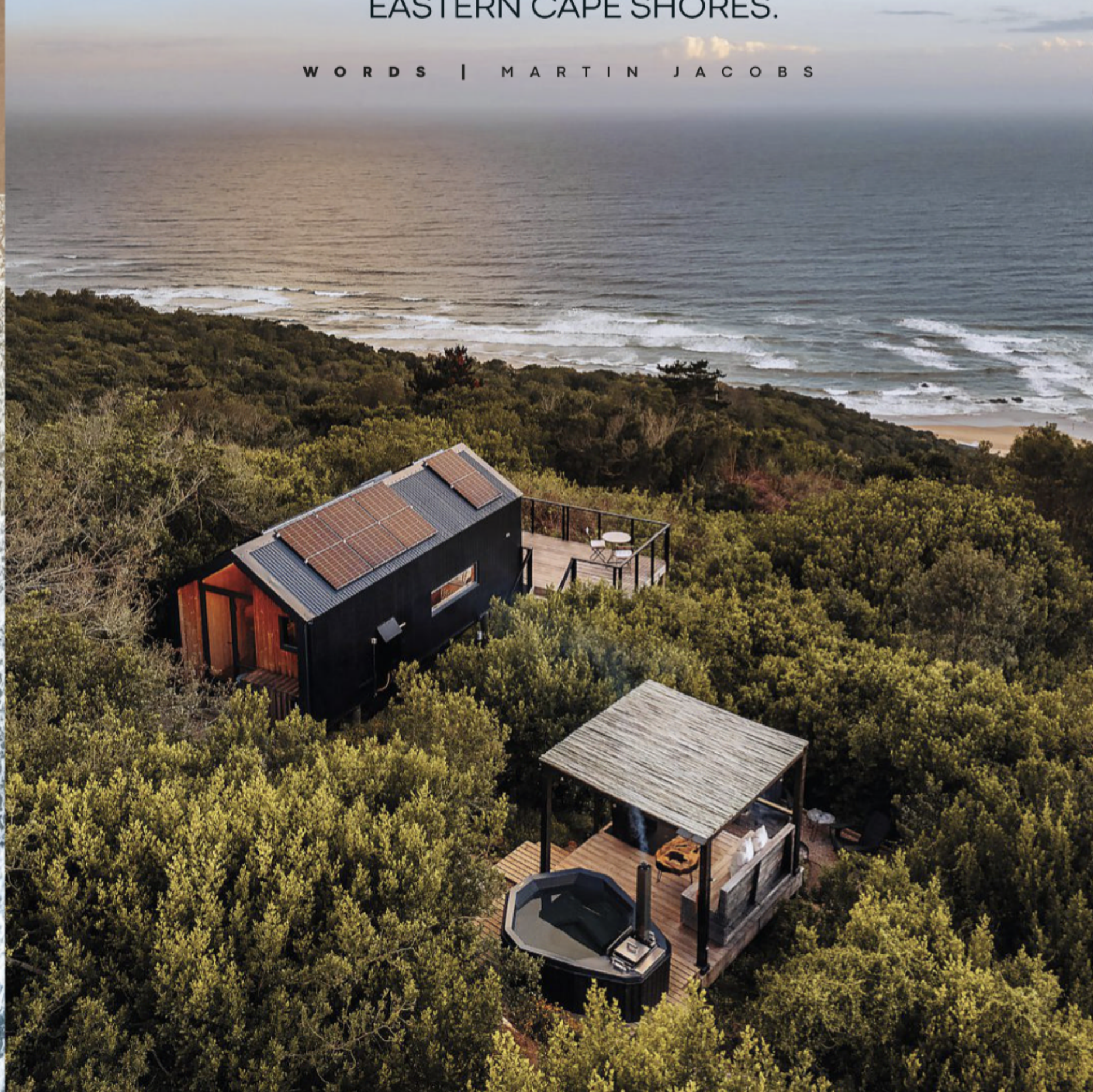




Cabin Confidential

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVEN THE MOST DISCERNING OF CABIN AFICIONADOS IN OUR ROUNDUP OF BEACHSIDE BUNGALOWS AND ELEVATED EYRIES ALONG OUR WESTERN AND EASTERN CAPE SHORES.

WORDS | MARTIN JACOBS



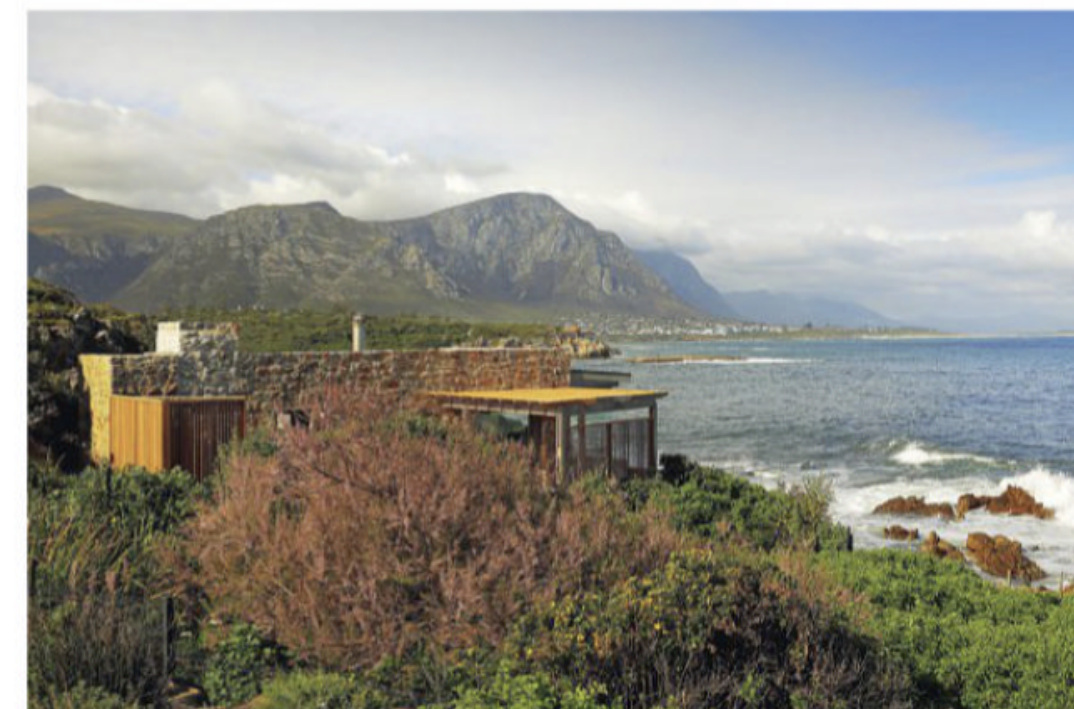
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COAL CABIN, WILDERNESS, GARDEN ROUTE

Positioned high above the Indian Ocean in five hectares of forest and fynbos near the Garden Route's rugged Wilderness, Coal Cabin takes an alternative approach to the traditional beach bungalow. Rather than straddling the shoreline, the compact A-frame is immersed in the landscape, with a glass facade framing the Indian Ocean beyond. Designed for two, the nano-cabin (that's minimal footprint, maximal efficiency, for the cabin-curious) boasts a *shou sugi ban* blackened timber exterior that blends with its hillside surroundings. Light filters through a skylight, windows and the glass frontage, and the compact interior includes a solar-powered kitchenette complete with a Nespresso machine, as well as an open bathroom. The layout of the interior prioritises one thing: uninterrupted ocean views. Furnishings are low-slung, inviting you to take in the seascape from the queen-sized bed, and encouraging you to make the most of outdoor spaces, which include a deck, a private boma, a firepit, a wood-fired hot tub and an outdoor shower. cocooncabin.co.za/rooms/coal-cabin



ABOVE AND OPPOSITE The *shou sugi ban* exterior of Coal Cabin camouflages it within the landscape; the nano-cabin's outdoor firepit. **BELOW** Centrally located, The Keep still feels removed from Hermanus's bustle. Designed by Newman Architecture and Design, the seaside cabin champions natural materials.





THE LANDSCAPE OF FYNBOS, MARSHLAND AND EVER-CHANGING LAGOON COLOURS IS A NATURAL COUNTERPOINT TO THE COTTAGE'S PARED-BACK CHARACTER.

■ THE KEEP, HERMANUS, OVERBERG

● Built into the remains of an old stone lighthouse, The Keep is a one-bedroom retreat that offers respite from the world while remaining centrally located in Hermanus. Access to the town's shops and Saturday farmers' market is easy, and matched by just-as-easy private access to Hermanus's cliff path. Designed by Newman Architecture and Design, the cottage nods to the character of the original ruin while introducing a restrained palette of lime-washed timber. It's about as sophisticated a take on a coastal cabin as you're likely to find anywhere, with large ocean-facing windows providing ample opportunity for whale-watching. Rustic materials and nature-inspired colours invite the landscape indoors, and are offset by modern conveniences that include Smeg appliances and

a Nespresso machine. Window seats make the most of The Keep's seaside location, as does the KolKol tub outdoors. For those in want of a swim, there's a tidal pool below the property. perfecthideaways.co.za/hideaway-hermanus/the-keep

■ HOUT HUISIE, CHURCHHAVEN, WEST COAST

● Isolated on a peninsula at Schrywershoek in the West Coast National Park, Hout Huisie delivers private island feels less than two hours' drive from Cape Town. This off-grid, two-bedroom timber bungalow couldn't get closer to the lagoon's rippling waters and sandy shore, and its closest neighbours take the feathery form of pink flamingos,



sandpipers and other migrant waders. The surrounding landscape of fynbos, marshland and ever-changing lagoon colours is a natural counterpoint to the cottage's pared-back character. Charm in the whitewashed interiors and on the spacious deck takes the form of blue-and-white decor (think slipcovers and French stripes) with red accents, and rustic-chic wicker and driftwood. Days at Hout Huisie kick off with kayaking and SUPing on the lagoon, include Mediterranean-inspired siestas, and end with braais in the adjacent lapa. With shops and restaurants nowhere nearby, and the southerly peninsula almost exclusively your own, the bungalow offers an idyllic opportunity to switch off, unwind and settle into Churchhaven's natural rhythms. perfecthideaways.co.za/hideaway-churchhaven/hout-huisie

ABOVE With casual whitewashed interiors, picturesque Hout Huisie in Churchhaven couldn't get closer to the lagoon edge.

BELOW Sleeping six - the most in our roundup - Casaplanca offers outdoor activities along Tsitsikamma's coastline.



PHOTOS: HENRIQUE WILDING, COURTESY OF LEIKESLAAP CABINS; CABIN SEEKERS, HENRIQUE WILDING, JOSH HILD/UNSPLASH



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