



An impressive 750kg steel Gregor Jenkin table with copper fittings above is at the entrance to the restaurant, Makaron.



A petrol-blue pool has a cool and calming effect.

Out of the BLU

Free rein for the designer has tra
Majeka house, writes Melanie P

WHEN the owners of a boutique hotel in Stellenbosch decided it was time to renovate, they put the word out for an interior designer on Twitter.

The social networking site churned out Etienne Hanekom, 39, an interior design consultant and the art director of glossy décor magazine VISI.

The end result is serene sophistication with a dash of the deliciously quirky – and very pleased owners.

Katrine Dequeker-Van der Merwe and Lloyd van der Merwe closed the hotel for three months and spent R10 million on renovating Majeka House, which enjoys stunning mountain and vineyard views. It has been a busy time for the owners, consultants and contractors who have just completed the project.

French-born Dequeker-Van der Merwe explains that she tweeted that they were looking for an interior designer. "It was actually Sam Woudlidge (writer and blogger) who suggested Etienne. She said he was young, talented and funky."

The couple gave Hanekom virtual carte blanche. He was charged with creating a newly built restaurant called Makaron, a lobby area for the hotel, a new lounge area and bar, known as The M Bar, a cigar lounge and two mountain-facing suites.

Dequeker-Van der Merwe admits that there were times she raised an eyebrow. Like the notion of deer trophy heads in the bar.

"What, stuffed animals?" was her shocked response. But it turns out that they were trophies cut from printed super wood. And there was the time he changed the white bar counter to petrol blue.

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