

Boschhoek Update June 2012

The background picture was taken by myself on Sunday, and that from my own stand by the dam at Waterval D!

Yes, winter has come, and Boschhoek is as beautiful as ever. After a comparatively dry summer, our main mountain stream is still flowing strongly, and the summer streambeds offer walkways from pool to pool.

I also had the opportunity to visit Kudu Ridge, the highest stands on Boschhoek. The views from up there are simply awe inspiring,



beautifully contrasting, for instance, with the lush leafiness of Wildeseringwoud.



Sales continue like clockwork, with buyers time and again confirming the combination of exquisite nature, back-to-the-bush affordability and rustic luxury being the key to Boschhoek's success at a time when everything else seems to be in suspense. Our full-page Saturday Beeld ads play their part, with support from ads in the Country Life, the July issue of Garden and Home, the Bronberger Magazine and others. Quietly sharing Boschhoek's secret with friends remains an important ally. The knowledge that Boschhoek may well be a last opportunity to obtain a full title bush retreat due to a recent change in legislation is often a deciding factor. Whatever the specific aspects may be, once one has been there, the lure of Boschhoek is extremely difficult to resist. Fortunately every stand on Boschhoek is uniquely special - it's only the extent of choice that lessens with time...

Once the approval of the surveyor plan is received we'll also be taking a view on letting Boschhoek soar. With this in mind, the emphasis of this update is on bush lodge building and design, to allow us to get our thoughts around how we want to express ourselves in our bush adobe. The fact that less than a quarter percent of the reserve will eventually be built up leaves more than enough room for you to build your dream.

Brick and mortar as traditional building method is known to most, so we'll let that lie for now. For those interested in doing something different, we have prepared an informal collection of alternative styles and approaches. Please note that this does not constitute an endorsement of any particular method for this area. It is intended to illustrate the proverbial ears of the hippo in terms of alternative building. A web search and some old fashioned lateral thinking will reveal much more. For more information, have a word with your own architect or with the Boschhoek control architect Gerd Bolt in Pretoria at (083) 285-6789.

Plastered sandbag walls is one method to consider, as seen here at the Kgalagadi Grootkolk Wilderness Camp.



For the full article by Crafford&Crafford Architects, see <http://www.ccarchitects.co.za/pdf/KALAHRI1.pdf> and <http://www.ccarchitects.co.za/pdf/KALAHRI2.pdf>. Do also take a wider look on their website at <http://www.ccarchitects.co.za/pages/news.php>
For more sandbag specifics, also have a look at <http://www.ecosteps.co.za/Sandbag-Building-System/EcoSteps-Sandbag-Building-System.pdf>

Note the combination below of different materials, colours and textures at the Kgalagadi Urikaruus Camp
http://www.sanparks.org/docs/parks_kgalagadi/tourism/New_Wilderness_Camps_2004-11.pdf.



Building with straw is a method which has been with us for centuries, combining excellent thermal qualities with a host of other advantages. The picture below of straw bale building with plaster over mesh comes from an article which appeared in Farmers Weekly on 24 September 2010.



As an alternative to traditional log homes, www.bloghaus.co.za in Pretoria feed a CAD home design to a hugely impressive woodcutting machine which then cuts every piece to shape and size for transport and assembly on site using a system of dovetail and other joints.



Dry stone packed wire mesh basket walls with optional plaster is another innovative approach. Below such a stone gabion wall is used for a screen wall in combination with reeds,



(From <http://www.insitucon.co.za/?p=263>)



or in combination with wood as integral part of a house.



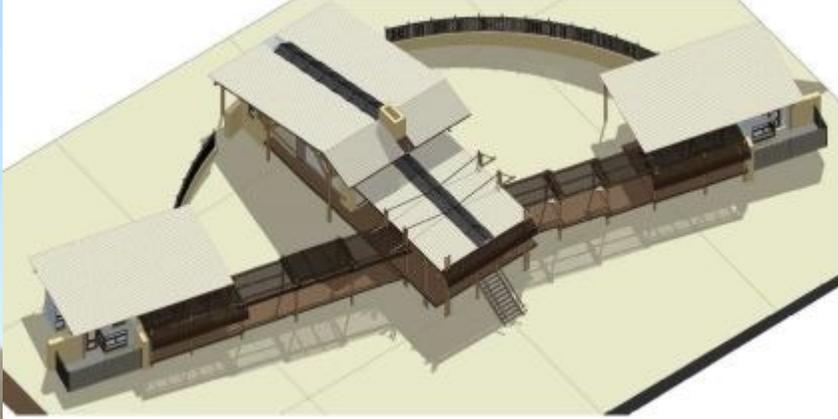
(From http://www.saia.org.za/resource/collection/D7931E50-7B22-4044-80EE-A5A4C4AEAFF2/ASA_54_Full_Mag.pdf)

Rammed earth walls, using a mixture of earth, gravel, sand, silt and clay placed inside form shutters and then rammed using mechanical or hand rammers, again providing excellent thermal qualities as well as a beautiful finish.



(From <http://www.2bgreen.co.za/projects.html>)

From Gerd Bolt Architects, a classic example of the satellite building concept with the sleeping areas joined to the living areas with wooden walkways...



Also have another look at the Hillbilly Homes slideshow on the Boschhoek website at <http://www.boschhoekmountain.co.za/Hillbilly%20Houses.html>

We'll conclude with another invitation to come and visit or revisit us at Boschhoek for a lovely day outing. Our field guide Jandre Higgo will meet you at Leeuwenhof Country Lodge and Garden Spa next door, and spend approximately three hours with you on Boschhoek. You may well want to combine it with an excellent light lunch at Leeuwenhof www.leeuwenhof.com, or contact them on (014)717-9811 for a particularly interesting accommodation offer.

Kindly call in advance should you wish to discover Boschhoek with us.

Regards

The Boschhoek Team

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hillbilly homes

