

# MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS

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A pert little holiday home is the newest addition to Rosendal's mostly 50s architectural landscape, and it's special. Not only because it won a regional architecture award, but also because it revives happy childhood memories for its owner.

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PHOTOS DAVID ROSS WORDS DEBBIE LOOTS



**01** The property's existing small brick building was spruced up to become the main bedroom of this new steel, fibre cement and metal-clad home.





city-slick design far away from what defines as truly South African country style – like thinking the main bedroom should be en-suite bathroom-free, because a bathroom out of the bedroom is just a little too suburban for

But let's go back to the beginning, back to 2007, when Ian bought the property, and there was only a small and derelict landmark building to talk of, and lots of reminiscing. "I had pleasant memories of my childhood spent in these surrounds," he says. "The association of a 'happy place' was natural, and the decision to build a weekend holiday home was almost immediate."

It took five years of dreaming and frequent visits to Rosendal to get the project on the road, and when it got going, it was

its roof lifted and became the main bedroom, but without the en-suite bathroom. explains: "I wanted the bedroom to be a quiet sanctuary, disassociated from most activities, and I made the entrance into the luxurious bath and dressing room from the glass passage. This also connects the bedroom with the large open-plan living space."

In contrast to the original building, the bulk of the house consists of a steel structure and fibre cement and is partly covered with metal cladding. The glass doors let in the green outside and provide warmth and character, echoed by the mix of heirloom furniture and custom-made fittings in the living space.

The second bedroom (this one *did* get an en-suite bathroom!) sits separately from the



flailing fields of grasslands, grazing sheep and the blue koppies of Rosendal, perches Ian Westmore's new holiday home. Designed by a longtime friend of the family, architect whose original and unconventional design approach he'd always admired, the house recently won a regional award from the Free State Institute of Architecture.

There could be many reasons for the achievement, including eco-friendly design approach and way of unifying the separate outside sections using decks, but it could also be because likes to keep

rural style – things took their good old time. That wasn't all bad, because by then Ian knew what he wanted in a holiday home: simplicity, easy maintenance, and that worse-for-wear little building preserved and incorporated into the design – never mind views from the north to the south, without the house getting in the way of the lovely landscape. Oh, and budget – that was another little niggle.

on board, w for his lightweight constructions and prototype home developments, and soon the show was on the road. The original little brick building got

house, complete with its own entrance, but cleverly integrated into the main house facade by a large slatted screen.

There could be many reasons this little house won that award, but maybe Ian will agree, the most important thing is that it's the perfect place to make more memories. Isn't that what life's all about? **V**

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**The house is a finalist for the Corobrik South African Institute of Architects awards, to be announced later this year.**



**01** Perched on the green grasslands of Rosendal, the house has all-round views stretching to the Free State's blue koppies and beyond.

**02** From the open-plan lounge, the sliding door opens up to where the rural landscape can be enjoyed on the all-weather, UV-resistant deck made from 70% bamboo chips and 30% renewable plastic.



01

**01** A clever elongated lounge window lets the sun shine across the round retro lines of heirloom furniture and a Persian rug that once belonged to Ian's grandmother.

**02** The house's south-facing sliding door and custom-made eco-friendly deck are framed by metal cladding.

**03** Large sliding doors and windows invite light and views, all the way from the north to the south, into the open-plan living area.

**04** [redacted] custom-designed the kitchen cupboards, while the dining table's riempie chairs were made by Ian's mother, who is also a carpenter. The vintage couch was restored and covered in vinyl by Lynne Slettevold.



02



03





**01** The metal structure of the slatted motorised screen frames the beautiful view from the separate guest bedroom. The slatted screen itself closes across the glass sliding doors of the northern entrance, securing the main house at night.

**02** The original small building on the property was restored and became the main bedroom, with windows to let in light while still providing privacy.

**03** The beautiful view is now only visible through the slatted screen that, when open, creates a private courtyard in front of the guest bedroom, the narrow deck of which leads to the main house's front entrance.



02

03



“THE DECISION TO BUILD  
A WEEKEND **HOLIDAY HOME**  
WAS ALMOST IMMEDIATE.”



**01** The northern facade of the house shows views right through to the southern side. The original brick building's corrugated iron roof was lifted to meet up with the rooflines of the new addition.

**02** Wild grasslands and evergreen bluegums permeate the vistas all around the small Free State town of Rosendal.



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