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DESIGN &
CRAFTSMANSHIP



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THROWING SHADE

This season is all about stylish vintage-shaped sunglasses

CHEETAH PLAINS

The new exclusive, off-grid private lodge in Sabi Sands

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Thought Leader

WHAT MAKES A GOOD TREND ANALYST?

Sounds like the best job ever, right? **BRONWYN WILLIAMS** what it takes to become a modern-day fortune-teller.

A trend analyst's role is to identify changing patterns in the world around us and to connect dots between seemingly unrelated changes moving society in a particular direction. In other words, trend analysts help their clients to make sense of change and to spot emerging opportunities and threats they may have otherwise missed. In this way trend analysts buy their clients time and give them a head-start on their competitors. This is similar to the way watchmen in medieval watch towers, with their 360 degree view of the landscape, gave their communities a head start to prepare for battle with the marauding hordes as they appeared on horizon.

Good trend analysts have several key attributes.

Firstly, all good trend analysts are insatiably curious and have accumulated a wide-ranging general knowledge. Clients pay trend analysts for out-of-industry emerging insights that are not already common knowledge to their competitors. This requires a deep understanding of macro and meta drivers of change, which in turn requires having a broad, bird's eye view of society in general. In order to build up and maintain a good general knowledge, trend analysts tend to be widely read and up to date in subjects ranging from history to business to pop culture to technological developments and current affairs.

Secondly, most well-respected trend analysts have a deep expert knowledge and experience in a particular subject area or industry, whether it's the motoring industry, business leadership, fashion, or finance. This deep knowledge forms a foundation on which to develop deep insights and match patterns gleaned from general wide-ranging horizon scanning. For this reason, we find trend analysts come from a wide range of academic – and no-so-academic – backgrounds. What you study is less important than the ability to make sense of large amounts of information, and convert that information into useful, actionable insights. That said, since trend analysts make use of both quantitative and qualitative tools to understand and anticipate the direction and depth of trends, a good grounding in statistics, sociology, economics, market research, and foresight should not be discounted.

Thirdly, trend analysts have to be good communicators. Trend analysts are sense-makers. They not only need to understand the world and identify relevant changes, they also need to explain the context

**TREND ANALYSTS
MAKE USE OF BOTH
QUANTITATIVE AND
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TO UNDERSTAND AND
ANTICIPATE THE
DIRECTION AND DEPTH
OF TRENDS.**

and importance of the changes they identify to their clients. This requires developing the ability to simplify complexity and to record and reference trends into summarised reports – without losing context or insights – to help clients make smarter, faster strategic decisions. It is essential to have the ability to think, write and speak clearly and articulate, without using unnecessary jargon, what trends are emerging and why those trends should matter to their clients.

To summarise, trend analysts need to be both analytical and creative. They need to see both the wood for the trees and the trees for the wood; to have a view on the big picture and the small details that make it up. But most of all, trend analysts need to be interested in everything, all the time. After all, the more you look at the world, the more you see that everything is connected.



BRONWYN WILLIAMS is a partner, trends translator and finance specialist at *Flux Trends*. She has over a decade's experience in marketing management and trend research, working predominantly with brands in the financial and B2B industries.

THEY SAY HYBRIDS HAVE TO BE PLUGGED IN

NOT IN OUR WORLD



Lexus Hybrids are self-charging. Every time you brake, the regenerative motor charges, storing electrical energy for high-powered takeoffs and low-speed driving. Lexus Hybrids conveniently charge without ever having to be plugged in. Lexus Hybrid Drive is an innovative system that adds to the overall performance and efficiency 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. Thanks to extensive expertise in hybrid technology, Lexus offers an 8 year/195 000km warranty on all Hybrid Drive components (including the battery and inverter).

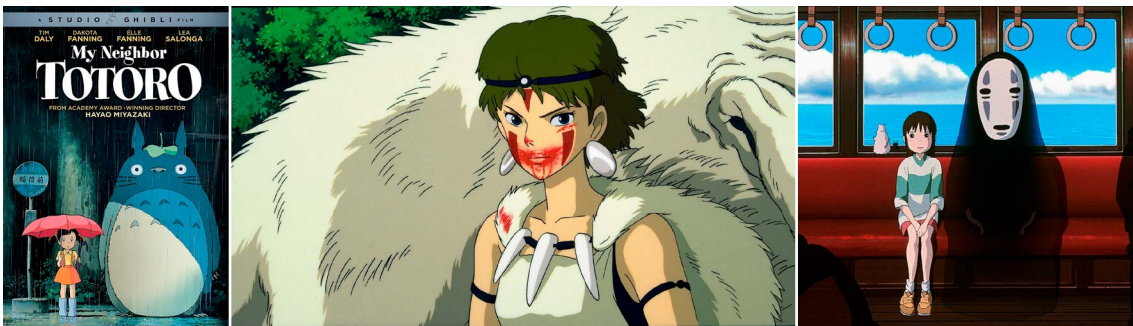
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h | **LEXUS**
EXPERIENCE AMAZING

9

WAYS TO BRING JAPAN
INTO YOUR HOME

From sushi tutorials to Studio Ghibli on Netflix, try these novel ways to immerse yourself in **JAPANESE CULTURE** without leaving your house



I

DISCOVER STUDIO GHIBLI

For sheer escapism and stunning artistry, look no further than Studio Ghibli's anime films. They've captivated audiences since 1986 and if you haven't yet delved into the richly storied archives, now's your chance. Netflix acquired the rights to a number of Ghibli films this year: must-sees include *My Neighbor Totoro* (1988), *Princess Mononoke* (1997) and *Spirited Away* (2001) – all available now in South Africa.



2

FIND ANCIENT TREASURES

For those keen on Japanese culture and apparel, you can feast your eyes on the silken splendour of its full kimono collection online. The 'Search the Collections' function unearths everything from 17th-century traditional treasures to sleek contemporary creations. Meanwhile, the virtual 'Museum of the World', curated by the British Museum, boasts a brilliant 'Asia' section.

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CALLIGRAPHY IS ROOTED IN MEDITATION AND MINDFULNESS.



3

PERFECT YOUR SUSHI ROLLS

Every second household during lockdown unleashed a chef in the making. If you haven't already, why not start or perfect your sushi-making skills at home? Head out to your nearest store or order online from some of SA's leading food chains for your sushi stock and fill your locked-down pantry with everything you need. Stock up on any and everything from miso paste and yuzu sauce to sushi-making kits and rice, as well as Japanese-style handcrafted tableware. [Click here to check out the free recipe tutorials](#), too.



4

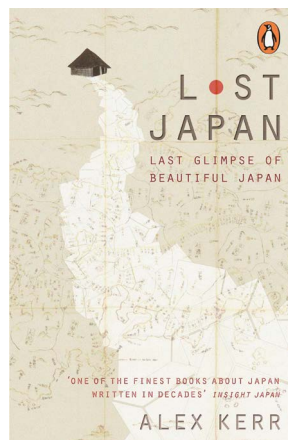
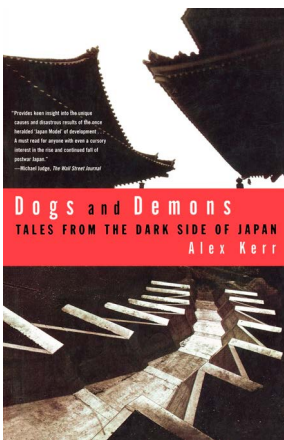
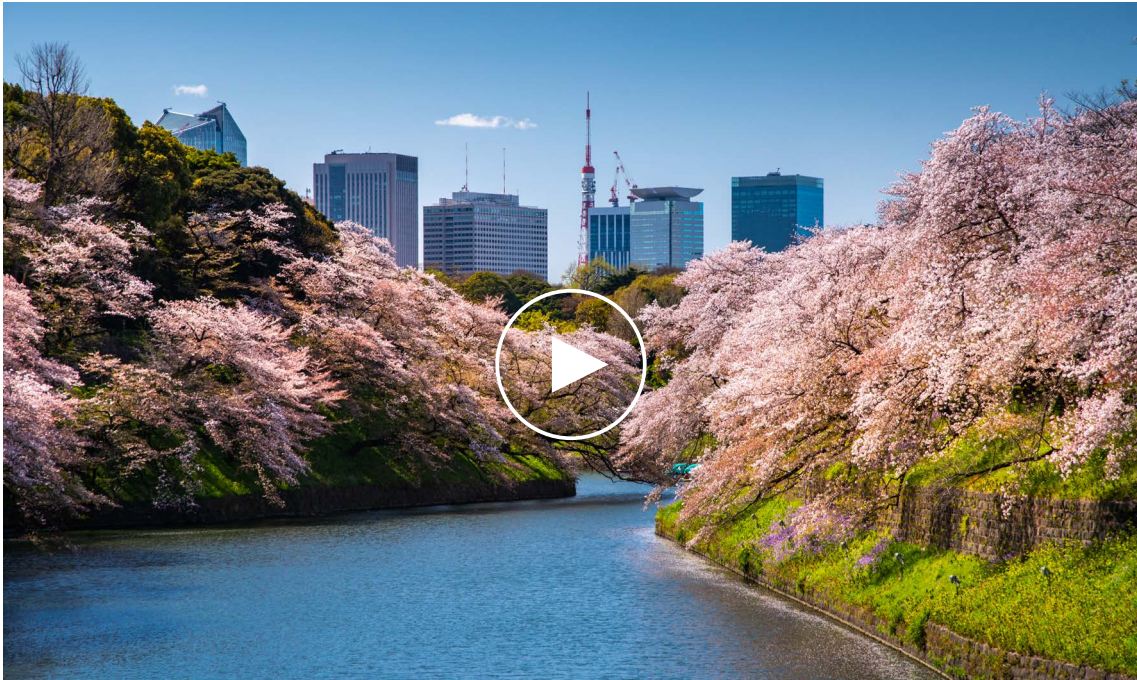
MASTER A NEW ART SKILL

With its intricate scripts and fluid brush-strokes, calligraphy (or shodō) is beloved throughout Japan. It is rooted in meditation and mindfulness, but the practical element is totally immersive, so if you're struggling to calm your thoughts, a YouTube tutorial could be just the ticket. Look for origami and block-painting videos too: you might not have all the required materials, but with a bit of initiative (using styrofoam packaging instead of printing blocks, for example), you'll be surprised by what you can achieve.

5

TRY HOME-STYLE HANAMI

The Japanese tradition of hanami (cherry blossom viewing) might be trickier this year, but you can still get your fix in some ingenious ways: by spying on Tokyo's pink-petalled Chidorigafuchi moat via the live *Sakura Cam*, or by browsing the Smithsonian's stunning collection of blooming artworks.



6

LOSE YOURSELF IN A BOOK

Weaving poignant anecdotes and folklore tales with meticulously researched history and sumptuous prose, Alex Kerr is Britain's foremost writer on all things Japan. His books and articles, such as *Lost Japan* (1993) and *Dogs and Demons* (2001) bring to life his childhood in Yokohama, and reveal the rich customs and culture of his adopted homeland. These are ideal [takealot.com](https://www.takealot.com).

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BREW A MOMENT OF CALM

On your next grocery run, stock up on some soothing Japanese sencha green tea, like Pukka's Organic Supreme bags (available from Faithful to Nature, Wellness Warehouse and some supermarkets). While it's brewing, pop on Spotify's 'Japan Top 50' playlist, an eclectic mix of Japan's most-played songs. Prefer baking? Vivid Matcha's ceremonial-grade matcha powder is perfect for making a matcha crepe cake.

8

CHECK OUT THE TOYOTA AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM COLLECTION

The Toyota Automobile Museum is currently closed, but you can still browse through the amazing collection of cars stored [here](#). The museum collection dates from 1886 to the present day, covering multiple brands from across the globe. Favourites include the 1966 Toyota 2000GT Bond Car from *Live and Let Die* and the famous Lexus LFA.



9

START WITH A STRETCH

For nearly 70 years, millions of people across Japan have started the day by tuning into *rajio taisō* (radio calisthenics) on TV and NHK radio – a three-minute routine of low-impact stretching, bending and jumping. Combining bright piano music with a rather sombre male voiceover, it's a much-loved part of Japanese culture. Give it a go via YouTube – whether in your workout gear or Pikachu costume.

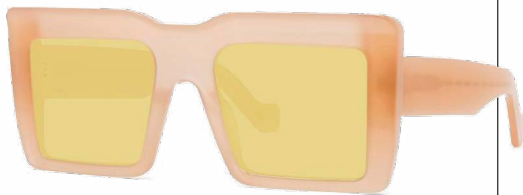
IN THE SHADES

This season is all about stylish and wearable vintage shapes. Timeless silhouettes get refreshed with new details like tinted lenses, cut-outs and fresh colour palettes. Big, bold aviator and cat-eye sunglasses are just a few vintage favourites to consider.

FOR HER



Venus black geometric-shape sunglasses
R2 790, TIWI FROM BRIL



Square-shaped acetate sunglasses
R6 200, LOEWE FROM SDM EYEWEAR



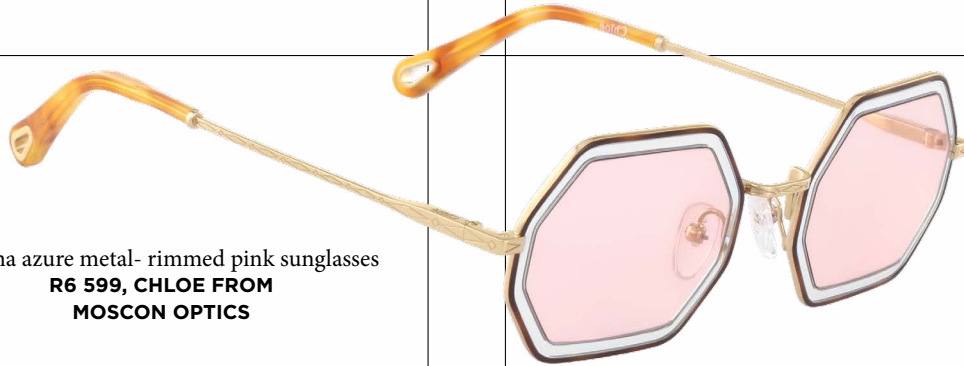
Black and white-cat eye sunglasses
R2 050, MARC JACOBS FROM SAFILO

STOCKIST LIST

Bril 061 684 0916 | Luxottica 021 486 6100 | Safilo 011 548 9600 | Moscon Optics 011 483 8001 | SDM Eyewear 011 334 7020



Round John Lennon sunglasses
with tortoiseshell arms
R5 540, JIMMY CHOO FROM SAFILO



Havana azure metal-rimmed pink sunglasses
R6 599, CHLOE FROM MOSCON OPTICS

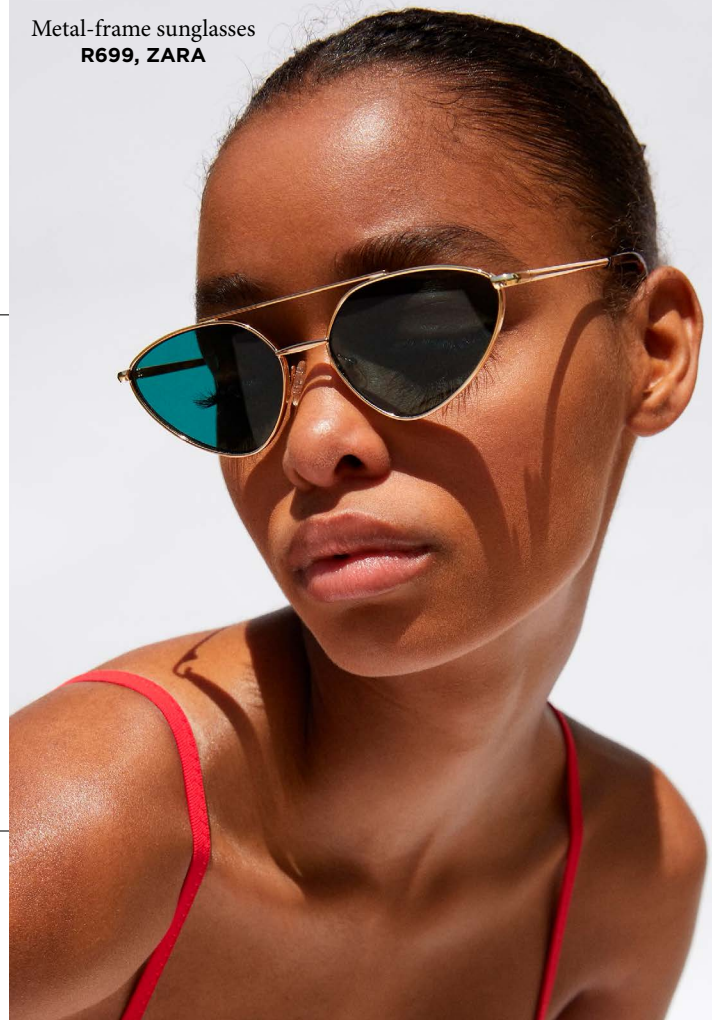


Maroon and pink cat-eye sunglasses
R3 770, DOLCE AND GABBANA FROM LUXOTTICA



Rose gold metal-frame sunglasses
R 1 170, POLAROID FROM SAFILO

Metal-frame sunglasses
R699, ZARA



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Black and red square sunglasses
with nylon lens
R2 540, HUGO BOSS FROM SAFILO



Aviator metal-frame sunglasses
with anti-reflective lens
R11 425, FRED FROM SDM EYEWEAR



Acetate and metal combination mask
with futuristic silhouette
R6 795, LOEWE FROM SDM EYEWEAR



Unisex sunglasses
FROM KENZO

FOR HIM



Round metal-frame sunglasses
R2 300, VINTAGE TWO FROM BRIL



Classic black original wayfarer
R2 850, RAY-BAN FROM LUXOTTICA



Matt black wrap-around sunglasses
R2 280, OAKLEY FROM LUXOTTICA

Retro black and gold frame
**R2 240, CARRERA
FROM SAFILO**



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T H E M A S T E R
B E A U T Y N G X O N G O

This master weaver has elevated a purely functional item to an artform so important it's now found in some of the most significant museums in the world.

Hlabisa, a small rural settlement in northern KwaZulu-Natal, is far removed from the cosmopolitan hub of New York. But a woven basket from Hlabisa is on display in the city's Metropolitan Museum of Art, described as a work whose "elegant structural forms are enhanced by complex and masterful graphic and chromatic designs". There are other pieces in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, the SA National Gallery in Cape Town, and in private collections around the world.

The Met says the piece has "blurred the line between utilitarian craft and fine art".

Its creator, Beauty Ngxongo, is a lot more pragmatic: "I agree – but I can't see someone using any of my baskets as a beer basket. It would be a waste of something that's meant to be collected, looked at and admired."

Despite her global reputation, Beauty radiates simplicity. Her baskets, with their graceful, feminine lines, reflect her gentle faith in the strength of women, who through their sharing of skills with each other have turned Hlabisa into what might be the epicentre of Zulu basket weaving.

Curves also inspired a collaboration with Houtlander, the furniture design company, and Mash. T Design Studio. Commissioned to create a piece of uniquely South African art for an exhibition in Paris, they settled on a bench with the solidity of a three-legged pot and a curving back suggesting the undulating hills of KZN. For the design on the back they turned to Beauty and the master weavers of Hlabisa. It took six women 1 350 hours, but there's no mistaking the genesis of the "Hlabisa Bench".

This South African master won't be drawn on whether she's an artist or an artisan. "I'm someone who lives to weave, and who continues to learn."

Beauty shares more:

Trapped in each basket is a bit of my soul.

From collecting the grass and buying the ilala palm, to looking for the fruits, barks and berries in the forest, the process of making my baskets is a long one. So by the time I'm cooking the palm [to create the colours] my heart is ready to create this amazing piece. When it's all set – grass, needle and palm, it's really my soul using my hands to do the work. I'll be seated at that basket for as long as a month, pouring myself into it.

In 1983 I had just moved to Hlabisa and had my first-born. At church one day someone was weaving and it looked so beautiful I wanted to learn. A lot of ladies were already weaving, supplying a craft project in Eshowe. My good friend Laurentia Dlamini was among the few who remembered and revived the craft, and she trained me.

I'm known for izichumo, water or beer vessels, because that's what Laurentia specialised in. But I couldn't get the shape right. Mine were – and still are – more heart-shaped, and that's what now makes them distinctively mine.

My work was noticed in Eshowe because of the heart shape and the distinction of the weaving, which was a bit different to the others. They searched for me and with the help of the African Art Centre in Durban, I visited Sweden in 1994 to showcase my work. That was my breakthrough internationally.

At first I didn't think much of my baskets being in all these museums. I knew that being invited to shows overseas meant they appreciated my talent. But it



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**WHEN IT'S ALL SET - GRASS,
NEEDLE AND PALM, IT'S REALLY
MY SOUL USING MY HANDS TO
DO THE WORK.**



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wasn't exactly extraordinary that a person would buy my basket and put it in a nice place in a nice building. I wasn't aware of the importance because there wasn't much recognition here in South Africa. That only began to change when more invitations came from abroad.

One day in 1998 my eldest daughter came across a study in her university textbook that featured me and my baskets, and the lecturer mentioned my name. She was so excited. Later my granddaughter, Sinegugu, started telling me she could search for me on the internet and that my work was really important.

That made me look back and reflect on this work I've been doing for such a long time. When the younger generation, and young designers like Thabisa Mjo of Mash. T Design Studio, see this as historically important work, it makes me feel like everything that was done before was worth it.

I'm so proud of the women who, despite a difficult economic background like me, have persevered through all the difficulties and darkness to make a home for their children. I'm proud of the black woman who finds her own opportunities where there are ceilings and creates

spaces where we are hardly given enough. The world has been very hard on us, and harsh. To remain graceful and standing in faith is what has kept most of us alive.

I weave love and spiritual strength into my work. You either put your heart into it and it turns out beautifully, or you don't and it turns out mediocre. When there's love poured into my work and I see its beauty, it not only lives up to my name but it shows the world that God gave us the hands to create beautiful things. Anything can be done, no matter where you're from. That is where hope is born.

bambizulu.com

1 2

1. Master weaver Beauty Ngxongo pours love into her work.

2. Elegant structural forms are enhanced by graphic designs.

WORKPLACE RE-IMAGINED

Whether working from home, in a reduced-capacity office or purpose-designed co-working space, our experts confirm there's a new work environment for almost everyone **POST-LOCKDOWN**.

There is no denying that the way you were working a year ago has changed significantly. But does this mean offices as we knew them are a thing of the past? A survey commissioned by Microsoft shows that 82% of managers expect to have more flexible work-from-home policies post-pandemic. "Our research indicates that work will likely be a fluid mix of in-person and remote collaboration," reports **Jared Spataro, Corporate Vice President for Microsoft 365**. He adds, "While the future of work will be more remote than it's ever been before, the physical office space – which brings benefits like connected, ergonomic workspaces and opportunities for social connecting and team bonding – will likely remain a core part of the future of work."

Friedman, however, still sees relevance for office space, but with a shift in design to suit changing needs, and with technology playing a bigger role in how these offices are utilised. "With remote working now being more available, desk sharing becomes a realistic option," he says of flexible workspace considerations. "This allows more space in the office environment to plan the desks slightly further apart, while touch-free design elements become the norm."

Britta Dahms, Marketing and Partnership Manager at Workshop17 that provides co-working office space to companies and individuals in Cape Town, Paarl and Johannesburg, says the organisation has quickly adapted to new protocols. It has removed several seats at its hot-desking tables and in meeting rooms and boardrooms to ensure a two-metre distance between people.

"AN OFFICE SPACE IS NOT IMPORTANT TO CULTURE, SO IN THE DIGITAL AGE IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER WHAT BUILDING YOU'RE SITTING IN."

"The collaborative and social experience at the workplace is critical to our psychological fabric," says **Dale Friedman, Associate at Paragon Interface Architects**, a Johannesburg firm focused on office design. "Yes, there will be a more hybrid approach to remote and agile working, but this does not detract from the fact that humans need to collaborate and socialise, so the need for workspaces will still be there."

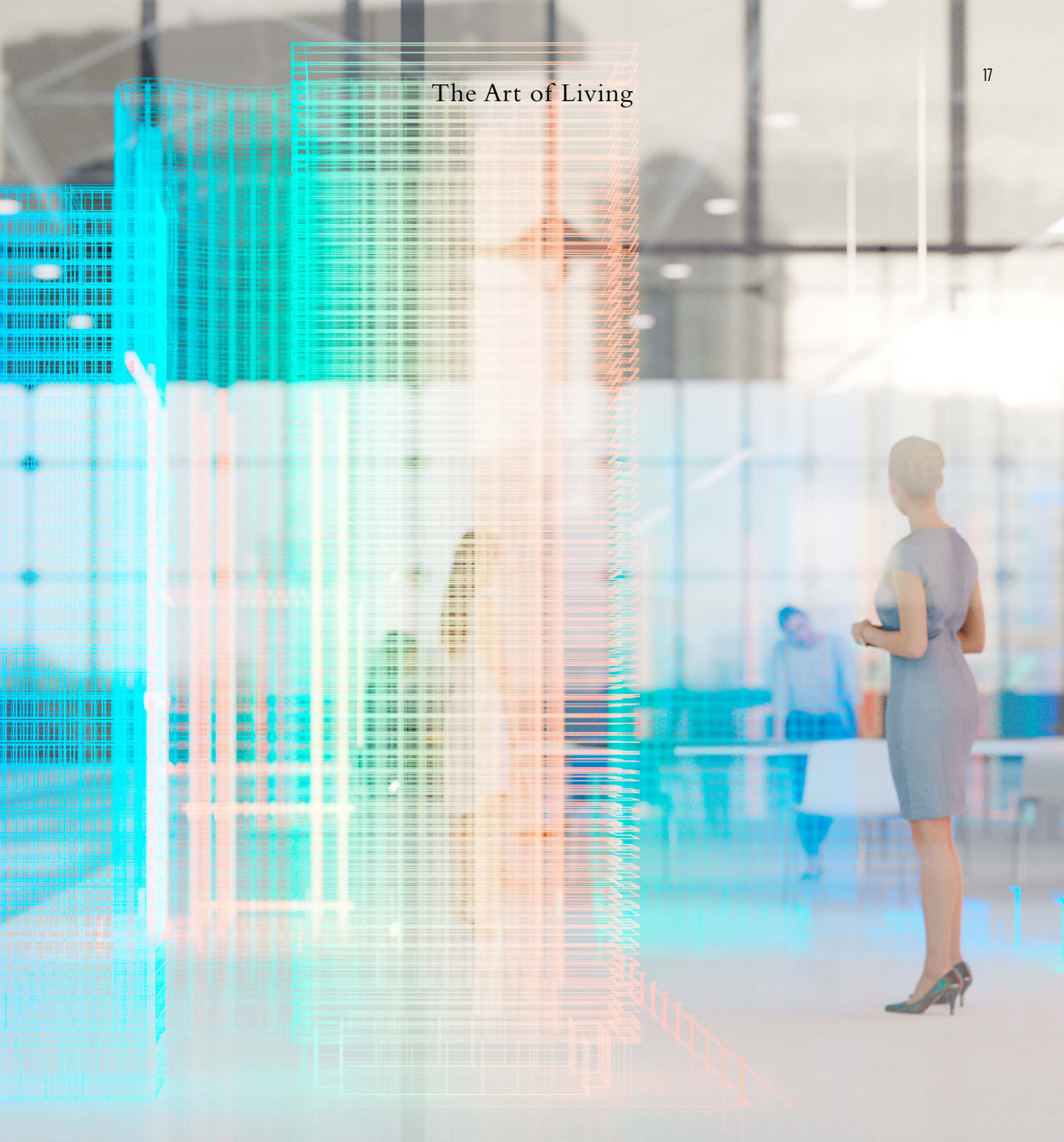
Zurika Gibson, Human Resources Head at FNB Home Finance Division, has a different viewpoint. "Humans are adaptable," she says. "We move on from the things we miss." She says that what generally united people socially in the workplace were the things they didn't enjoy in their environment. "Not having employees in an office complements a culture that's genuinely based on values," she says, allaying fears that company culture could be compromised if people do not see one another face to face. "An office space is not important to culture, so in the digital age it really doesn't matter what building you're sitting in." She says the elements that underpin culture – behaviours, values and personality characteristics – remain present despite physical distance.

She does, however, foresee less need for hot-desking, and a trend toward dedicated areas for bigger companies requiring flexible solutions for meetings and workspaces when terminating their own building leases. "As larger companies are looking to downscale, we've created Workshop17's White Box Plus, where we build and design an open space with the client to create their perfect co-working environment," she explains, adding that such alternatives dramatically reduce operational costs for companies, as they only pay for the spaces they use.

Dahms believes the future of work lies in collaboration and says that co-working options, where people get to interact face to face, enable this progression. "It's impossible to be innovative and get to know your consumers and clients when you're working from home, isolated from a community," she says.

No matter what your opinion might be on the matter, shifts in the office environment are inevitable. As Gibson says, "The people who are going to survive are those who are change-agile. It's probably the most exciting time for work."

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**“THE COLLABORATIVE AND SOCIAL EXPERIENCE AT THE
WORKPLACE IS CRITICAL TO OUR PSYCHOLOGICAL FABRIC.”**

WORK IN PROGRESS

Top designers and architects share expert advice on creating productive, pleasing **HOME-OFFICE** spaces.



CREATE A HUB

“People tend to gravitate towards the centre of the house, and children don’t like to feel left out – so we’ve constructed dedicated “creative hubs” in which mom, dad and kids can all work together,” says architect Wynand Wilsenach. “A hub such as this would have plenty of charging and plug points, with drawers for stationery and project material – and it would normally be close to the kitchen or the family room.”

w2.co.za

REPURPOSE AND REIMAGINE

“Update an old desk or tabletop by painting it – or cover it with a print or an attractive upholstery fabric and a thick pane of glass,” says architect Ernst Frame-Tolmie. “With wireless connectivity being the standard these days, printers and other devices can live remotely if space is a concern.”

frameworkdesign.co

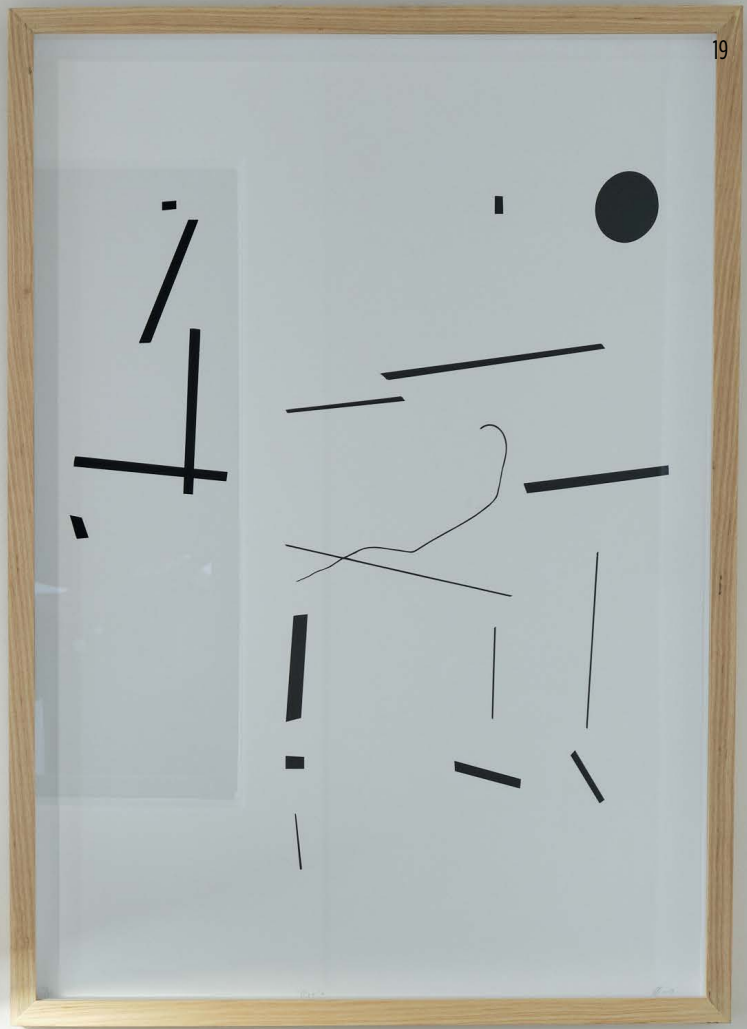
PLAN AHEAD

If a home renovation is already on the cards for you, shift your plans to accommodate a home office in the design (if it wasn’t there previously), says Ernst. “Instead of using the dining table, create a dedicated space for your laptop, stationery and library – and avoid clutter by designing a bespoke joinery piece for all your needs.”

frameworkdesign.co



— / —
**“UPDATE AN OLD DESK
OR TABLETOP BY
PAINTING IT.”**





— / —
**“CREATE A DEDICATED
SPACE FOR
YOUR LAPTOP.”**

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GET INSPIRED BY WHAT'S LOCAL

Always support local creativity, says designer Tracy Lee Lynch, including in your home-office space. "Add a striking painting, and source a desk or office chair crafted by one of our incredible South African designers," she says. "When I designed Central Kitchen – the Nando's head office – I focused on using only local design to complement the company's large collection of South African art. Art is an investment that can continue to bring you joy throughout your life – so choose wisely, and buy the works of emerging artists if your budget is limited."

leelynych.co.za

KEEP IT TOGETHER

It will suit some home workers to create an office space adjacent to their living space.

"In many homes today, the office occupies a transitory space – a hidden nook off the dining room, for example, or a floating desk in a passage," says Nicola Orpen of Bone Interior Design Studio. "As work becomes a more fluid part of our daily life, and as life in general moves on from the typical 9-to-5 scenario to a 24/7 pace, it'll be even more convenient for the office space to "live" within another area."

bonestudio.co.za



T H E E A M E S O F F I C E C H A I R

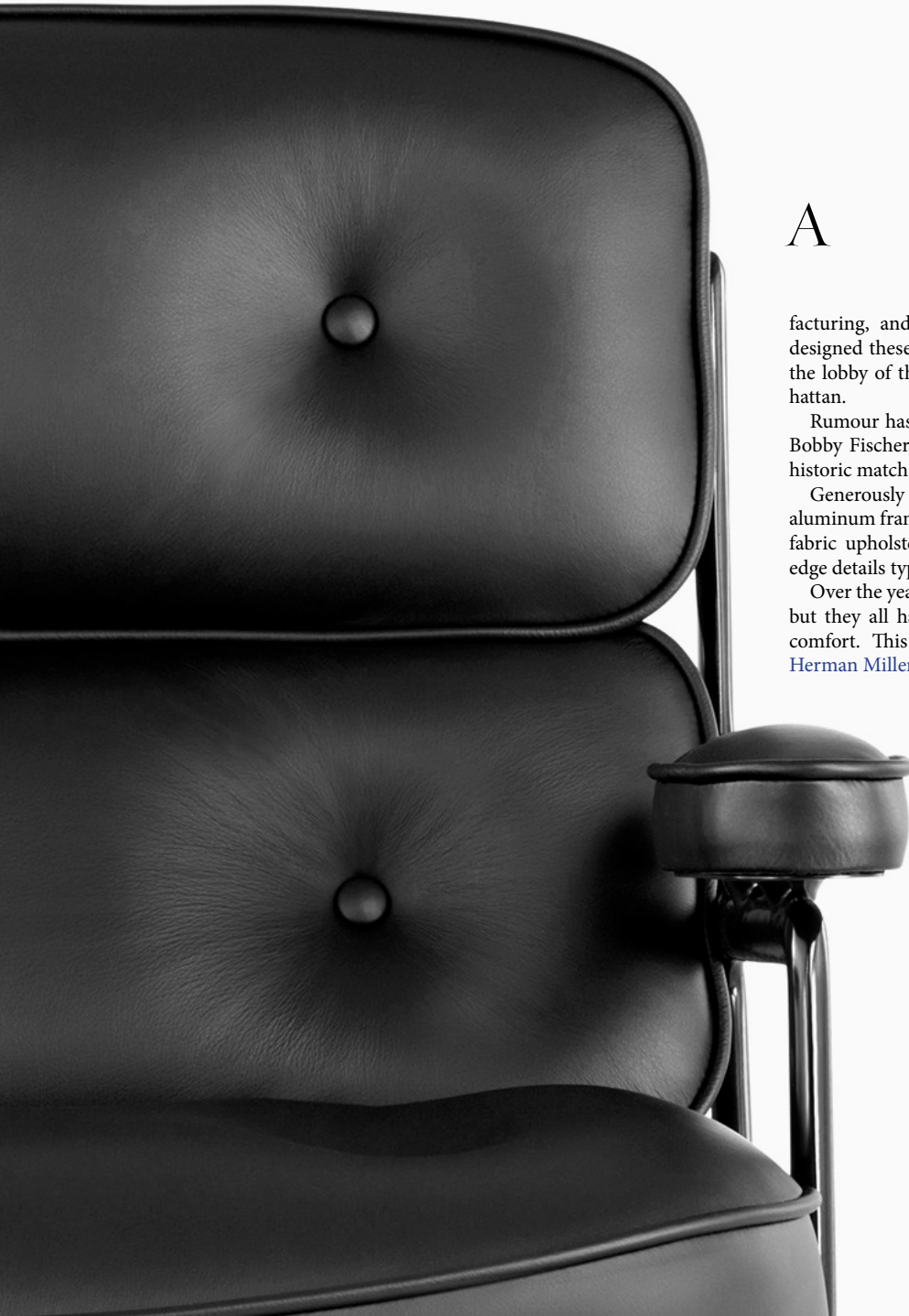
The classic executive office chair with a legendary design pedigree.

American husband-and-wife team Charles and Ray Eames are best known for their ground-breaking contributions to architecture, furniture design, industrial design and manufacturing, and the photographic arts. In 1960, they designed these plush, padded, leather swivel chairs for the lobby of the iconic Time & Life Building in Manhattan.

Rumour has it that in 1972, American chess master, Bobby Fischer, specifically requested this chair for his historic match with Russian rival Boris Spassky.

Generously sized, the design features a lightweight aluminum frame and base, and finely detailed leather or fabric upholstery accented with covered buttons and edge details typical of traditional fine furniture.

Over the years, various versions have been produced, but they all have one thing in common: outstanding comfort. This chair is still manufactured today by Herman Miller and Vitara.



The Art of Living



— / —
**THE DESIGN FEATURES A
LIGHTWEIGHT ALUMINUM
FRAME AND FINELY DETAILED
UPHOLSTERY.**
— / —




Classic office chair designed by Charles and Ray Eames.

W I L D



Inspired by the form of acacia thorn trees, the architecture adds unexpected geometry to the natural surroundings.

T I M E S



Cheetah Plains is a game-changer when it comes to safari escapes. Exclusive and off grid, each private lodge offers full-frontal views of the drama unfolding in the bush beyond.



Sharing an unfenced boundary with the Kruger National Park, the Sabi Sand Game Reserve is the most expensive land under conservation in South Africa. This is the undisputed sharp edge of safari travel. Getting there is easy, and then there are the leopard, lion and other predator sightings that are both up close and virtually guaranteed. Made up of private concessions, many of them family owned, land in the Sabi Sand doesn't change hands very often. When a property called Cheetah Plains became available, current owner Japie van Niekerk could not believe his luck. The only way to step into this highly competitive arena was to do something that nobody else had done before. Ever the entrepreneur, he enlisted the creative input of a crack squad, headed up by ARRCC co-founder and architect, Stefan Antoni, to overturn existing notions of safari chic with the rebuild. He also

took the entire property off grid. The result is a game-changer.

Instead of a conventional lodge layout, Cheetah Plains is three stand-alone, self-contained bush houses, each one a mini-lodge in its own right, utilising the latest in grey-water recycling systems and operating entirely on solar energy. Even on overcast days, everything works seamlessly, from the air-con to the pool pumps.

Resilient and robust, the off-shutter concrete and rough stone buildings are cantilevered over the landscape, and constructed carefully around the trees. Everything has been designed to weather over time. Inspired by the form of acacia thorn trees, the architecture adds unexpected geometry to the natural surroundings. Surprisingly, it doesn't feel intrusive.

Each exclusive-use mini-lodge accommodates up to eight guests in four, stand-alone guest suites. An open-

The Art of Living

plan layout of generous indoor and outdoor living spaces is conducive to house parties or multi-generational family gatherings, especially the media and entertainment lounge, temperature-controlled wine room and a solar-heated swimming pool generous enough to swim laps in.

Throughout, glass walls slide away into raw concrete. It's often hard to tell where the outdoors begins or ends. The effect is electrifying, offering full-frontal views of the drama unfolding in the bush beyond. It's not unusual to observe grazing antelope or feeding elephant mere metres away, while lazing in the bath. The spacious guest suites are blissfully private, each with its own lounge and shaded veranda. The mosquito net surrounding the bed and all the blinds disappear at the flick of a switch. In-room spa treatments with Africology plant-based balms and serums are complimentary, as is the use of binoculars and a camera to take on game drives.

It would be difficult to pick a favourite house, and even the owner and his family can't decide. Mapogo House, named after a notorious coalition of lions, and Mvula House, in memory of a legendary leopard, are decorated in swarthy, masculine tones enhanced by the rich patina of worn leather, while Karula House, named after a female leopard, is lighter and softer in design with metallic accents.

OKHA was commissioned to design the bespoke statement pieces that enhance the bold, almost brutalist architecture, adding a sophisticated, sensual counterpoint to the raw and rough-hewn external elements. ARRCC's Jon Case, the lead designer for the project, chose to work with OKHA because of the design company's proven ability to connect to a deeper narrative, rooted in Africa. South African artists and craftsmen brought a handcrafted, hand-tooled feel to all the furniture. A contemporary South African art collection, each piece personally selected by Van Niekerk, adds exciting pops of primary colour.

Oxidised, patinated and etched processes on mild steel, brass and copper create a lustre and depth on surfaces that resonate with the surroundings. Marble and unpolished stone were chosen according to grain and colour, and rich tones, such as sienna, rust, ochre, and copper, all reflect nature's earthy palette. Naturally fallen timber from the veld was used to build a five-metre long dining table for each house. Handblown glass, such as chunky vases, and chandeliers made from bronze glass baubles in the shape of tamboti seed pods, add further texture and detail.

Diesel fumes and the roar of a workhorse engine are usually part of the stop-start process of tracking animals on the twice-daily game drives that define days on safari, but not here. While Van Niekerk was incentivised by being able to offer zero-emission, environmentally friendly game drives to his guests, as an ex-rally driver he also wanted the ride to be as comfortable as possible. The fleet of Toyota Landcruisers are all fitted with the latest Tesla battery technology. Fully charged, the electric engines will cruise for a full morning over any terrain before needing to be recharged using solar technology. They also have modified suspension and ergonomically designed seats with extra padding and

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**RESILIENT AND ROBUST,
THE OFF-SHUTTER CONCRETE
AND ROUGH STONE BUILDINGS
ARE CANTILEVERED OVER THE
LANDSCAPE, AND
CONSTRUCTED CAREFULLY
AROUND THE TREES.**



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1. Cheetah Plains won Best Luxury Bush Villa in the world at the 13th Annual World Luxury Hotel Awards.
2. Careful and considered use of materials heightens and reinforces the visitors' experience without resorting to clichés.



seat warmers. Avid photographers, particularly birders, will be thrilled by the advantages of gliding in near silence through the bush. All the sounds of the bush, including bird song and the rustling of the wind through the grass, are evident, providing the sensory overload more typical of exploring an area on foot. And if anybody is concerned about whether an electric-powered vehicle can make a quick getaway in an emergency situation, the acceleration is impressive.

Along with animal sightings with bragging rights and minimalist Afro-chic interiors, the luxuries of privacy and time are what set Cheetah Plains apart from the competition. A private guide, tracker and vehicle always

at the ready is a major perk of taking over one of these houses. With this comes the freedom to tweak everything about your stay from menus to activity times. From substantial, meal-in-one salads and cocktails around the pool to barbecued steaks matched to vintage red wines served around the fire under the stars, it's all about what you want when you want it. For as long as social distancing is a consideration when it comes to planning a holiday, not having to share space with strangers or fall in with anybody else's plans will make the likes of Cheetah Plains highly sought after. Its planet-saving credentials clinch the deal.

cheetahplains.com



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1. The central living area features a custom dining table, OKHA's Tofu dining chairs and Nancy barstools. 2. Jada sofa, solid timber brass plated coffee tables, De Riguour standing lamp and Chantel Woodman Roc Sculpture, all from OKHA. 3. Game drives are personalised and thrilling. 4. The wine cellar features custom Barnett dining chairs paired with a bespoke circular marble table and Bijou Marble side table.

The Art of Living

INSTEAD OF A CONVENTIONAL LODGE LAYOUT, CHEETAH PLAINS IS THREE STAND-ALONE, SELF-CONTAINED BUSH HOUSES, EACH ONE A MINI-LODGE IN ITS OWN RIGHT.



The Art of Driving

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The Art of Driving



PERFORMANCE

The all-new **LEXUS IS** takes high-level driving performance and sporty styling to new extremes.

Since the debut of the first generation in 1999, the Lexus IS has pursued the fun of driving unique to compact rear-wheel-drive sports sedans. In the new IS, the aggressive styling design creates a wide and low form characterised by sharpness, while the IS features advanced safety technologies, including an evolved version of Lexus Safety System+. As Lexus International Chief Engineer Naoki Kobayashi says, “What we had foremost in mind was to make a car that excelled in communicating with the driver... regardless of the road conditions or driving status.” Designers and engineers retained the compact body and aimed to make the new IS a compact sports sedan that provides high-quality ride comfort while offering a high level of vehicle control.

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**THE AGGRESSIVE
STYLING DESIGN
CREATES A WIDE
AND LOW FORM.**



The Art of Driving



The IS boasts a new version of Lexus Safety System+, which has further evolved through the introduction of advanced safety technologies.

The Art of Driving



MUSCULAR FENDERS, STRAIGHT-LINE-TYPE REAR COMBINATION LAMPS SPORTING AN

The Art of Driving



The dynamic new IS was developed extensively on the track.

“L” MOTIF, AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL BUMPER GARNISHES ADD TO THE AGGRESSIVE LOOK.

The Art of Driving



SHARP EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

In addition to slender headlamps featuring newly developed compact and lightweight lamp units, a low centre of gravity is expressed through low-positioned areas around the grille matched by lowered side character lines and the shape of the rear extremity of the trunk. Muscular fenders, straight-line-type rear combination lamps sporting an “L” motif, and three-dimensional bumper garnishes add to the aggressive look. In addition, new-design 19-inch tyres and wide proportions based on a wide track evoke a sense of sporty driving. A new-design Lexus Spindle Grille features a three-dimensional structure that originates from the foremost tip of the grille. Block forms based on a spindle motif combine with a mesh pattern to achieve a sporty impression.

There are now two new exterior colours developed for IS. These include Sonic Iridium, which accentuates the shape of the vehicle, as well as Sonic Chrome, which exhibits a metallic quality in a high-gloss finish. The F

Sport version boasts an exclusive “F” mesh pattern as well as a grille-bottom air intake, special 19-inch alloy wheels, a rear spoiler, and the F Sport-exclusive Radiant Red Contrast Layering external panel colour.

INTERIOR

The new Lexus IS features a beautifully crafted minimalist interior that combines high-end materials and state-of-the-art technology. The multimedia system with its new touchscreen is compatible with SmartDeviceLink, Apple CarPlay, and Android Auto, and linking a user's iPhone or Android smartphone to the wide 10.3-inch touchscreen allows for the remote control of the screen and audio functions. The interior design is also available two-tone colour schemes like Ochre or the F Sport-exclusive Flare Red, while the trim's graphic pattern of embossed intersecting lines represents a new Lexus interior design language.

The Art of Driving



1 3 4
2 5

1. and 2. The new IS features two new exterior colours – Sonic Iridium and Sonic Chrome.
3. Automatic High Beam detects preceding or oncoming vehicles.
4. Crisp and clear digital screens convey all the crucial driver information.
5. Dynamic Radar Cruise Control and Lane Tracing Assist (LTA) combine to help the driver stay on course.

IMPRESSIVE TECHNOLOGY

Dynamic Radar Cruise Control and Lane Tracing Assist (LTA) combine to help the driver stay on course. In the new IS, lane recognition performance has been improved. When LTA is activated, AI technologies are applied to camera-actuated, white-line recognition for advanced deceleration of the vehicle in line with the size of the curve. Keeping lateral g-forces constant while driving through curves contributes to stable and comfortable driving and makes driving assist more continuous.

Other new technologies include Automatic High Beam which detects preceding or oncoming vehicles. Various other forms of advanced safety equipment are featured on the new IS, including parking support brakes, and the Panoramic View Monitor, which supports periphery safety checks.

The new IS was developed extensively on the track, specifically at the recently established Toyota Technical Centre Shimoyama, which contains a series of separate tracks including one designed to simulate the Nürburgring.

ENHANCED SAFETY FEATURES

The new IS boasts a new version of Lexus Safety System+, which has further evolved through the introduction of advanced safety technologies, including added functions such as Emergency Steering Assist which improves the system's lane recognition performance. These advances are part of Lexus' continuing efforts to prevent traffic accidents and fatalities, reduce driver burden, and develop driver-assist systems that provide a more natural and safer driving experience. The Pre-Collision System has been improved to detect daytime cyclists as well as pedestrians in low-light conditions and oncoming vehicles and pedestrians crossing the street. Functions such as Emergency Steering Assist, assist steering within the vehicle's lane as cued by the driver.

IT'S ELECTRIFYING!

Building on a world-class reputation for battery technology and durability, **THE FIRST ALL-ELECTRIC LEXUS, THE UX 300E**, boasts the ultimate in battery management systems, power control units and electric motors.

1. NEWLY DEVELOPED LITHIUM ION BATTERY

The UX 300e is powered by a newly developed 54.3 kilowatt-hour high-capacity battery that achieves 400 km of range in the NEDC cycle, corresponding to over 300 km target range in the WLTP cycle. Located under the cabin floor and rear seat to ensure a low centre of gravity, the 288-cell lithium-ion battery pack enables the space and practicality expected from an urban crossover.

2. MAXIMUM BATTERY LIFE AND DURABILITY

Sensors monitor the voltage of each battery cell and block, as well as the battery cell temperature. In tandem with the car's advanced Battery Management System, this results in maximum usable battery cell capacity, and an extended driving range.

The battery cell air-cooling system is safer and lighter than water-cooled systems. With cooled air circulating inside the battery pack, stable battery output can be attained even at high speed and during repeated rapid charging. Working hand in hand with the cabin air conditioning, the system enhances the car's performance, battery life and charging performance. Heating elements under each battery module minimise the impact of cold weather on the driving range, ensuring full power is available from the start. Finally, for a long, trouble-free service life, the battery pack is fitted with rubber seals to protect it from water and dust.

3. PRECISION-ENGINEERED ELECTRIC VEHICLE TRANSAXLE

An ultra-compact new transaxle, with a 3-shaft layout and reduction gear mechanism to allow high motor speeds, delivers class-leading drivetrain performance and exceedingly low noise levels. For extended component life and super-smooth running, Lexus engineers have introduced improvements such as gear tooth surface polishing, a sound-proof cover and an optimised lubrication system.

4. HIGH-OUTPUT ELECTRIC MOTOR

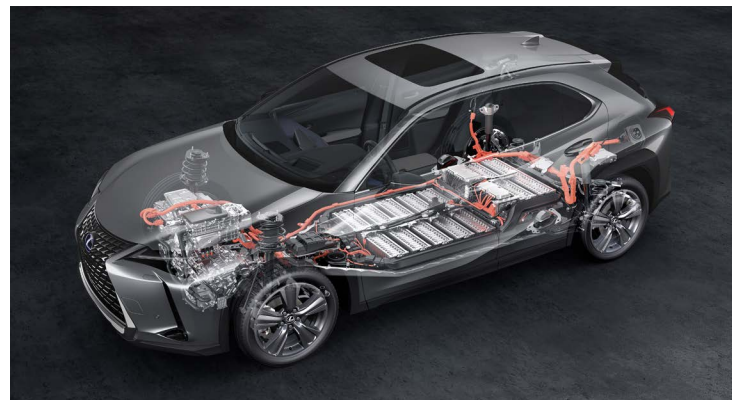
The UX 300e's all-new BEV drivetrain includes a high-output 150 kW electric motor/generator driving the front wheels. This lends the car a natural-yet-brisk acceleration character, delivering a top speed of 160 km/h and 0-100 km in a sprightly 7.5 seconds.

5. BUILT TO QUALITY STANDARDS

Ensuring the first all-electric Lexus shares the same world-class quality that is a mainstay of every Lexus car, the UX 300e is built alongside electrified hybrid models at Lexus' award-winning Kyushu plant. Production is overseen by its renowned 'Takumi' master craftspeople, who are famed for their minute attention to detail and exacting standards.



**A NEWLY DEVELOPED
54.3 KW/H HIGH-CAPACITY
BATTERY ACHIEVES
400 KM OF RANGE**



Directions

A 60 000-HOUR STORY

This thoughtful documentary questions **THE FUTURE OF MASTER CRAFTSMANSHIP** against the rise of artificial intelligence.

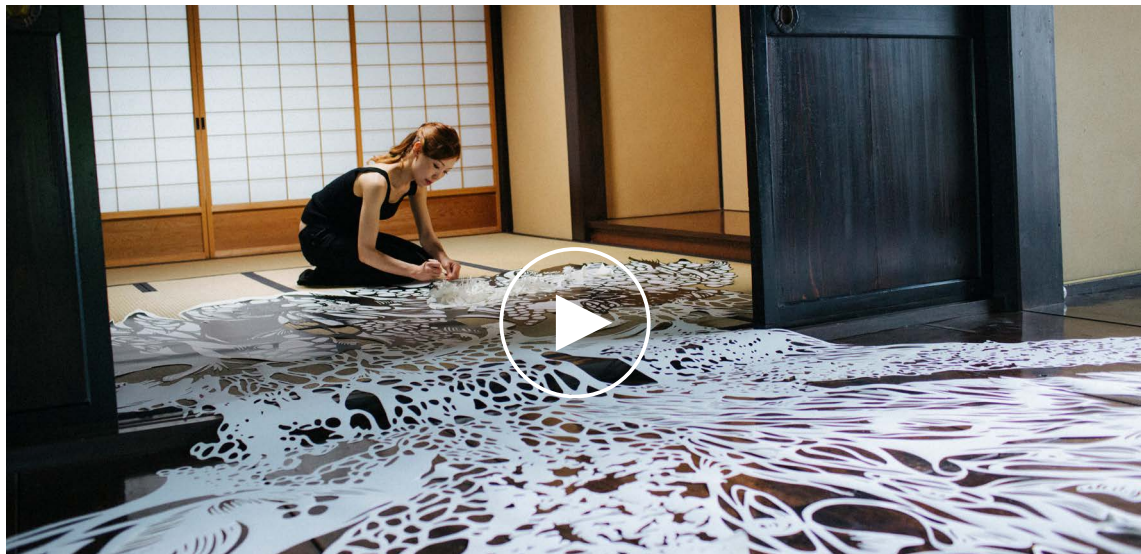
It's widely believed it takes 10 000 hours of study for the average person to become an expert in their subject. However, in Japan you're not considered a master of your craft until you've spent 60 000 hours refining your skills. That's the equivalent of working eight hours a day, 250 days a year for 30 years.

This fascinating *documentary* was made exclusively for Lexus and unveils the world of the Takumi – the highest level of artisan in Japan.

Takumi – A 60 000-hour story on the survival of human craft – follows four Japanese artisans who are dedicating their lives to their crafts, including a double Michelin-starred chef, a traditional paper-cutting artist, an automotive master craftsman and a carpenter for one of the oldest construction companies in the world. The documentary is unique in that the medium is also the message. There is a feature-length version plus a 60 000-hour cut which loops scenes of each Takumi's essential skills of their craft over and over again to highlight the hours, days and years of practice involved. Including interviews from world experts in craft and Artificial Intelligence, the short film also interrogates how we will honour and preserve human craft as we design machines to act more precisely and faster than humans ever can.



[CLICK TO WATCH IT HERE](#)



BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE FOLDER

Introducing **COCO SATO**, a UK-based origami artist who explores the traditional Japanese aesthetic.



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**SATO'S DELICATE PIECES
ALLUDE TO AN INCREASINGLY
FAST-PACED AND
STRESSED-OUT WORLD.**

Born in Tokyo and educated in London, Coco Sato's work is inspired by everyday life in her native Japan and her desire to foster understanding between different cultures. She is best known for translating traditional Japanese aesthetics into art forms with a uniquely modern edge. Using paper, fabric, food or simple electronics, Sato creates artworks and public origami installations.

The Lexus Creates initiative is a new social media content series that highlights design and craftsmanship. A range of talented partners inspire participants to create, while also elevating the value of their craft. The first instalment in the series partners with Coco Sato and helps bring the art, precision and creativity of origami to life.

Sato's delicate pieces allude to an increasingly fast-paced and stressed-out world and explore the relationship between human interaction, technology, space and nature. She is motivated by a belief in the power of people coming together to make a statement, create a movement or bring about positive change. Sato shares her art and skills through social media and video tutorials, encouraging viewers to make things and think with their hands.

"Lexus often seeks unique ways to connect with its audience, beyond the automotive realm," says Brian Bolain, General Manager, Lexus International. "The brand's human-centric focus and dedication to craftsmanship provide a natural foundation from which to reach out and engage around topics that have already proven to be of interest to our audience."

IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

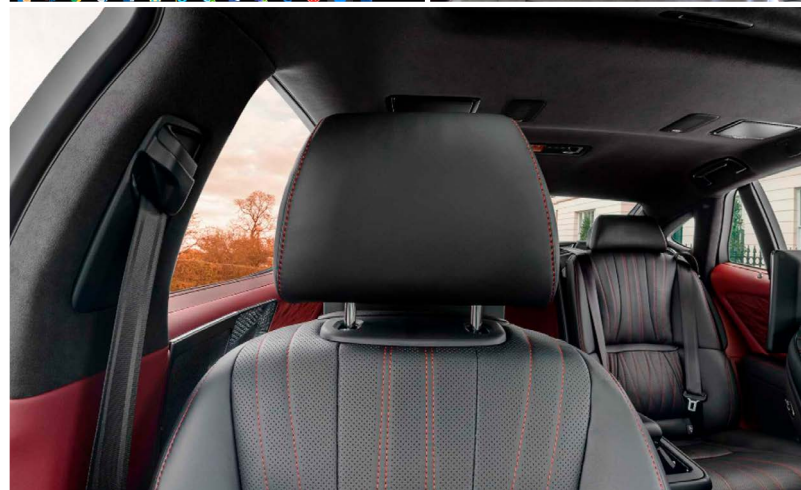
Upgrade your **NEXT VIDEO CONFERENCE** with a virtual driving seat from the most popular Lexus models.

Conduct your next Zoom meeting in style – and get behind the wheel of a luxury vehicle even if you can't get out to drive one. Virtual cockpits are available for the legendary LFA supercar, the high-performance RC F coupé, the popular LC sports coupé and the interior of the luxury LS saloon, where you can choose to drive or be chauffeured while enjoying its sumptuous rear seats.



HOW TO USE LEXUS VIRTUAL BACKGROUNDS

1. The backgrounds are available to download here: <https://blog.lexus.co.uk/lexus-virtual-backgrounds-best-seat-in-house/>.
2. Begin by downloading your Lexus of choice by clicking on the image, and then saving it to your device.
3. Once you've downloaded the image to your device, you need to upload your chosen interior to use as a virtual background in popular video-conferencing software or apps.
4. Sign into your video-conferencing app and head to your account settings. If using Zoom through a browser rather than using the Zoom app, you'll need to be in a meeting before clicking on settings.
5. Select the setting named Virtual Background or Choose background effect (under Audio & Video in some apps). If you cannot see the option, check with your organisation to see if it is enabled.
6. Click the + symbol or Add button to choose your virtual background.
7. Navigate to your downloaded file and select it for upload.
8. Your Lexus virtual background should now be enabled. Please note you may need a green screen, or at least a plain background, behind you.



The Innovator

V I R T U A L T E A C H E R

As a public school learner, **MBANGISO MABASO** never got the opportunity to experiment in a science laboratory. Today he is the founder of Sisanda Tech, and runs a project called Sisanda (formerly known as SI Realities). This is a virtual science laboratory app that uses augmented reality to enhance and make learning science easy, fun and engaging.

How did you get into the tech industry?

I attended public schools in Botshabelo, Free State. I remember the day our science teacher introduced a concept of generating electricity through the movement of magnets and motors. It was so fascinating – and I wanted to go to the science lab to experiment further. Once there, I found the doors were falling off, taps were blocked and there was no apparatus to perform our experiment. Later, this affected my time at university because it was a struggle for me to compete on the same level as students who had been exposed to well-functioning labs at their schools. I studied Electrical Engineering at the Central University of Technology, Bloemfontein campus.

What is your earliest memory related to science/technology?

I was in Grade 7 when my dad purchased our first PC. By Grade 9, I could change CPU ram cards and hard drives to improve the performance of a computer. My younger brother, Tshidiso, and I worked together. It was nice to build rigs at that age.

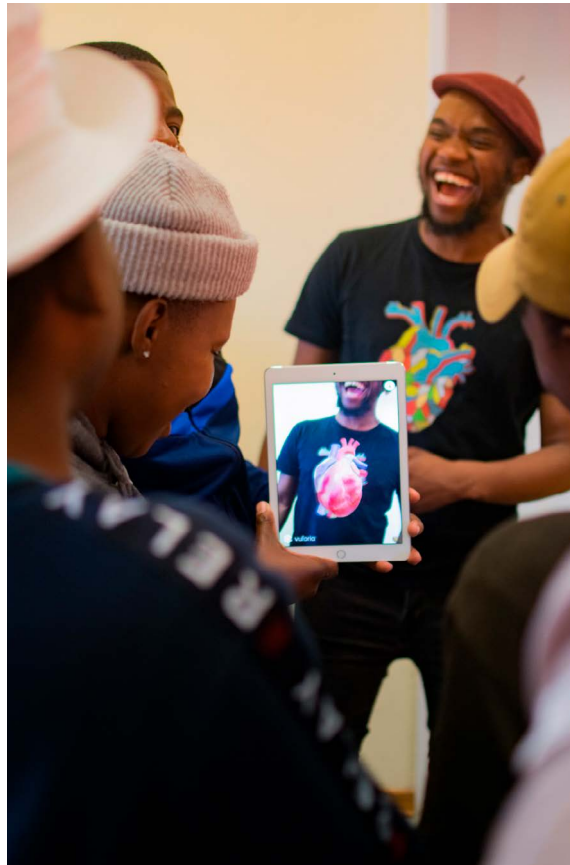
How and when did Sisanda (SI Realities) start?

Sisanda started in 2017 and was a pivot from my first mobile game EED. After I realised the importance of using games in education, I decided to use the same mechanics to solve the problem of a lack of science lab.

Who is your typical user?

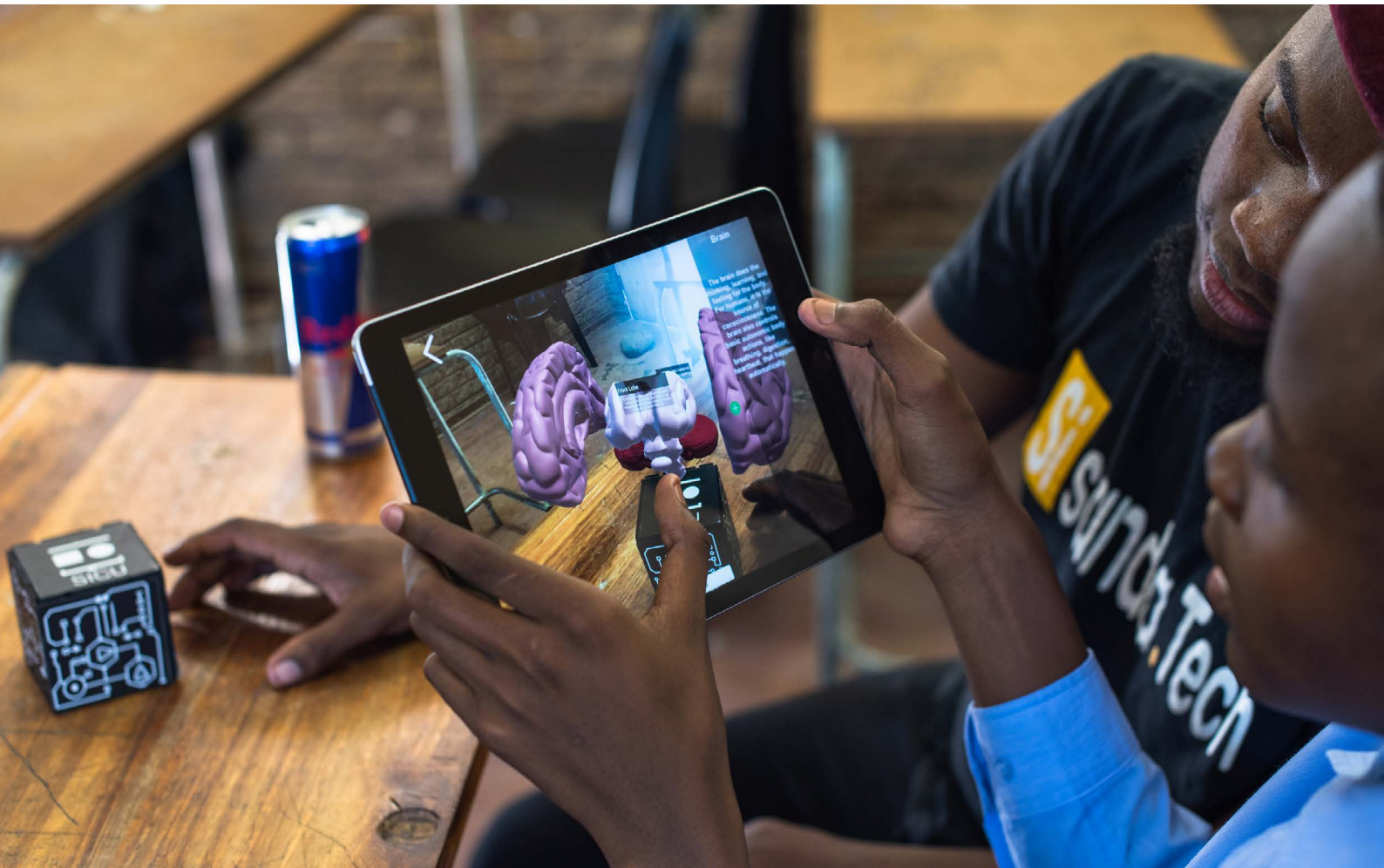
Our typical user is Babalwa (fictional name), who is between the age of 9 and 12. She is curious and always asks why certain things happen the way they do. Babalwa and learners at this age are developing critical and abstract thinking skills. They want to express themselves creatively. That's why Sisanda wants them to "wonder forever". Great innovation comes from those with wild imaginations and it starts at an early age.

**I DECIDED TO USE THE
SAME MECHANICS TO
SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF
A LACK OF SCIENCE LAB.**





Siscinda.Tech



What do you think appeals to them about the app?

Sisanda promotes visual learning in 3D, which keeps them engaged. We use simulation to explain concepts. The learning mascot, Simo, challenges users with questions and lets them explore their curiosity.

Why did you choose to build your business around the education niche?

My three nephews are learners at the same schools I used to attend. I wanted to create a virtual science lab that could benefit the 12 million learners in public schools, 400 000 + in private and the 100 000 who are homeschooled. This offers them an opportunity to explore their curiosity and experiment and play while learning. I chose the education sector because I wanted to solve challenges I encountered as a learner. The goal is to be able to give one million learners a good quality education from our apps and website.

I CHOSE THE EDUCATION SECTOR BECAUSE I WANTED TO SOLVE CHALLENGES I ENCOUNTERED AS A LEARNER.

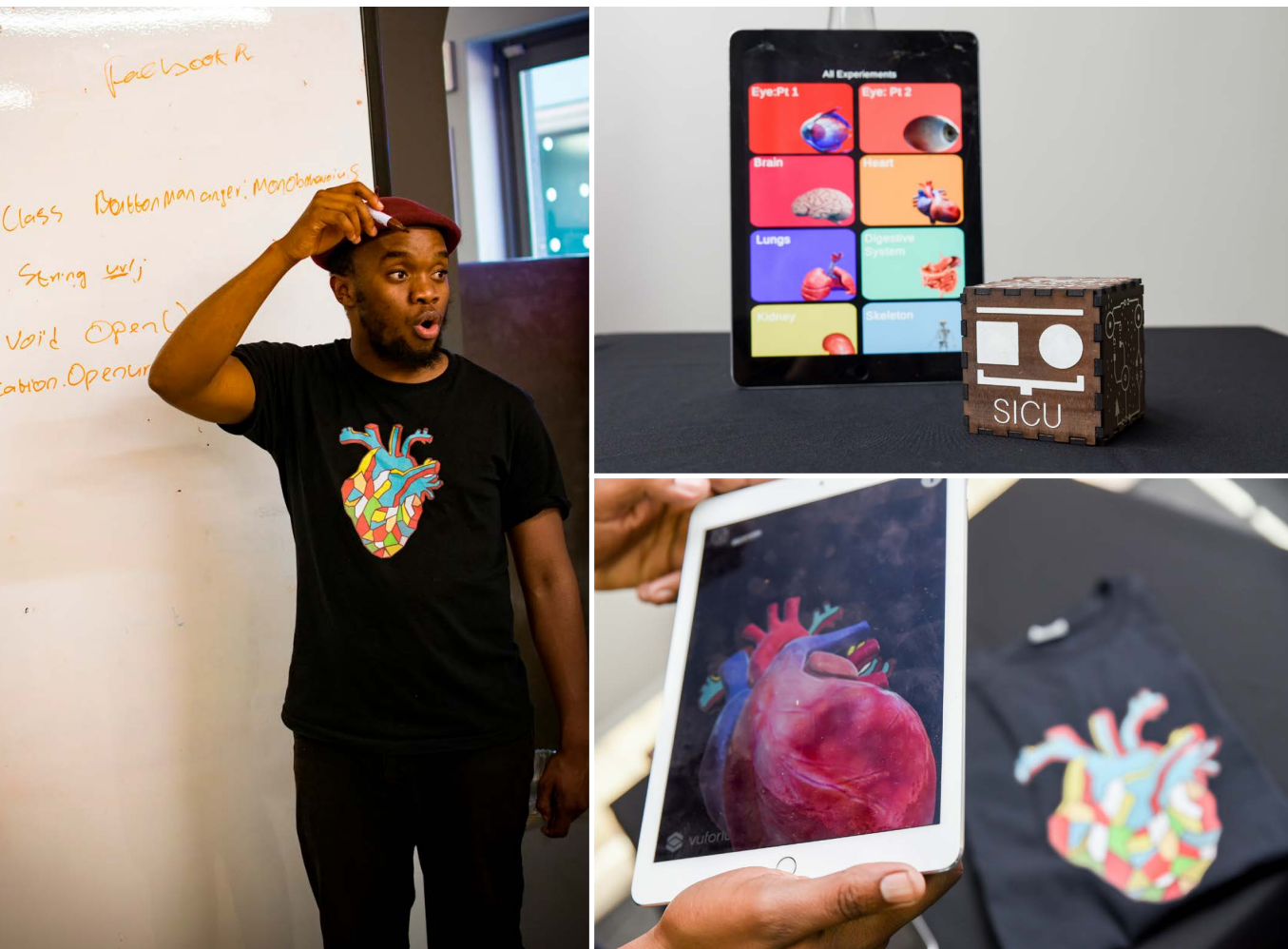
What is your role or responsibility within the business?

I'm involved in both product development and business development. I still wear many berets to ensure we get our product out the door.

Did you have a mentor or go-to people to guide you in the early days?

Yes, I had a mentor – Mr Lebohang Molikoe – but I'm sure he'd prefer me to call him my "go-to person". When I joined the Red Bull Basement and Red Bull Amaphiko,

The Innovator



I had access to Gavin Weale and Mixo Ngobeni. Alex Ernst, Nelson Sekgota, and Mia van Zyl from Tshimologong Makerspace still nurture us to this day.

If you were re-starting today, with zero money, would you seek funding from lenders and investors, or would you bootstrap your way through?

I love bootstrapping because it's quite challenging and makes you understand the business. We're still bootstrapping our business to reach more learners and deliver value. But at this point, we are seeking funds and grants for social impact. We believe education is a social issue, so we need the backing from investors who measure impact then profits afterwards since we believe we can provide both.

sisanda.com

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1. Mbangiso Mabaso is an enthusiastic entrepreneur.
 2. He has created the award-winning Sisanda app – a virtual science laboratory.
 3. The goal is to benefit the 12 million learners in public schools, 400 000+ in private and the 100 000 who are homeschooled.
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