

home of the week

When Sue Lederle bought her Camps Bay home, it was dark, dingy and required considerable work but despite that, she was instantly smitten

IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT



COLOURFUL: Sue in the sitting room.



LIGHT AND BRIGHT: The lovely kitchen.

By Bianca Coleman

SUE LEDERLE'S parents owned the Houw Hoek Inn in Grabouw for 23 years and growing up there gave her huge insight into cooking, décor and general hospitality and hosting – all of which contributed to where she is and what she does today.

Other than a three-year stint in advertising, Sue followed this path and went on to run various cooking businesses, which included factory feeding, company functions for 500, and exclusive lunches for 50.

In 1987, tired of always working when others were having fun, she became involved with an interior business in Joburg, taking over from a friend who had begun it and wanted a change.

"A year later, I won a contract to do 40 houses at the very colourful Caribbean Estates on the South Coast of Natal. This put me on the décor map and I have since specialised in the design and furnishing of second homes, from beach houses to lush lodges and timeshare resorts," she says.

In between things in 2004, during a little "bored patch" and as she was doing so much travelling for the interior business, Sue took a travel and tourism course with a view to being able to book her own travel. This turned into a business, Concierge Travel, a successful boutique agency which employs nine and provides many happy travel experiences.

"With all this in mind, I travel a lot and have property interests in both France and Italy," says Sue. "I absolutely love the European style and this shows a lot in my decorat-

ing. But having said that, I designed and built a lodge bordering Kruger National Park in 2015 which is run as a commercial enterprise and has a very strong Moroccan style to it."

When her husband died, Sue needed to move from their lovely, rather large, Constantia family home. "I looked to be closer to my kids in Sea Point and also for a bit of a change of scenery," she says.

Once she had made the decision, the first house she saw on a property website was this one in Camps Bay. "I fell in love with it immediately as it really is like a bit of Sardinia, perched against the moun-

“It had a certain sense of style and the mountain and sea views added to the charm

tain with the best of both views – sea and mountain."

Although the house was dark and dingy, with heavy voile curtains and lots of dark brown furniture, Sue recognised it had a certain sense of style and, of course, the mountain and sea views added to the charm. "My kids thought I was crazy as it really was rather ugly inside but I could see the potential."

Sue completely redid the interiors, with extensive renovations to the living areas, making the kitchen open plan, and stripped and redid the bathrooms to make them light and colourful.



COOL AND CALM: Sue in the patio area.



PARTY TIME: The bar area.



MIRROR IMAGE: The bathroom in Sue's son's cottage



COMFORTABLE: The sitting area.



SEA VIEW: The pool and patio area.

PICTURES: JASON BOUD

"As I do this all the time, it was not necessary to call for help from architects or interior designers – but I would like to add that, thanks to my son Dean and his friend Brad, I do have an inside-outside bar.

"A second phase bit of fine tuning is required but I really am so happy with how it has worked out. It really is a fabulous space to be in and seeing it is actually three cottages I open the spaces when required."

Sue loves to surround herself with colour. "My style is classical with a lot of European and Moroccan influ-

ence. Although I have tried so hard to design and live with those lovely neutral, whites spaces, it is just not possible. As long as I have colour and lots of roses around me, I am happy."

As a frequent traveller, Sue says her house is a wonderful feel-good place to come home to. "Sometimes I just sit and stare, I love it so much," she says. "I entertain a lot and what makes me very happy when I have friends over is how much time they spend taking pics of my little space and how they love it.

As I live on my own, I never feel that I am in big empty spaces as the areas are all cosy and colourful."

Is this her dream home? "My friends and family will laugh at me being asked this question as I do move a lot. I'm project driven and so take these homes/properties on as a project. My homes are all let at some stage to cover costs and make the investment work. For now I am happy here, but who knows what's around the corner?"

See more of Sue's work at www.lodge23.co.za.



SLEEP TIGHT: Part of Sue's son's cottage.



STONY PATH: A stairway to Sue's son's cottage.