



IN A GLASS



OF ITS OWN

WHAT WAS ONCE THE GRAIN ELEVATOR TOWER OF A 93-YEAR-OLD GRAIN SILO COMPLEX AT THE V&A WATERFRONT IS NOW HOME TO ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST ANTICIPATED HOTELS FOR 2017:

THE ROYAL PORTFOLIO'S THE SILO.

PHOTOS MICKY HOYLE PRODUCTION SUMIEN BRINK WORDS ASHRAF BOOLEY

PREVIOUS PAGE

01 This is one of 80 chandeliers, hand-made in Egypt, that hang throughout the hotel, adding a homogeneous decorative element. From inside the rooms, visitors can enjoy unusual views of the Mother City through the building's geometric glass facade.

02 The Silo's bulging windows are a prominent feature of the architecture, starkly juxtaposed with its industrial surrounds.

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01 The hotel's foyer is adorned with a mix of striking local art. From left are three pieces from Mohau Modisakeng's *Ditaola* series; commissioned pieces by Jody Paulsen, *Must be the Rain* and *So Exotic*; and Frances Goodman's *Hooded Lady I, II & III*.

02 Barista Talent Moyo, who was trained at the Origin Barista Academy, ready to fuel guests with a cup of joe.

03 The bold, beautiful Tesla chandelier by Haldane Martin in the hotel foyer makes a dramatic statement.



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FROM

a distance, The Silo with its unusual glass-bubble facade is a towering landmark. There is nothing quite like it in the city's skyline. The six-floor hotel, which opened its doors on 1 March 2017, is set atop the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (due to welcome its first visitors in September).

Setting the tone for the hotel's architecture are bulbous faceted windows resembling compound eyes that overlook Table Mountain, Signal Hill, Robben Island and the sea. It was Thomas Heatherwick, founder and principal of Heatherwick Studio in London, who rose to the challenge of transforming the elevator tower into a boutique hotel that is wowing locals and foreign visitors alike with its awe-inspiring aesthetic.

"The redeveloped building is a beautifully contrasted mix of historical infrastructure and modern design," says Ross Bowers of The Royal Portfolio.

The interior features a combination of eclectic and contemporary (mostly custom-made) furniture and accessories. This includes a charming chandelier by Haldane Martin and a beautiful work of art by Mohau Modisakeng in the foyer.

The glamorous Liz Biden, owner of The Royal Portfolio, is the design maven behind the hotel's striking interior. The 28 rooms are individually decorated. Liz says her goal has always been to provide their guests with luxury and every amenity. "This has meant balancing the stark and industrial style of the architecture with aspects of classic glamour and contemporary comfort."

There are seven room categories: a 211 m² penthouse (with a 24 m² balcony), two royal suites, four family suites, seven deluxe superior suites, six superior suites, four luxury rooms and four silo rooms. Accommodation rates start at R12 000 per night.

The rooms' colour schemes were determined by items that Liz drew inspiration from, such as a vibrant piece of fabric, a rug or a painting discovered on her travels around the world. And each bed has a unique headboard made by Moorgas & Sons, just one of the local manufacturers she used.

In every bathroom, a soothing sanctuary awaits the weary. The bath (oh, the bath!) is perfectly positioned by the 5m-tall floor-to-ceiling window. Just imagine soaking in the tub while soaking up a spectacular view of the Mother City – no other bath will ever compare.

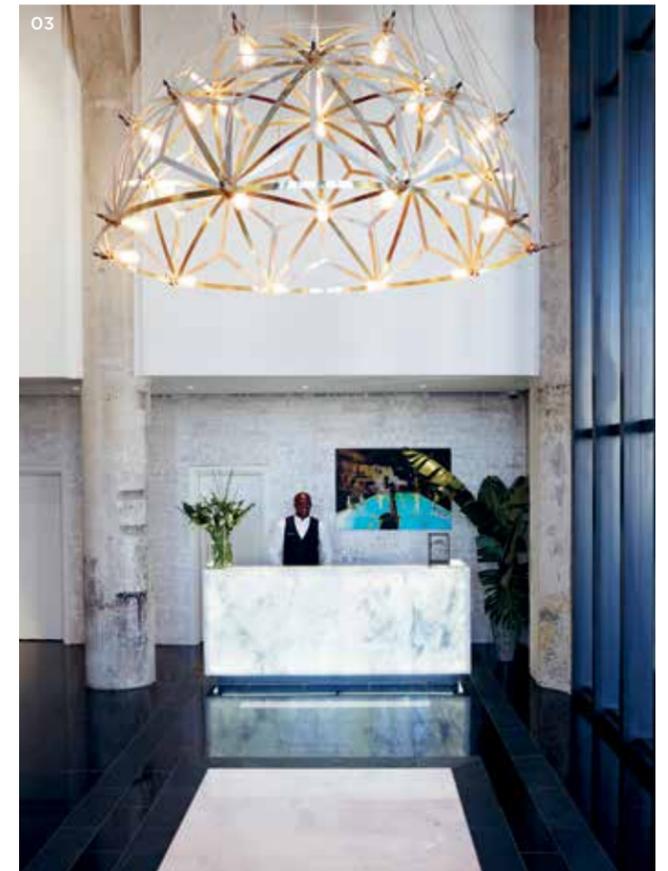
A spa and gym; a piano bar; and a rooftop swimming pool, restaurant and champagne bar round out The Silo's pleasures.

When the sun sets, those huge faceted windows light up, turning the building into a lodestar in the city's topography. ✓

- heatherwick.com
- theroyalportfolio.com/the-silo



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- 01 Guest Relations and Concierge Manager Hoon Kim is a member of Les Clefs d'Or – one of only 12 members in Africa to display the esteemed golden keys.
- 02 An eclectic collection of African curios, jewellery and accessories selected by Eugene at Tribal Trends. The hotel's warm wooden floors were installed by Oggie Flooring.
- 03 Inspired by the steel rings originally used inside the grain elevator, the circular chandeliers by ADA Lighting help to preserve the historical significance of the building.
- 04 The Willaston Bar is named after the first ship to carry grain from the silo complex to Europe, in 1924. It serves classic cocktails and a variety of local and international wines. Moorgas & Sons made the gorgeous teal stools using soft leather imported from Italy and the sofas in luxurious blue velvet.

THE FOYER IS ADORNED WITH A MIX OF **STRIKING LOCAL ART.**





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- 01 The private dining room in the penthouse is fit for royalty.
- 02 In the deluxe superior suites on the eighth, ninth and tenth floors, guests can take a bath in unrivalled style.
- 03 A painting by Ralph Krall, a dear friend of Liz's who lent a hand with the interior design, hangs in one of the 47 m² luxury rooms.
- 04 The penthouse bedroom is unparalleled. It features, among others, two walk-in wardrobes, two bathrooms and a massage room.

THE 28 ROOMS ARE **INDIVIDUALLY DECORATED.**



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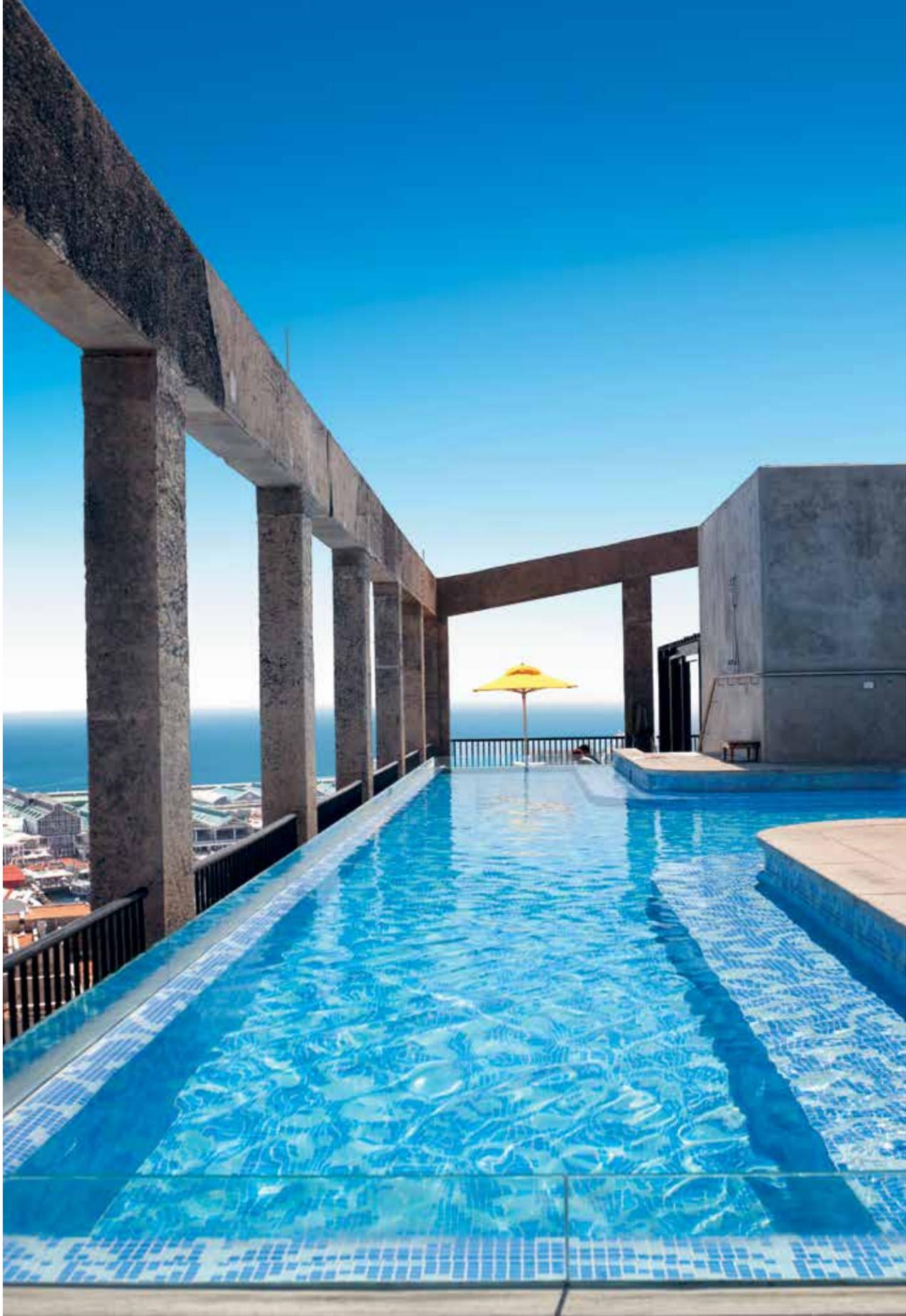


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“IT IS A BEAUTIFULLY CONTRASTED MIX
OF HISTORICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND
MODERN DESIGN.”

01 The glass-walled pool on The Silo's rooftop must offer some of the best views of any hotel swimming pool in the world.

02 Also on the rooftop are a champagne bar and a restaurant, so guests can enjoy a tippie and a light meal while enjoying unsurpassed views of the cityscape.



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