during the development of its industry-leading hybrid systems, and applied the same levels of quality and comfortable operation to its very first production EV as it always has with its other vehicles.

The batteries, for example, are equipped with a temperature-management system that operates at low and high ambient temperature. Reliability is further increased with multiple monitoring systems that regulate charging and prevent conditions such as overcharging.

### PERFORMANCE

The Drive Mode Select function lets you manage smooth acceleration and deceleration according to on-road demands. Thanks to the EV powertrain's instant torque, you'll experience the vehicle's powerful acceleration as you press the pedal. The paddle shifters act in a similar manner to engine braking, through four levels of deceleration regeneration – all while enjoying a natural on-road feel.

Thanks to the electric motor and battery placement underneath the vehicle body, the UX 300e has a low centre of gravity, which equips it with wonderful handling characteristics.

### STYLING AND SAFETY

In addition to the bold and sophisticated exterior, which is reminiscent of tough and agile driving, the

UX 300e gets specially developed aerodynamic wheels and underbody cover. And, in line with the brand's development of the most advanced safety technologies, the car features the Lexus Safety System+. Its purpose is to pursue the prevention of accidents and fatalities, as well as to decrease driver stress and develop driver-assist systems to provide a safer and more natural driving experience.

### CONNECTED CAR TECH

The Lexus UX 300e offers the latest in connected car technology. By linking to a smartphone via a dedicated app, you can check the battery's state of charge and driving range. The charging controls include a timer function to inform you when the vehicle will be fully charged – and you can schedule charging according to when you next expect to drive your UX.

The app also allows you to control various convenience functions – such as air conditioning and window defrosters – remotely.

### SOUND MANAGEMENT

While EVs are naturally quiet, the UX 300e's added insulation suppresses outside noises such as wind or pebbles, which would be otherwise noticeable in the absence of engine and transmission sounds.

Engineers also focused on sound while driving to provide a more natural feeling. Active Sound Control (ASC) transmits ambient sound, which aids with understanding of driving conditions and provides a natural feeling for the cabin's occupants.





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1. The UX 300e provides excellent dynamic performance thanks to the low centre of gravity (resulting from motor and battery placement underneath the vehicle body) and optimised front/rear weight distribution. 2. Despite the raised floor, the boot space is still practical.

3. Lexus offers the latest in connected car technology. 4. Distinctive styling and high functionality from the Lexus UX compact crossover were passed on to the UX 300e.



**BY LINKING TO  
 A SMARTPHONE VIA  
 A DEDICATED APP, YOU  
 CAN CHECK THE BATTERY'S  
 STATE OF CHARGE AND  
 DRIVING RANGE**



Directions

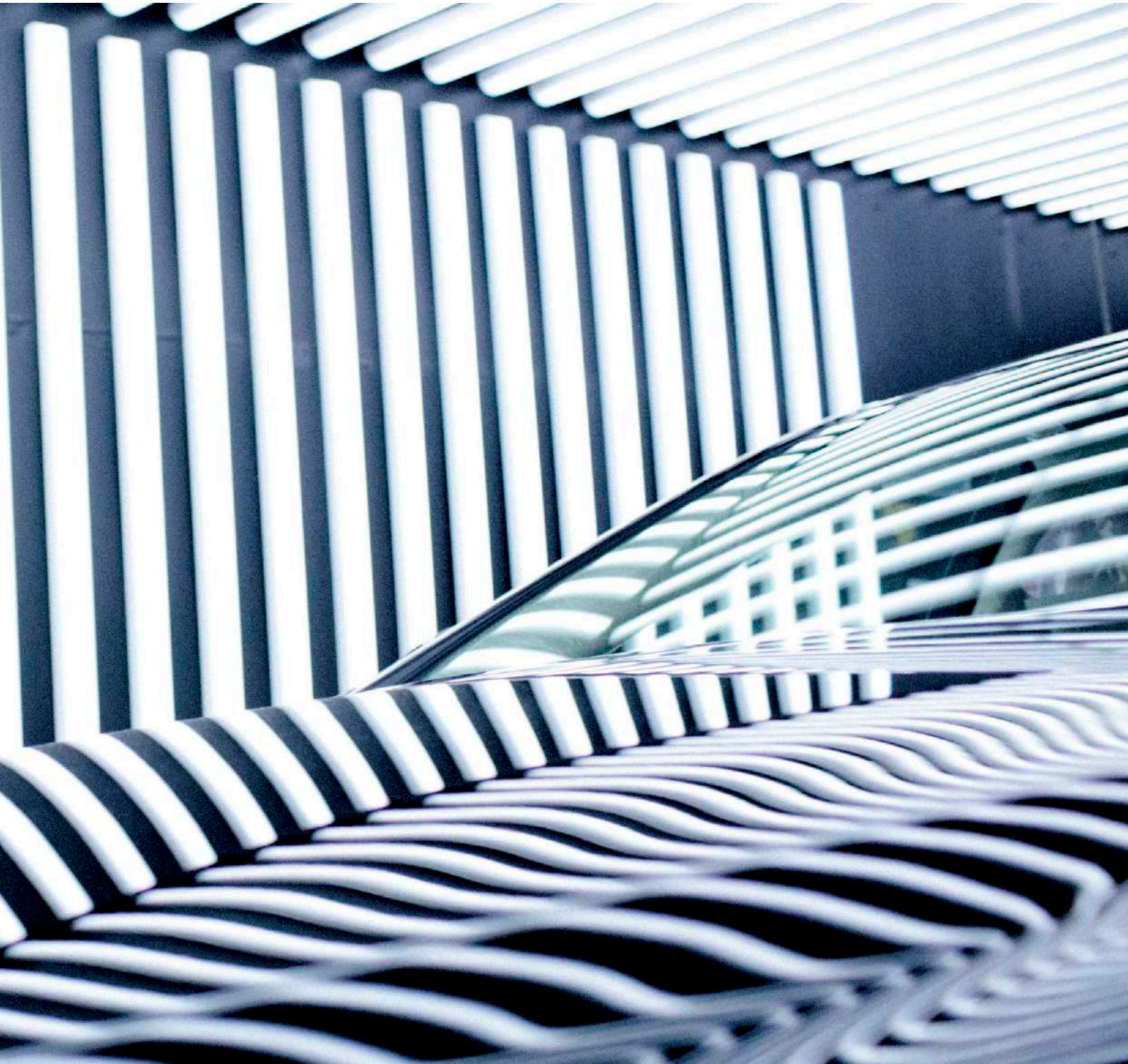
TRADITION  
IN A HI-TECH  
WORLD







Lexus uses the latest technology to design and build its cars - but its highly skilled **TAKUMI** artisans remain at the heart of everything it does





I nside a Lexus factory, you'll find some of the world's most advanced technology at work. But every bit as important as the robots and lasers are the skills and techniques that date back centuries, and could never be replicated by a machine.

When it comes to achieving perfect quality and a flawless finish, it's the judgment of the human hand, eye and ear that counts. These are the talents of the Takumi: craftspeople who have dedicated their life to developing particular skills, and whose work is the defining factor in Lexus's hand-crafted luxury.

At Lexus, each Takumi has a minimum of 30 years of experience, giving them an unmatched depth of knowledge in their field. To bear the name is the highest honour among the ranks of engineers, and it's a privilege held by only a few: of the 7 700 workers at Lexus's Miyata factory, just 19 are Takumi.





— / —  
**THIS TAKES PLACE IN  
COMPLETE SILENCE:  
ACUTE HEARING IS  
ANOTHER TAKUMI SKILL**

TOYO  
GOSEI

## The Art of Driving

### TRAINING PEOPLE, TRAINING ROBOTS

Every Takumi has a responsibility to pass on their skills to the next generation, ensuring that essential talents are maintained. But just as much as they teach their human colleagues, they also contribute to designing better robots.

The Takumi provide vital insights when it comes to designing automated processes, to help achieve the best results. For example, the motion of an automated paint-spraying arm matches the sweeping arm movement of a human master craftsman.

### TOUCH-SENSITIVE

The Lexus Takumi have a legendary sense of touch, and they use this sensitivity to detect even the slightest imperfections, down to fractions of a millimetre – a level of accuracy a machine cannot match. More than that, a machine can only find flaws it is programmed to detect, making the sharp eyes and fine fingers of the Takumi even more crucial.

### SOUND OF SILENCE

Motomachi is the home of Lexus's LC flagship coupe, where eight Takumi lead quality teams that check every step in the car's production. At the end of the production line, the finished car moves into a futuristic light-filled glass booth to undergo a detailed inspection by two of the factory's most skilled craftsmen, covering 700 different check points. All this takes place in complete silence: acute hearing is another Takumi skill, so that any abnormal sounds can be picked up, and their source traced.

### HANDMADE TOOLS

Every Takumi needs the right tools for the job, and will even craft these themselves if necessary. That's the case with Yasuhiro Nakashima, who spent 27 years learning and honing his craft – filing, shaping and polishing the metal moulds used to make the LS's spindle grille.

He has made his own customised set of tools, including handmade bamboo instruments to shape the finer details. The machines and processes used to make the mould are among the best available, but the perfect finish still requires a remarkable human skill. Nakashima refines surface smoothness to within a tenth of a millimetre – picking out imperfections even the best robotic milling technology cannot detect – and hand-polishes minute surfaces in specific directions to achieve the best reflective qualities.

### FLAWLESS STITCHWORK

The beautiful stitched seams of the leather upholstery inside a new Lexus may look simple and elegant, but they take tremendous skill to achieve. For a flawless finish, every stitch has to be precise, every time.

Led by a Takumi, stitching is the work of a dedicated and highly skilled team, selected for their dexterity and attention to detail. Very few make the grade: there are just 12 in the team at Lexus's Miyata factory.

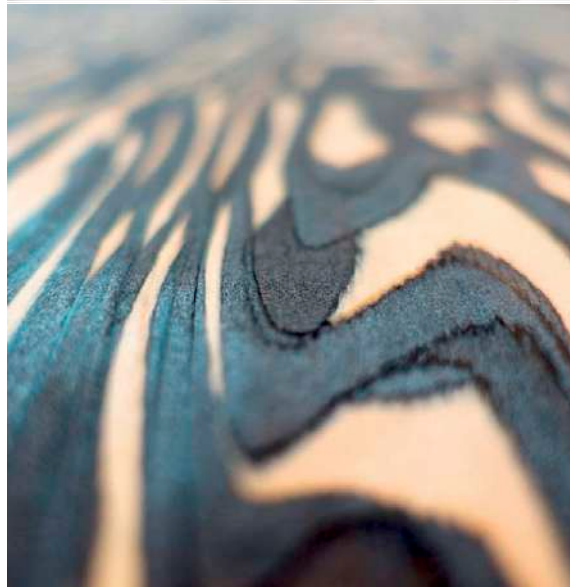
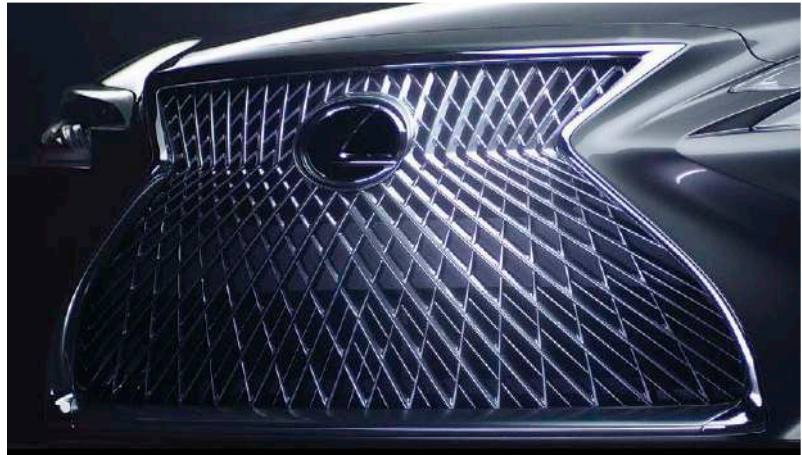
Every one of them has had to train at a stitching dojo – like a formal martial arts class – for three months, under the Takumi's direction. Ten different techniques have to be mastered before they can progress to production work.

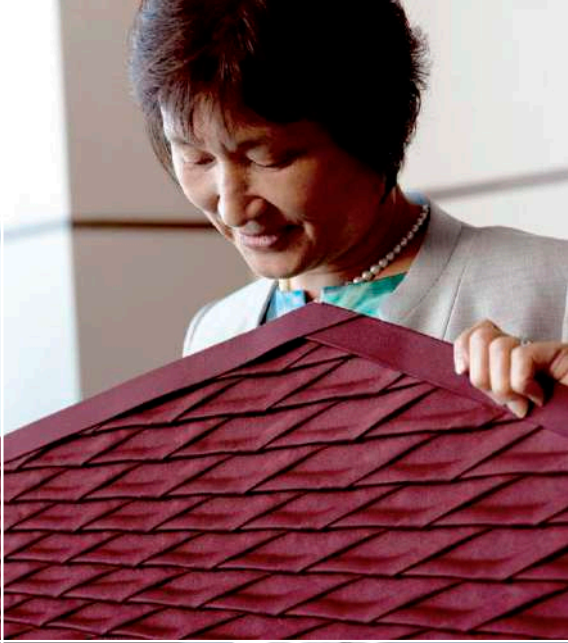
### HAND-CRAFTED WOODWORK

A wooden steering wheel is one of the traditional hallmarks of a luxury vehicle, but where the Lexus Shimamoku wood is concerned, the production is unique.

Sheets of wood less than 1mm thick are shaved from hardwood logs, then stained and treated to achieve a mottled effect. The sheets are stacked in alternating bands of contrasting colours, bonded with glue and clamped. Once set fast, the wood is sliced lengthways to create new layers with the special Shimamoku pattern.

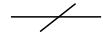
It's a job that involves three different suppliers and 67 separate process, and takes 38 days to complete, with much skilled hand-work in bonding the veneers onto a solid wood form, sealing and polishing.





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3	6

1. The Lexus LS's spindle grille is polished by hand. 2. Many Takumi craft their own tools. 3. Making Lexus's Shimamoku wood involves 67 separate processes. 4. The pleated door panels of the LS are hand-folded by a team of Takumi artisans. 5 & 6. All stitching is done by a dedicated team, selected for their dexterity and attention to detail. PREVIOUS SPREAD Yasuhiro Nakashima spent 27 years learning to file, shape and polish the metal moulds used to make the LS's spindle grille.



**EVERY ONE OF THEM  
HAS HAD TO TRAIN  
AT A STITCHING DOJO  
- LIKE A FORMAL  
MARTIAL ARTS CLASS**



## The Innovator

## MIELIE ACTIVISM

The Mielie Mailer, an eco answer to the detrimental impact of postal packaging, took only three months – from conception to market – to come to life.

We chat to one of its co-founders,

**TRENT PIKE**

Life is about timing – something 26-year-old serial entrepreneur and Mielie Mailer founder Trent Pike (pictured below, centre) strongly believes. The company's genius product – a 100%-compostable shipping mailer – is the solution to current courier methods. The mailers are made from a biodegradable material, derived from spoiled mielies (unfit for human consumption), PBAT (a biodegradable thermoplastic) and corn starch. It's a resource that's both low-impact and renewable, and – from retailer to consumer – it also happens to be carbon-neutral. How?

"When conceptualisation for Mielie Mailer began, the co-founders Renato Marchesini (below left) and Erik Bourlov (below right) and I felt being plastic-free wasn't enough," says Trent. "You're either a socially and environmentally conscious company or you're not. It's all or nothing. Tree-planting to offset carbon emissions seemed to be the best answer, but because this is a contentious issue, we had to do our homework."

Some scientists and researchers are of the belief that there is no such thing as being carbon-neutral: even with tree-planting, fuel combustion plays a part in the process, as does getting the trees to site.

"Everything we do – and that we say we do – is aboveboard," says Trent. "Our tree-planting projects have been thoroughly researched to ensure they are low-impact." (See opposite page.)

Back to the mailer itself: how did the idea come about?

"Greta Thunberg actually inspired this product with her school-strike initiative," says Trent. "When she said, 'Since you adults don't give a damn about my future, I won't either,' it made me ask myself what I was doing in a lecture room, studying the very economics that got us into this climate mess."

Trent was studying for a BSc in economics and statistics at the University of Cape Town at the time, before deferring his studies (for the second time) to pursue Mielie Mailer. "This set in motion the idea and belief that I wanted to embark on a path of environmental activism through business innovation," he says. And so Mielie Mailer was born.

"The plant materials used in our mailers make up less than 0.05% of the global annual corn crop, making the product extremely low-impact on resources," says Trent. "And because we use corn that is unfit for human consumption, the production of our mailers does not direct food away from people."

The company's carefully selected manufacturing partner in China has a sparkling track record, and a production facility that mitigates waste, treats workers fairly and equitably, and uses the latest technology to ensure consistency and quality.

This is not Trent's first entrepreneurial rodeo. He previously launched the globally acknowledged range of InstaLens products (along with a partner) and ran a plant-based burger bar, as well as having a hand in various other endeavours (some less successful than others). When asked where he thinks his entrepreneurial spirit comes from, he puts it down to the incredible support and life lessons taught to him by his parents. "My mom urged me and my siblings to question everything, and to be rebels," he says, laughing.

With big businesses already signed up to Mielie Mailer for 2020, including Yoco and HomeChoice, and an alternative to single-use plastic shopping bags as well as a locally made styrofoam substitute rolling out in the first quarter, we see big things in this pioneering new business's future.

[mieliemailer.com](http://mieliemailer.com)

mieliemailer



**“YOU’RE EITHER A SOCIALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS COMPANY OR YOU’RE NOT. IT’S ALL OR NOTHING”**



**MIELIE MAILER ON THEIR TREE-PLANTING PROJECTS**

1. We empower local communities. Nurseries are created and managed by community members – they are set up in the area where the trees will eventually be planted.
2. Early growth is managed by these communities. We try to ensure a plant survival rate of more than 90%.
3. Trees planted are indigenous to the area, putting no strain on the local environment.
4. We don't plant monocultures with an intention to harvest.

Our trees are planted to mimic natural, organic forest growth as best as possible.

5. Local communities also act as custodians to these forests, ensuring, as far as possible, that trees don't fall prey to illegal deforestation and fires.
6. We've partnered with Tree-Nation (tree-nation.com), and plan to only contribute to projects audited by Plan Vivo (planvivo.org).

