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FIFTY8
ON
V

We are Blok.

The soothing far-off bustle is below as your front door closes with that reassuring click you've known your whole life. It's quiet now.

You feel high above the world yet never disconnected from it, in your own succinctly thought out space where design's only purpose is to put you at the centre of your home. A place where aesthetics, practicality and intuition come together. Effortlessly. Seamlessly.

The time is now to once more live in a thriving neighbourhood you can call your own. An urban environment defined by creativity and energy. You're close to everything here. Because this is home.

A life curated just for you.

Defined by Blok.





Jacques van Embden Managing Director and Co-founder of Blok

FIFTY8ONV is our first Blok development in the City Bowl and we are incredibly excited to have the opportunity to develop in such a vibrant neighbourhood in Cape Town.

Vredehoek is nestled within the natural bowl landscape from the lower edges of Table Mountain right into the heart of town, but what makes this suburb unique is how both city and nature have their equal parts to play here. From beneath the trees in Deer Park to the colourful madness of long-time establishments on Derry Street, there is a warm sense of community in one of the most picturesque parts of our fair city.

The combination of these urban nodes with open public spaces and a focus on all things natural, including farming, makes this varied and dynamic suburb the perfect platform for being a new age urban citizen. The residents here have worked to ensure an openness and safety that promotes a participative community that feels like home.

In line with global trends, Blok has been focusing on the shared elements of our buildings and brings a first to the Vredehoek market with a focus on the usability of the ground and roof levels.

With secure parking for bicycles and motor cycles on ground floor we are focused on the varied modes of transport in modern cities as well as designing an enticing entertainment level on the roof that is set against the gorgeous backdrop of the best the city bowl has to offer.

I hope you enjoy **FIFTY8ONV** as much as we have thus far.



Marco van Embden Co-founder and Chairman of Blok

It gives me pleasure to pen a few words about our 4th development project, situated in a perfect location in the City Bowl.

Nestled on the lower slopes of Table Mountain with Devil's Peak as its backdrop and sweeping views of Lion's Head, Signal Hill, the harbour and the City.

Reflecting on the neighbourhood of Vredehoek transports me all the way to my schooling days at Herzlia, walking distance from **FIFTY8ONV**. Geoff Cohen, a 35 year Herzlia stalwart and presently Education Director is interviewed in this magazine.

Today, I work in the upper City Bowl, also within walking distance of **FIFTY8ONV**. Times have changed since my school days, even with the huge growth in vehicular traffic, walking and cycling has gained much traction in the City these past years.

FIFTY8ONV is perfectly situated to take advantage of such a lifestyle, walking, cycling and with MyCiti bus service just down the street. There is even a skateboard park close by for the young at heart.

Jacques and the team at Blok have developed an impressive level of integrity in all that they bring to the Blok family of owners, I remain impressed with their attention to detail and commitment to deliver the promise. This augurs well for the future.

We welcome all who share this journey with us and invite you to be an owner in what will be a unique and well thought out apartment block.

Situated on a Sunday-quiet street on the edge of the city, **FIFTY8ONV** offers the convenience and excitement of urban living with the feeling of a weekend escape, without having to fuel the car or cancel the newspaper.

Taking its cue from the bountiful nature that surrounds it, **FIFTY8ONV** combines modern design with an abundance of greenery throughout. The playful façade incorporates steel, glass and wood in unexpected angles, while vertical greenery adds a living quality to the built element.

Each intuitively designed apartment reflects the meticulous thought and care applied to Blok's design process.

Every space is optimised to ensure that you and your home exist in perfect harmony and our curated "Third Spaces" such as the bar, home office or daybed allow your apartment to feel like a home.

Add to this peerless finishes such as Oggie oak flooring, Smeg appliances throughout and the romance of your bio-ethanol fireplace and your home is complete.

The rooftop deck is where you can clear your head and unwind. Here, in your sanctuary in the sky, the beat of the city pulses below while you sit back and appreciate the spectacular 360-degree views of Lion's Head, Table Mountain, Devil's Peak, the city and the harbour.

At your front door a friendly face awaits you in the lobby to greet you each time you come home.

Welcome to your new home at **FIFTY8ONV**, your slice of paradise at the edge of the city.



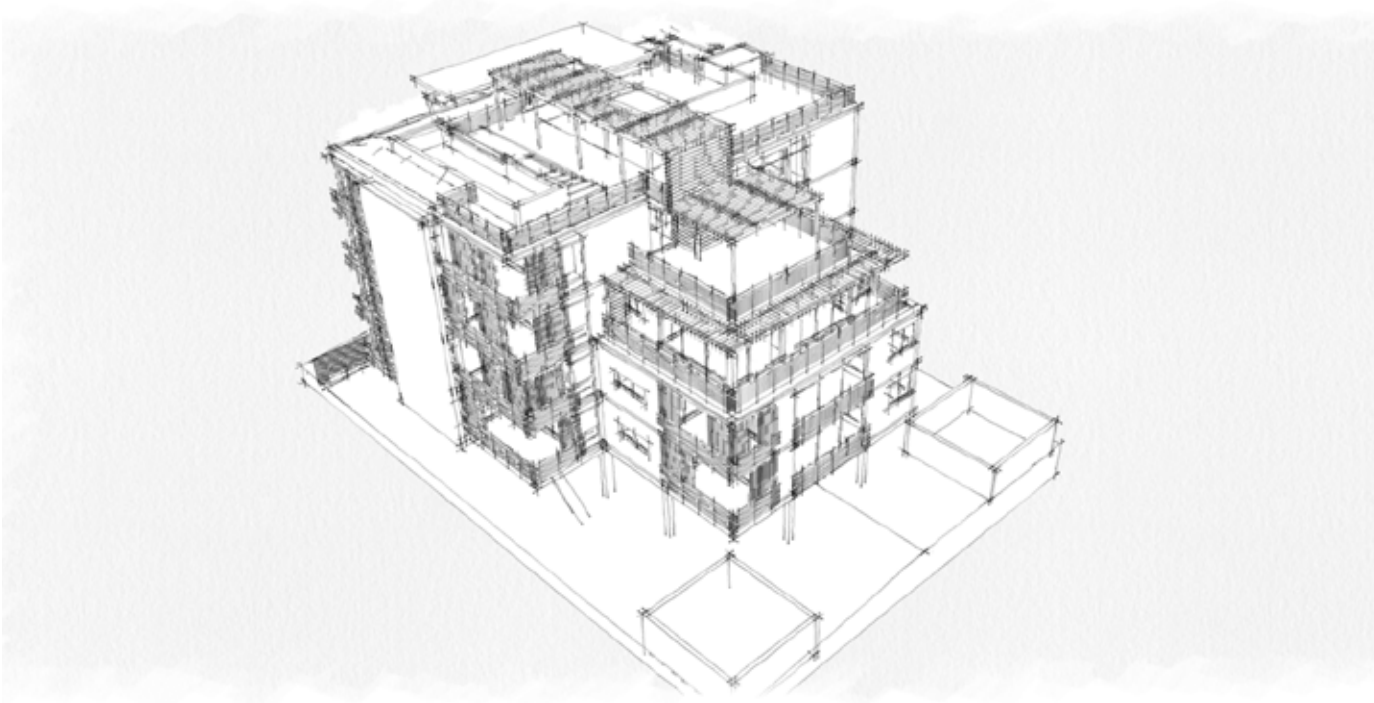
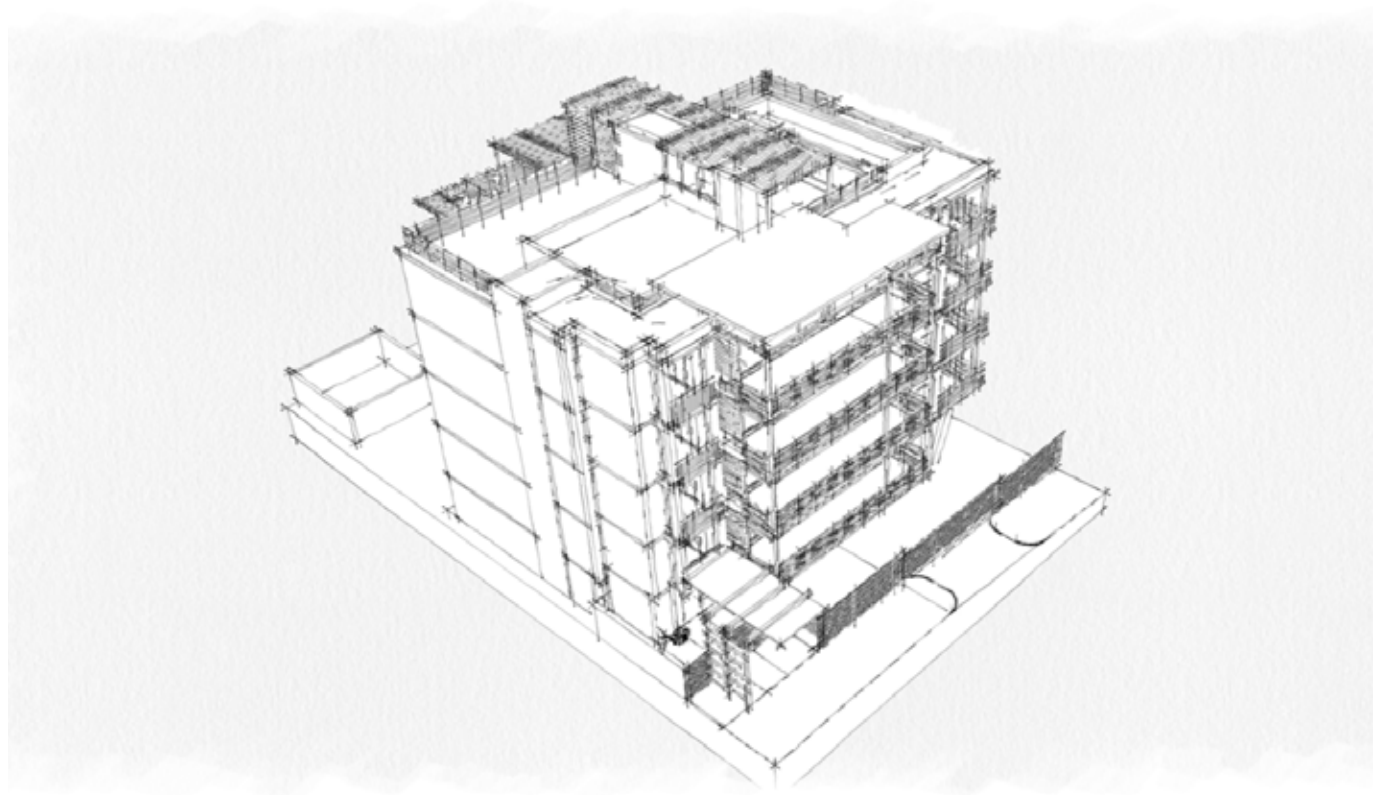




Table of Contents

014

Architects Interview

034

Floorplans

022

Nick Gluckman
Interview

050

Neighbourhood Overview

030

The Third Spaces

052

A Day in the Life

033

Apartment Overview

054

Blok Community

Wauw Factor

Photos by
Julia Merrett

Interview by
Kate Thompson-Duwe

The location and zoning of FIFTY8ONV is such that the resulting allowable envelope has a very pleasant scale and proportion from the outset.

This led to a fairly seamless design process where the building seemed to be designed organically by the site parameters and site itself rather than this being dictated to by a specific creative agenda.

One of the primary considerations in Vredehoek guiding the design is the wind. The functional circulation spine of the building has thus been placed asymmetrically to the south-eastern, or windy side, of the site to free up space on the more favourable sides of the building.



This allows for balconies that are sheltered from the dominant summer winds and that take full advantage of the incredible panoramic views in all directions - Table Mountain, Devil's Peak, Lion's Head, Signal Hill, the City Bowl and the greater Cape Town. Further shelter from the wind and sun is provided by timber sliding screens which also give a sense of warmth and privacy to the apartments.

Corner windows and large sliding doors further help break the divide between inside and outside; a very prominent feature in Blok's design ethos. Living & bedrooms open onto generous north-west facing outside balconies creating the perfect location to enjoy the late afternoon sun as it sets behind the silhouette of Lion's Head.

The guarded entrance and lobby are inviting with bicycle parking and a seat to one side stretching from the boundary all the way into the lobby leading the visitor into the building.



The parking requirement for this project dictated that the maximum area on the ground floor needed to be dedicated to cars. This was used as an opportunity to raise the building onto columns and allow it to seem to float off the ground. To enhance this floating effect some of the columns were tilted at angles thus breaking the expected structural support pattern as well as adding to the playful nature of the design.

To replace some of the greenery and potential social space lost to parking on the ground floor, a communal rooftop terrace has been designed with a pool, braai areas, tanning decks and lots of planting. Once again the wind played a great role in the design and orientation of the elements on the roof. The roof is thus much more than just a weather barrier, but rather a living functional space with spectacular 360-degree views of the city and surrounds.

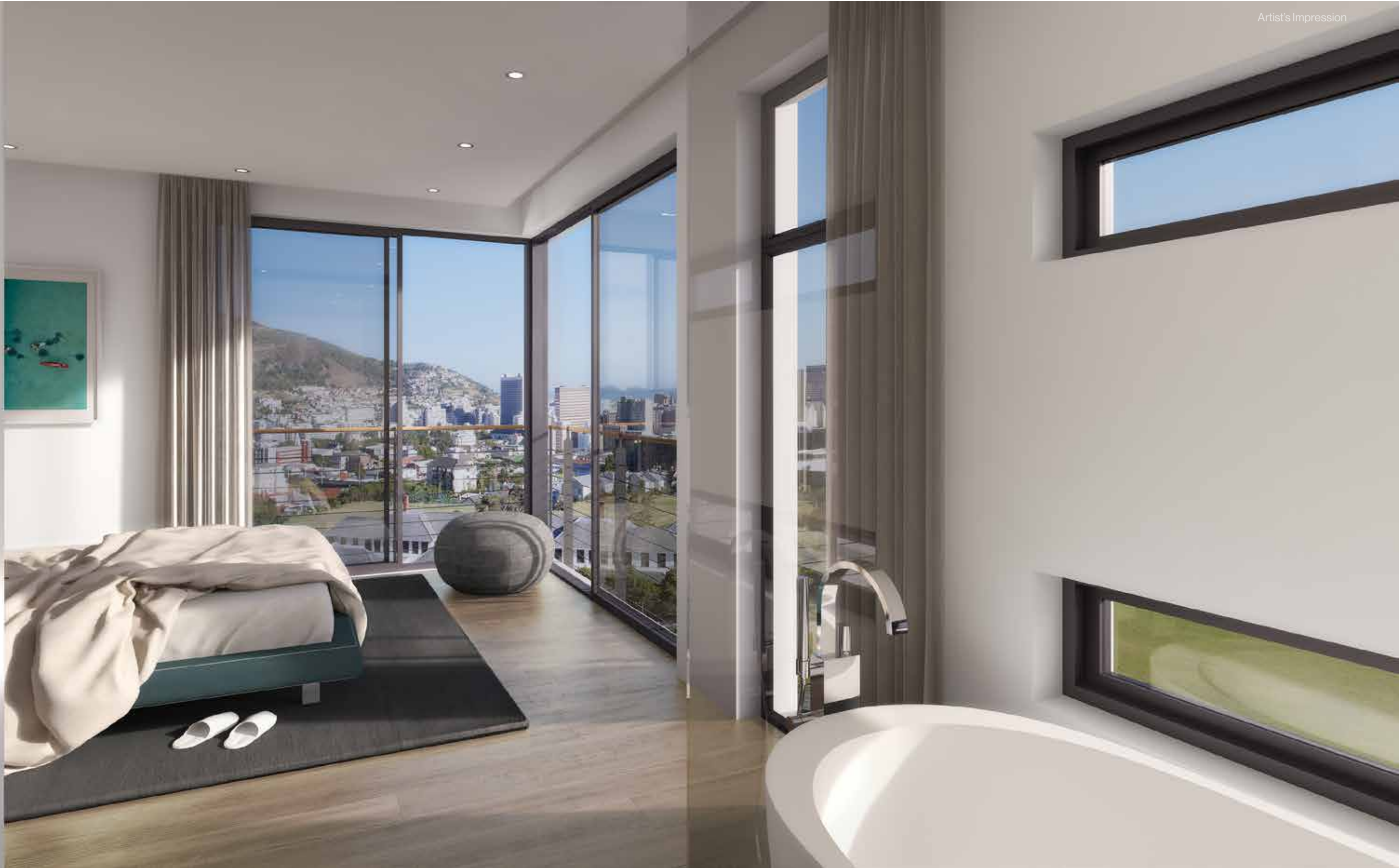


The street-facing façade of the building provides a people-friendly scale consisting of overhanging balconies covered in horizontal greenery. With the circulation core placed to the one side, the temptation to create a symmetrical front to the building was resisted and instead a playful yet balanced asymmetrical façade has been designed.

The Balconies on the front of the building have been used as an opportunity to create a clip-on steel box whose balustrades are employed to create decorative planes to the front and sides of this box.

The provision of extensive planters on balconies and lattice structures encourage the growth of creepers and greenery onto the building. The building is thus a substrate to be overgrown and inhabited and a basis to inspire a new urban ecology.







Curated living

Oggie Flooring is a locally owned and run business specialising in carefully chosen, top quality European oak multi-layered hardwood flooring, manufactured to only the highest standards.

Owner and founder Nick Gluckman runs the business, and is the proud preferred flooring supplier to many of our country's leading architects and interior designers, and to Blok, with his focus now firmly FIFTY8ONV.



Nick, give us an intro to Oggie and your role as owner of the company:

Oggie's commitment to uncompromising service has led to the growth of a loyal client base, including the who's who of the local design and building world.

My role in the company is to manage our young energetic team around the country, source new innovative wood flooring products, keep things fresh and create a fun yet unique experience when dealing with us.

What is the company's green ethos?

Oggie is proud of being the only flooring stockist in South Africa to attain the internationally recognised Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) 100% certification. The FSC is an independent, not-for-profit body that promotes responsible management of the world's forests.

Is this the first development you've worked with Blok on?

No, this is the 4th development that I've worked with Blok on, and I look forward to many more.

What was your brief for FIFTY8ONV and how do you plan to meet this brief?

Blok first and foremost stands for quality, so this was our first checkpoint. Following that, we wanted to deliver on durability and warmth, and aesthetically, a natural, wide plank oak floor with smokey grey undertones was requested. We are fortunate to have over 5 options to choose from with regards to this spec so we were more than confident to take on the job, and in the product we are delivering.

How do you see Oggie hardwood flooring benefitting the owners and residents in FIFTY8ONV?

We look at our floors as a fashion and design statement, same as you would a vintage or contemporary piece of furniture. When someone walks into your apartment, it will be the first thing they comment on. The brand name is also one that is well known and respected, so adds value to any property.

What are the similarities between the Oggie and Blok brands?

The Oggie and Blok brands suit one another so well due to the companies having a

similar ethos on uncompromising design, environmental and social awareness, and strong brand equity from excellent and ongoing customer service. We pride ourselves in giving people not only what they want, but what they deserve; something that Blok does exceedingly well.

Any international design trends that influence your product?

I travel to fairs and our various factories many times a year to keep ahead of new trends and also to continue providing new and innovative products to our clients. More natural, authentic and vintage looking floors will be the trend for 2015, so the Blok brief was spot on trend for the year ahead.









The Third Spaces

Blok's design philosophy places emphasis on optimizing the valuable spaces in an apartment that make a house a home. Inspired by how our future homeowners will live in their Blok apartments, great care and consideration has been taken to ensure that your home is functional as well as beautiful.

We call these the "Third Spaces", which provide a retreat from the day-to-day, every day. Spaces created to become special moments of living in your home, where you can simply just be.

Drift away in thought or get lost in a great read on your daybed on a quiet afternoon. Fix yourself and friends a favourite drink at your perfectly positioned cocktail bar and revel in the good times. In your beautifully thought out home office, the world can cease to exist and you can simply get things done in your own time.

These are the Third Spaces.





Apartment Overview



4a

Fourth Floor
Penthouse
Two Bed
Two Bath
88 Interior
25 Exterior
113 Total
Two Parking

4b

Fourth Floor
Penthouse
Two Bed
Two Bath
103 Interior
52 Exterior
155 Total
Two Parking

Apartment availability is subject to change. Please check with our sales team for updates.

blok.co.za
sales@blok.co.za
+27 87 752 66 77

3a

Third Floor
Two Bed
Two Bath
88 Interior
25 Exterior
113 Total
Two Parking

3b

Third Floor
Two Bed
Two Bath
103 Interior
13 Exterior
116 Total
Two Parking

3c

Third Floor
One Bed
One Bath
57 Interior
29 Exterior
86 Total
One Parking

2a

Second Floor
Two Bed
Two Bath
88 Interior
25 Exterior
113 Total
Two Parking

2b

Second Floor
Two Bed
Two Bath
103 Interior
13 Exterior
116 Total
Two Parking

2c

Second Floor
Two Bed
Two Bath
91 Interior
11 Exterior
102 Total
Two Parking

1a

First Floor
Two Bed
Two Bath
88 Interior
25 Exterior
113 Total
Two Parking

1b

First Floor
Two Bed
Two Bath
103 Interior
13 Exterior
116 Total
Two Parking

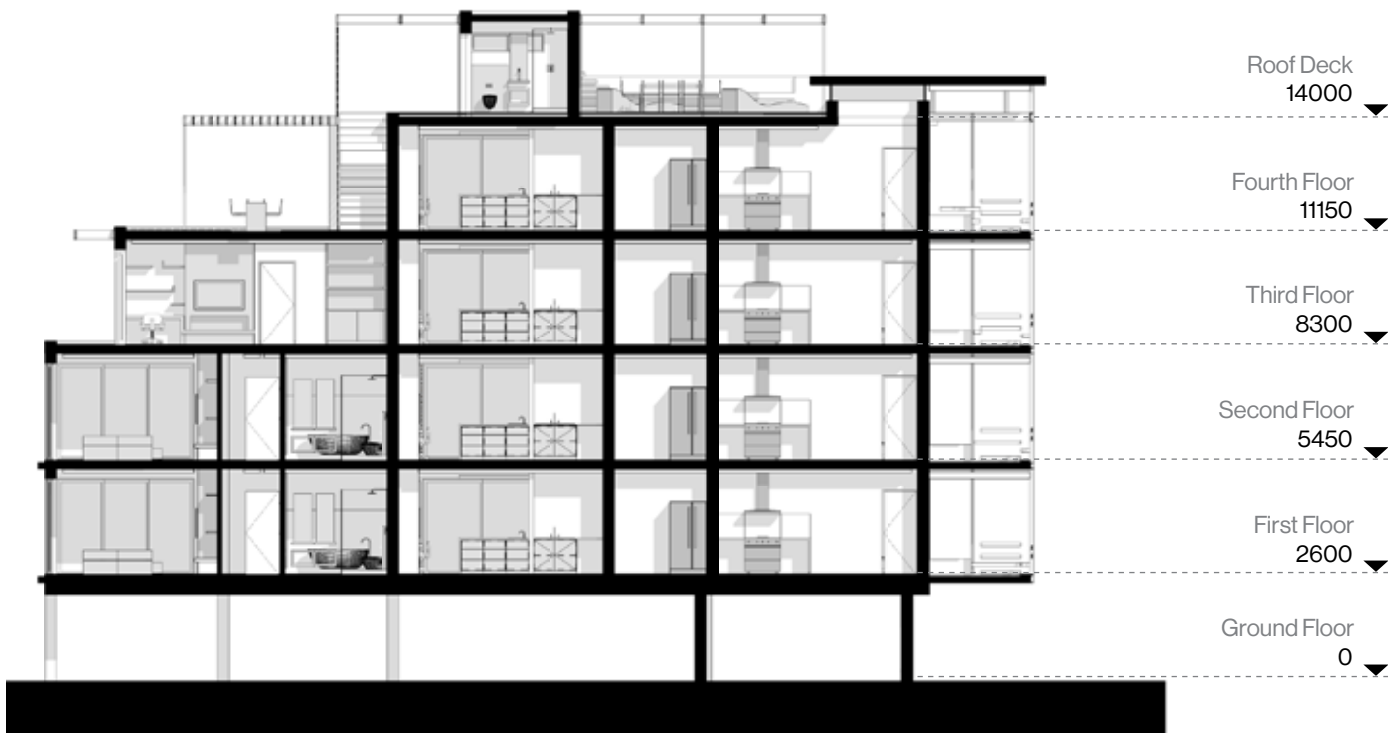
1c

First Floor
Two Bed
Two Bath
91 Interior
11 Exterior
102 Total
Two Parking

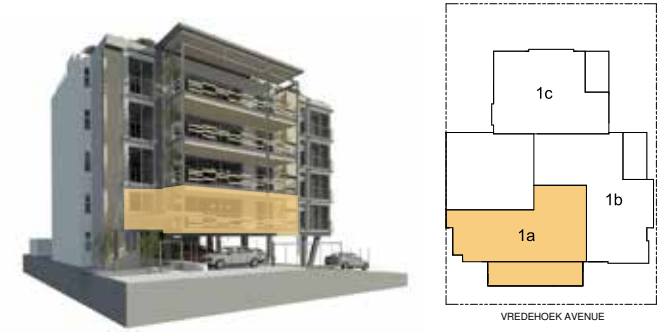
FIFTY8ONV

Elevation

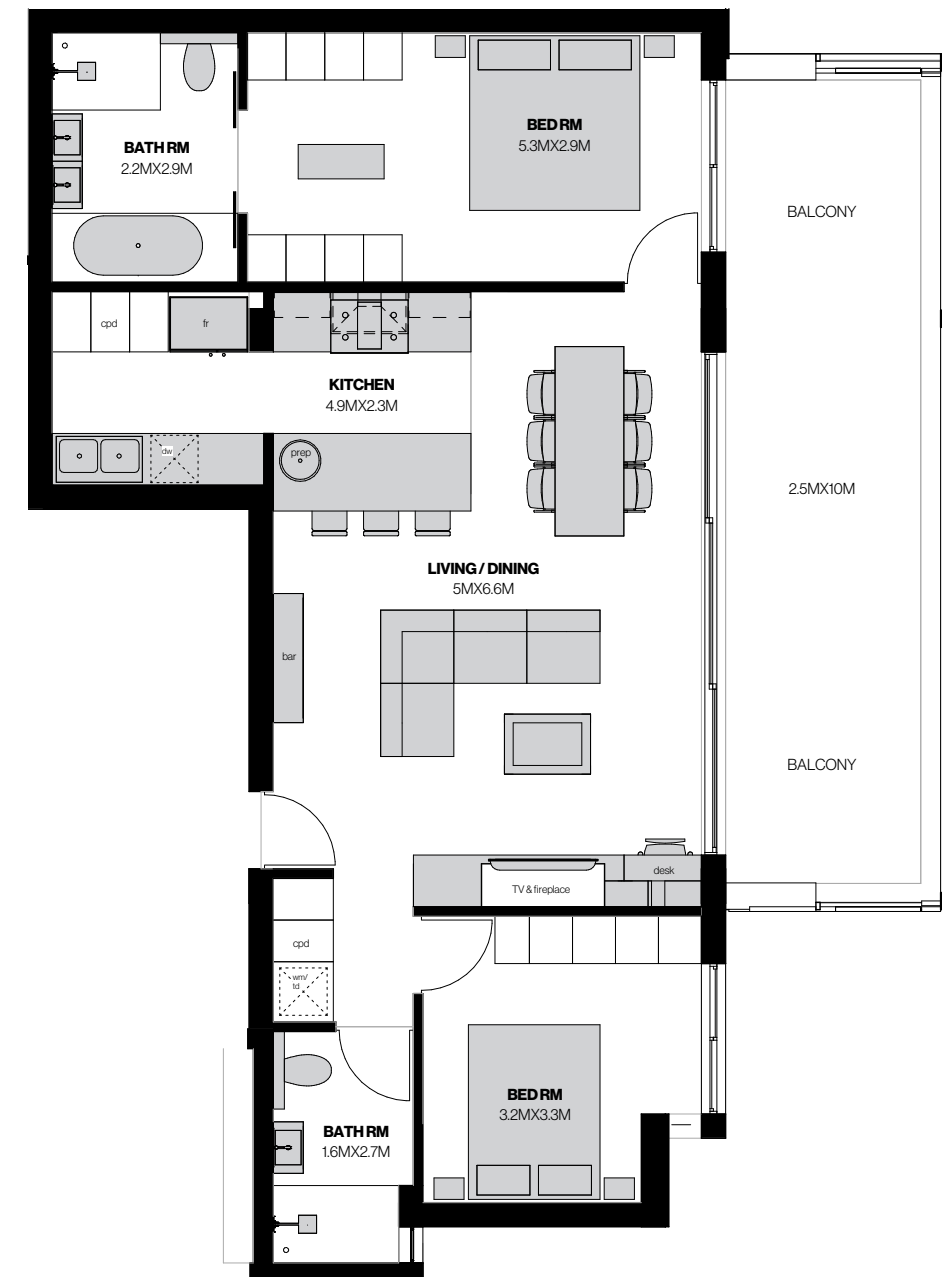
Ground Floor	First Floor	Second Floor	Third Floor	Fourth Floor	Roof Deck
Secure Parking Visitors Parking Lobby Security	Apartments 1a, 1b & 1c	Apartments 2a, 2b & 2c	Apartments 3a, 3b & 3c	Apartments 4a & 4b	Pool Braai Area Garden Bathroom



1a



First Floor
Two Bed
Two Bath
88 Interior
25 Exterior
113 Total
Two Parking



Signal Hill



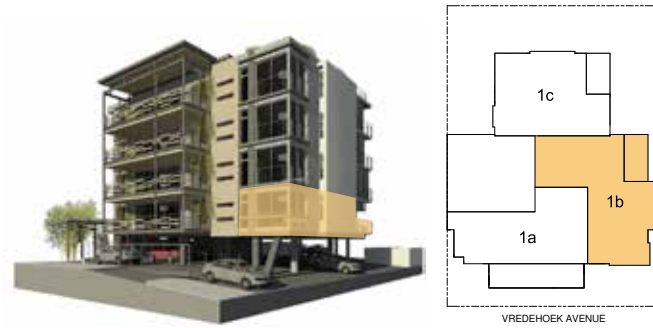
City/Harbour



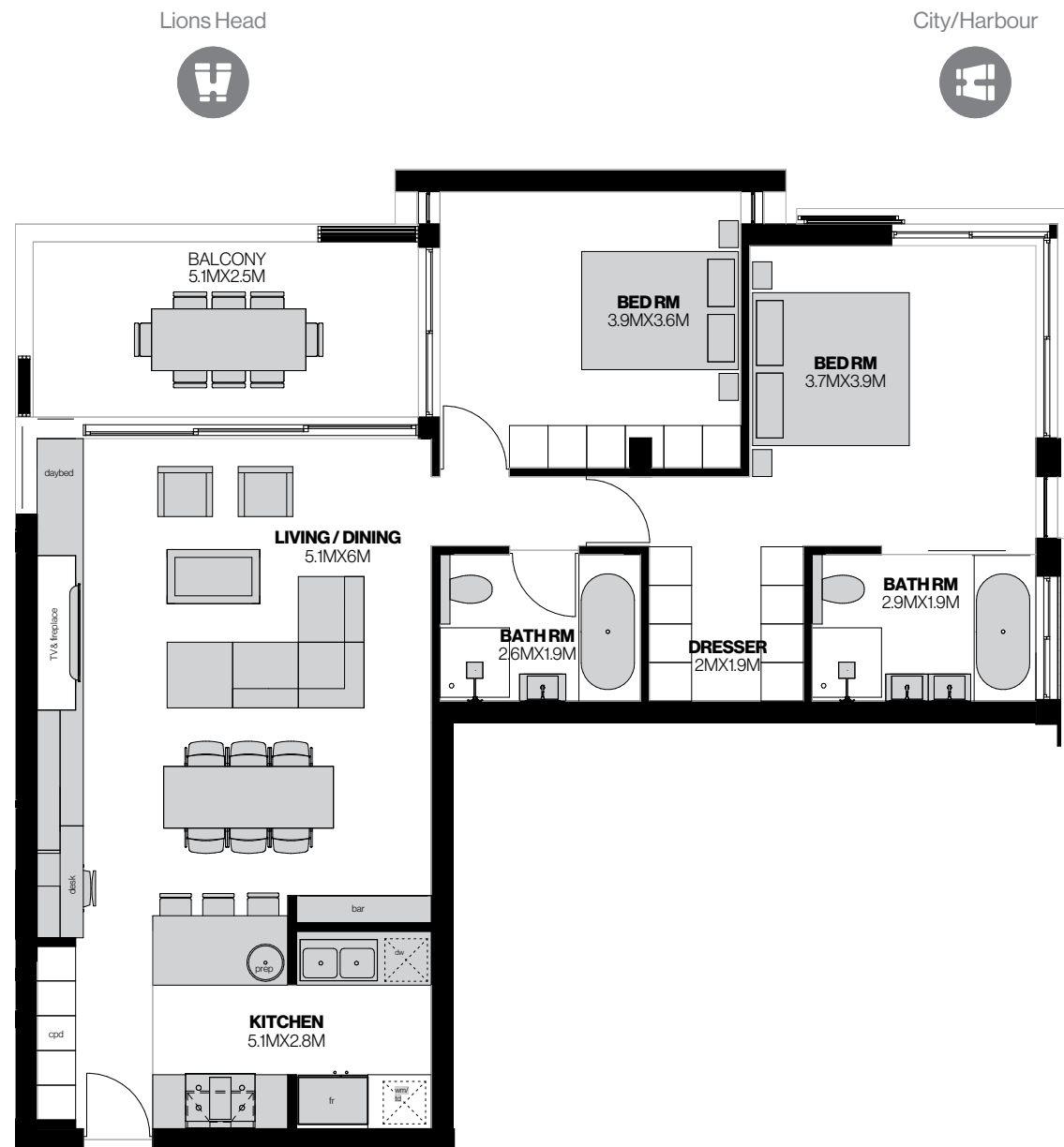
Devils Peak



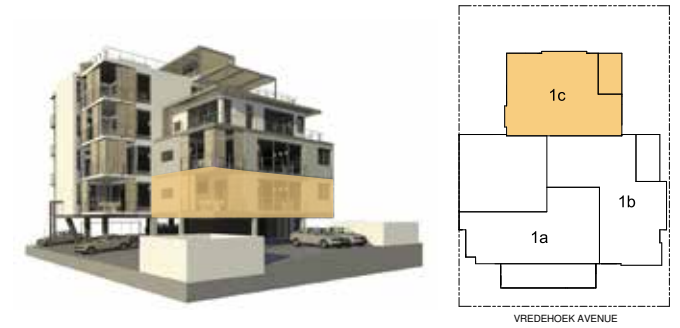
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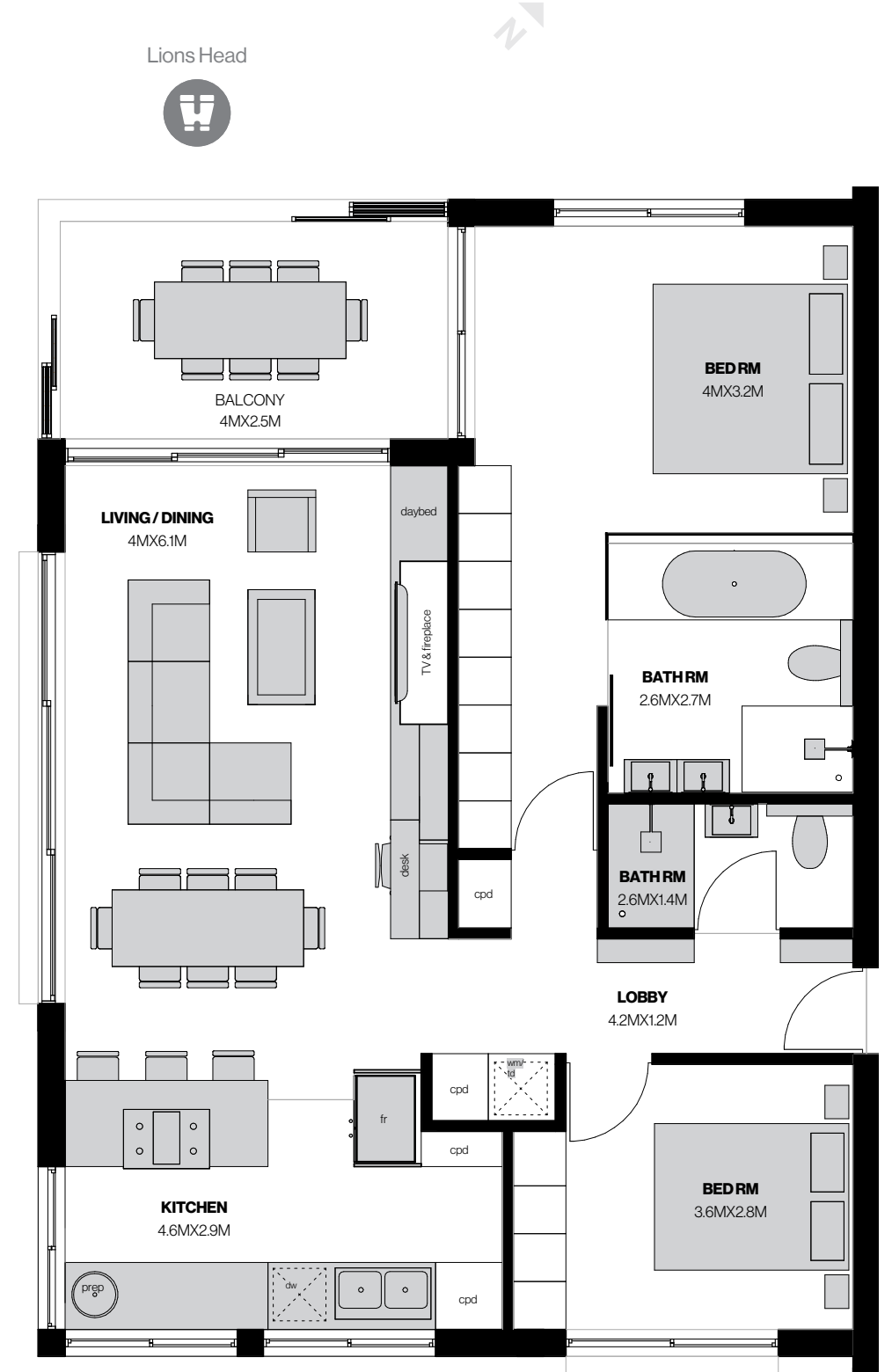
First Floor
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Two Parking



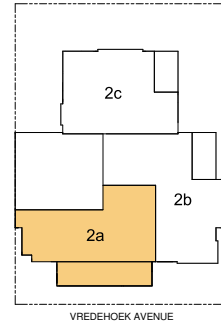
1c



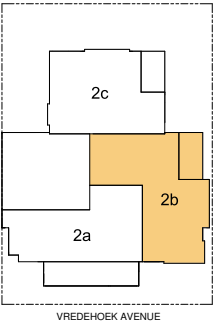
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2a



2b



Second Floor
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Signal Hill



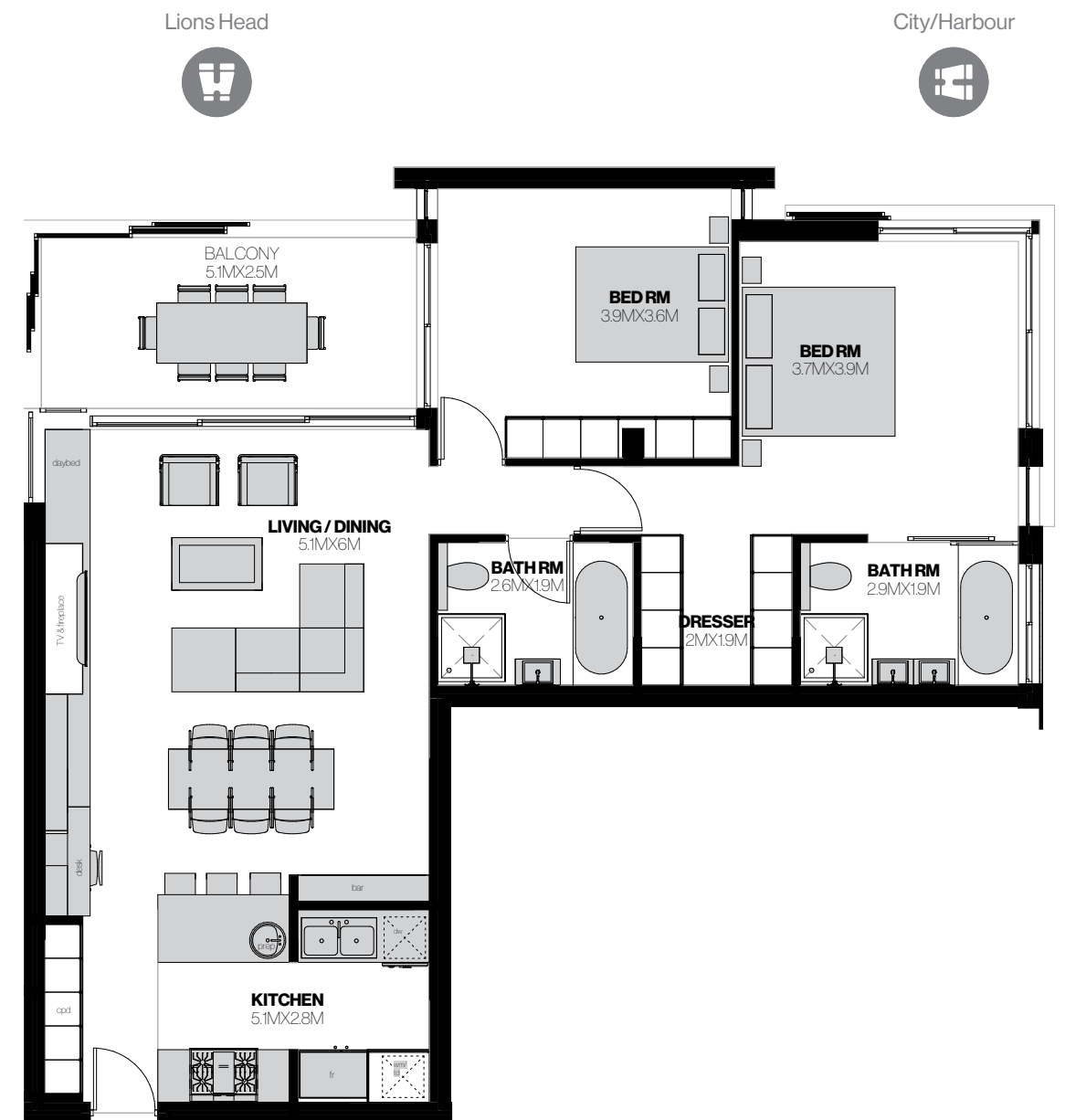
City/Harbour



Devils Peak



Second Floor
Two Bed
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103 Interior
13 Exterior
116 Total
Two Parking



Lions Head



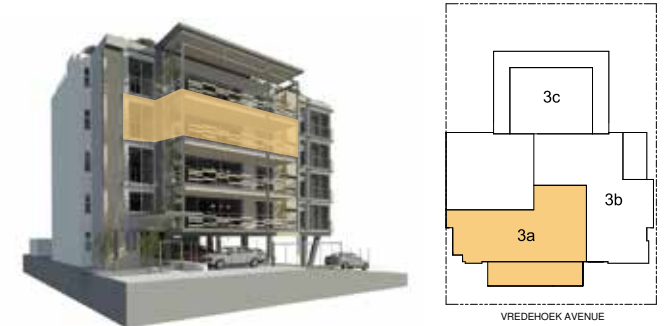
City/Harbour



2c



3a



Second Floor
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Two Bath
91 Interior
11 Exterior
102 Total
Two Parking

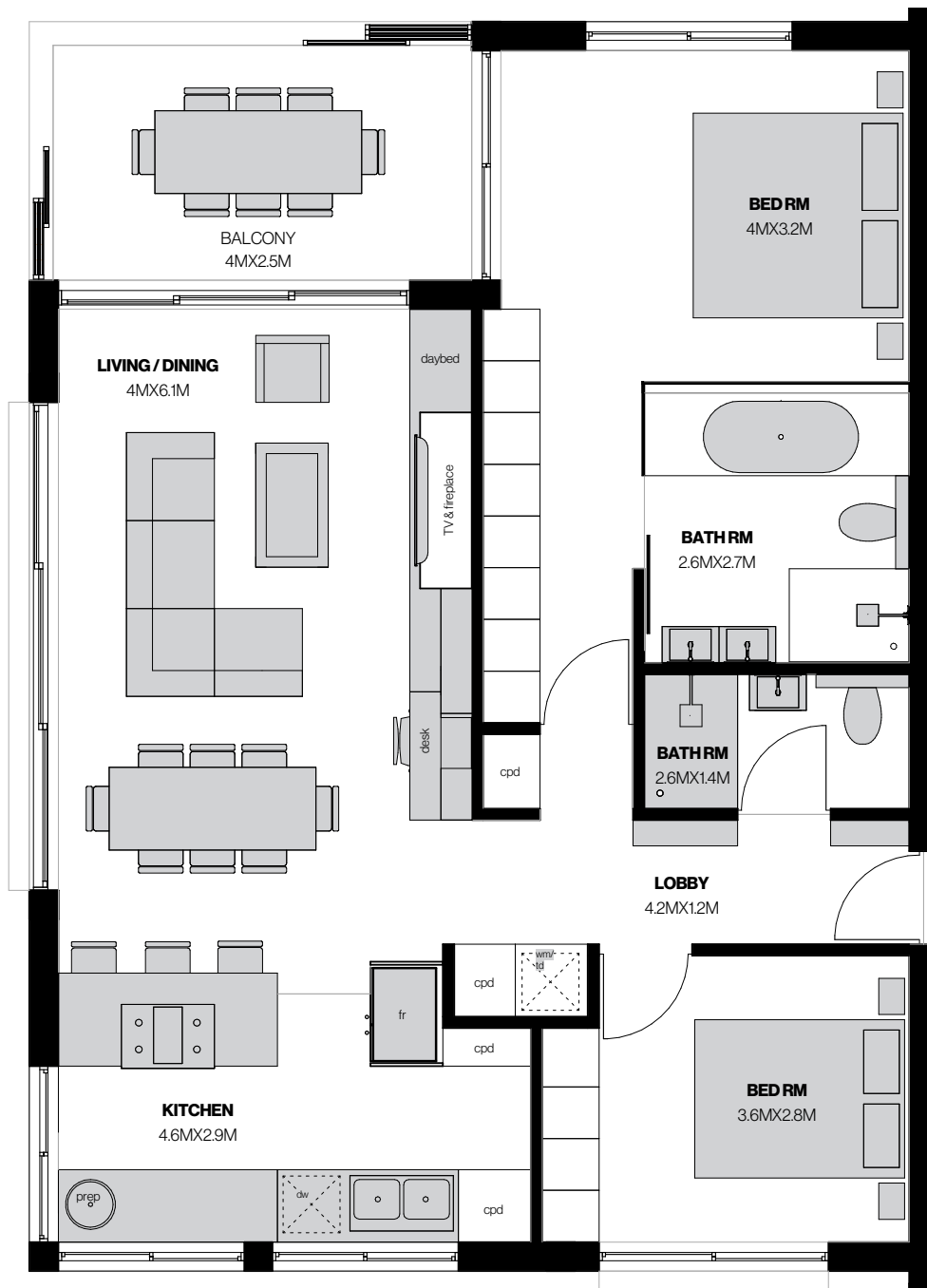
Third Floor
Two Bed
Two Bath
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25 Exterior
113 Total
Two Parking

Table MTN

Lions Head



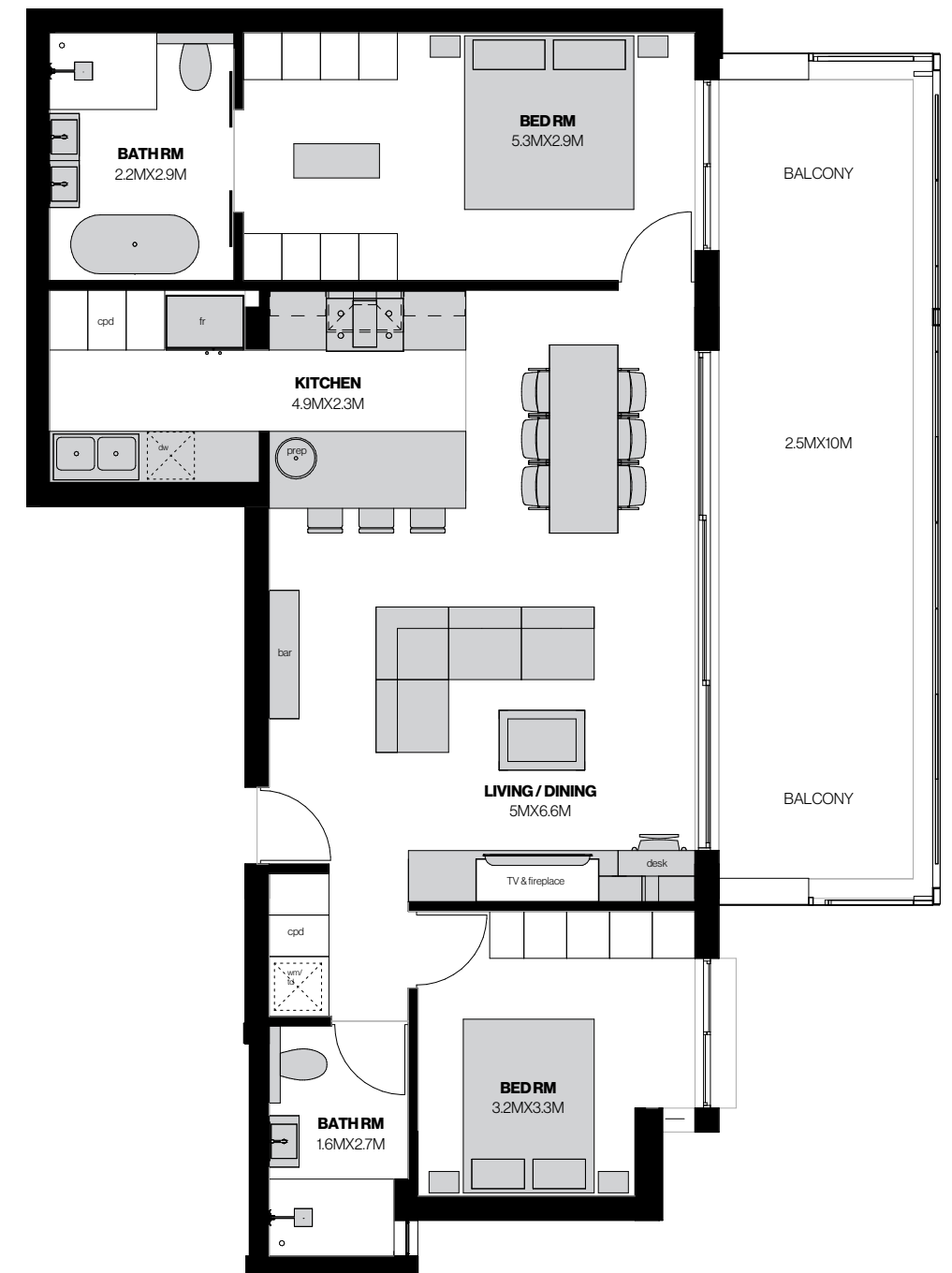
Signal Hill



City/Harbour

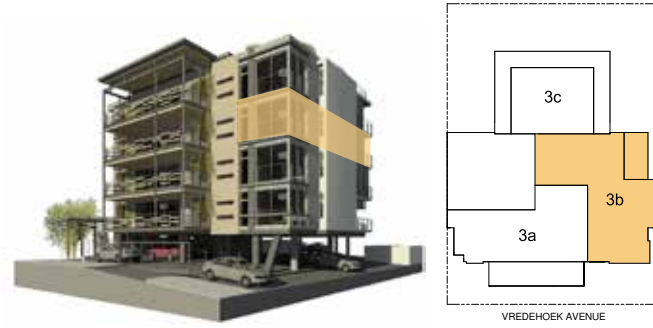


Devils Peak





3b



Third Floor
Two Bed
Two Bath
103 Interior
13 Exterior
116 Total
Two Parking



Lions Head



City/Harbour



3c



Third Floor
One Bed
One Bath
57 Interior
29 Exterior
86 Total
One Parking



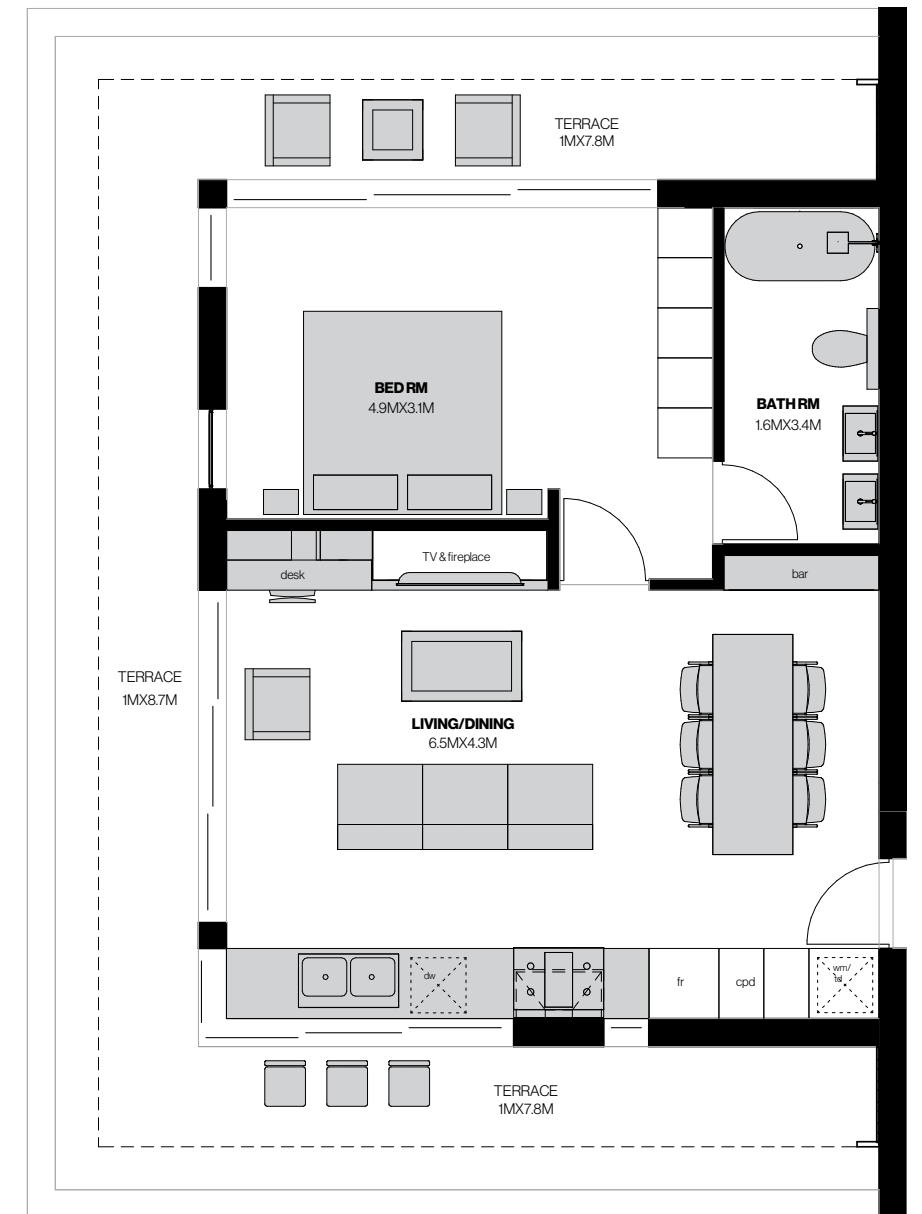
Lions Head



Table MTN

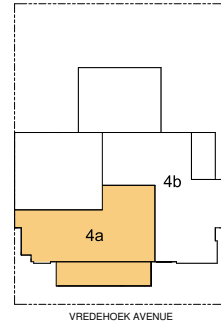


Devils Peak

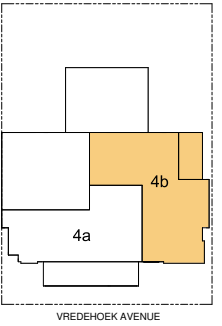




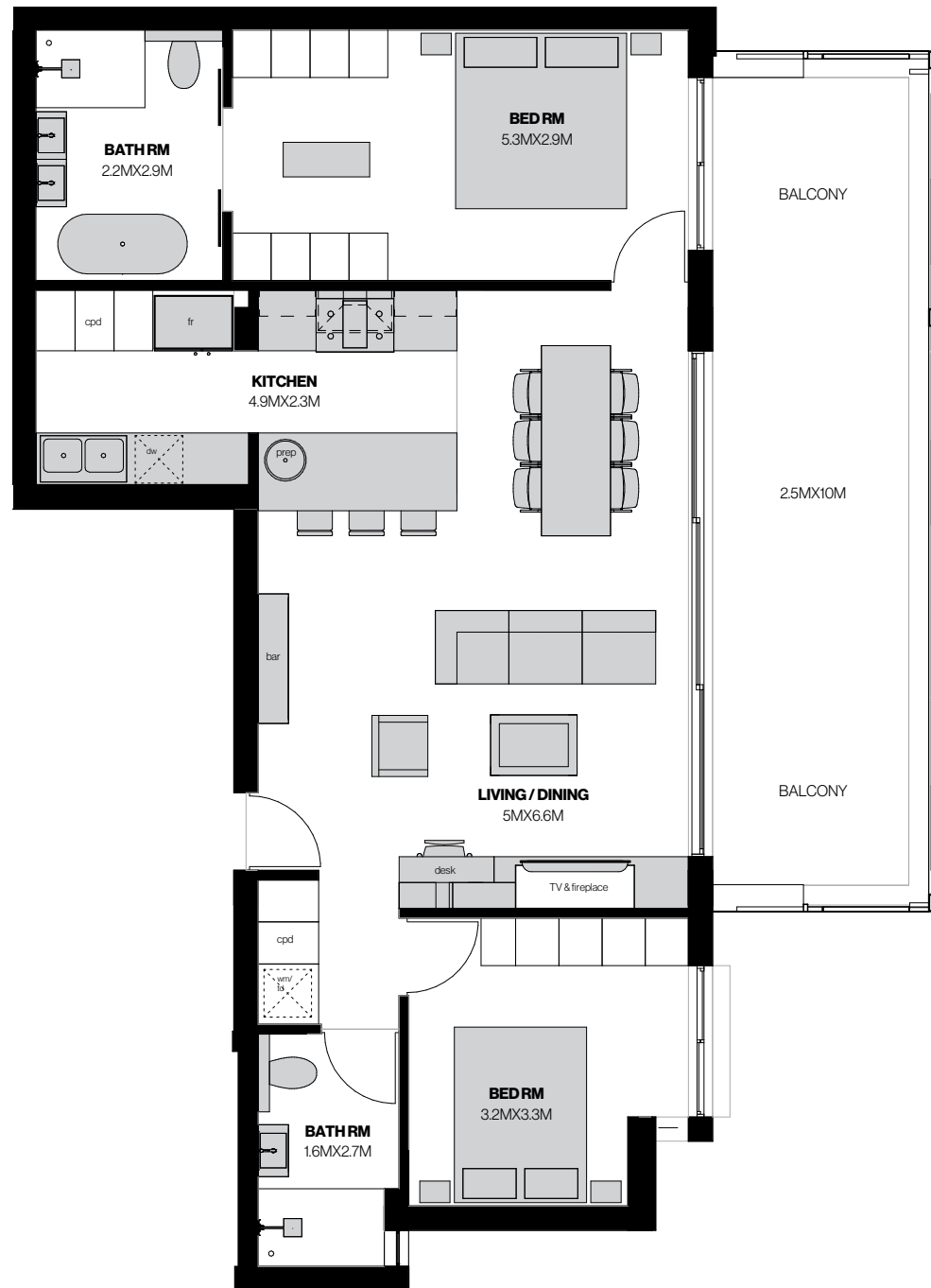
4a



4b



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Signal Hill



City/Harbour



Devils Peak

Fourth Floor
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155 Total
Two Parking



Lions Head



Devils Peak

VREDEHOEK

YOUR CORNER OF FREEDOM

This secluded Cape Town suburb wears that carefree Sunday feeling perfectly all year round. Nothing here is ever too hurried amidst the leafy streets and sidewalk bars and cafés positioned beneath the sweeping slopes of Table Mountain. With the city and the ocean sparkling in the distance below you, there's a certain San Franciscan feel to the steeply inclined streets weaving through the hodge podge of houses that make up this eclectic neighbourhood.

Some of the buildings here are classic Art Deco dating back to the style du jour during the interwar period when this former tin mine was first urbanised.

The latest addition to the Blok urban family, **FIFTY8ONV** rests here perfectly; standing out with its exceptionally thought-out architecture while at once feeling seamlessly part of this old school 'hood. Mere minutes from the city centre **FIFTY8ONV** manages to still evoke a sense of tranquil seclusion.

Community parks are the green heart of Vredehoek, providing a myriad of shared backyards for the locals. This is where the amalgam of young professionals, new families and designer-types that give Cape Town its unique energy head for downtime away from the bustle of the city.

An abundance of enticing eateries and bars all serve to make up the unique feel of this neck of the woods. A laid back vibe is always the order of the day as you enjoy unpretentious food and a glass of wine while overlooking the city below and watching people attempt u-turns on the narrow street outside.

Vredehoek epitomises the Blok ethos of connected community living, a place that feels like home from the very first time you visit.



A day in the life of **FIFTY8ONV**

01 **Run around the Molteno Dam**

Start your day off with a run around the Molteno Dam. Enjoy the views of the city sprawled out beneath you and Table Mountain's lush backdrop framing your obligatory post-run selfie.

Push your limits by timing your run to when Mrs Goldberg takes her Chihuahua, Rambo, for a walk without his leash.

01



02 **Breakfast at Lazari**

"Served until 10h30" is the breakfast equivalent of your favourite bar calling Last Rounds – devastating. You'll have no such trouble at Lazari. This friendly neighbourhood café serves breakfast all day and is exactly the remedy you've been searching for after three days of trying to follow one of Paleo/Banting/Gluten-free diets. Go on, treat yourself.

You deserve it after running from Rambo.

03 **Hang out at Deer Park**

Take some of your baked goodies from Lazari along with you as you settle into one of the picnic spots in Deer Park.

Catch up on the morning's headlines or watch the countless number of happy pooches frolicking amongst one another.

If you're feeling adventurous, venture out onto one of the walks in close proximity to the park.

03



04 **Drop the kids off at the Skate Park**

If the kids are still full of energy after the picnicking and dog-spotting, let them loose on the Skate Park under Jutland Ave bridge.

Recently transformed by the city, the park is an exciting recreational space for all.

05 **The Mount Nelson**

While your kids polish their skills at the skate park why don't you pop over to The Mount Nelson Hotel to pamper yourself with a Spa treatment?

Or you could indulge in the age old tradition of a spot of Afternoon Tea, which you simply must enjoy on the terrace of The Mount Nelson.

05



06 **The Sidewalk Café**

Enjoy a light dinner and languid sundowner as you take in the city's energy.

Watching the sunset cast its shadow over the city bowl you feel happy to know that this is your home

07 **Pick up a DVD at The Red Sofa**

Whether you're trying to figure out if Robert Rodriguez is influencing Quentin Tarantino or vice versa, or if you're simply trying to illustrate why Leo was robbed of yet another Oscar, The Red Sofa – Cape Town's best DVD store, has enough titles to reference during an argument and convince even Barry Ronge of your point.

07



Blok doesn't stop at the front door

Blok is passionate about urbanism and the development of our city, and this we believe requires active urban citizens.

We take our role as property developers very seriously and are intrinsically conscious of the immediate impact we have on the neighbourhoods and the communities in which we develop.

We have committed to forming meaningful and long-lasting relationships with the stakeholders of the Atlantic Seaboard and City on its crime and grime initiatives. By collaborating in this way we will unlock huge benefits together such as increased security and exposure to much needed resources. We are particularly excited to be involved in the leading edge License Plate Recognition (LPR) Program.

Blok is also extremely passionate about greening the urban landscape, and our most recent project with the City of Cape Town involves breathing new life into an otherwise forgotten community park. Public Open Spaces are often seen as the heart and soul of urban communities, and it is crucial that people see these as safe and desirable extensions of their own homes.

A new approach to urban development presents a multitude of opportunities to enhance city living. Not only for Blok homeowners, but their neighbours too.



The Councillor

**Cllr. Dave Bryant,
Ward Councillor for the Cape
Town City Bowl and surrounds,
and Deputy Chairperson of the
Economic Development and
Spatial Planning Portfolio at
the City of Cape Town.**



One of the two Ward Councillors that work in the Vredehoek area is Cllr. Dave Bryant; his mandate is working on large-scale re-development between City and CT Partnership in CBD, identifying “dead areas” for beautification and / or repurposing to benefit the surrounding area.

A recent success that you were involved with is the Cape Town Gardens Skate Park; tell us more about this outstanding project.

This was a project very close to my heart, and one that I'm very proud of. We met with some resistance from certain residents who were unsure whether a Skate Park would be a positive addition to the area, and I can confidently say that all of those people are now fans that can see the benefit. The Park is managed by the City Parks Dept. and they have recently installed floodlights there for night skating, and we're proud to report that there has been not one incident there since it was launched in August 2014. It is also driving commerce to the area since we started using it for shoots.

How is the City Bowl population growing and how is this affecting residents?

The City Bowl's residential population has increased from 23,000 – 28,000 people in the last 5 years (between censuses), and this, coupled with an increase in the CBD

population from under 1,000 – 3,000+ approx. shows that more and more people are moving back into town and surrounds. Urbanism is a massive trend internationally and it is one that is firmly entrenched in the Western Cape. The population increase has seen a greater influx of young professionals and young families feeding into the established community, bringing with it fresh energy and ideas and this is contributing towards the area's development potential and property prices.

The community is also taking ownership of their area and this is obvious in the impeccably run Neighbourhood Watch, the DPV Watch, that was founded in September 2008 by a number of concerned residents. DPV Watch is run by an EXCO with Nicola Jowell as its Chairperson, and its primary mandate is to be the eyes and ears for the SAPS, with whom they work closely. There has been a significant drop in crime in the area since its launch. LPR cameras are already being installed in the area and more will be installed with time, all adding to the safety of the area.

What plans does the city have next for this area?

A massive project of ours is the Urban Heritage Overlay Zoning project. Cape Town has a huge number of Art Deco buildings; a local treasure, but these buildings must be

formally classified in order to be protected accordingly. Once an area is classified it means that any development taking place within that area must remain within those building frameworks, thus protecting the area's heritage and beauty.

Another project that we are working on is the Rugley Road Park, a space that has been identified as the next dead zone in the vicinity. In 2011 only half of the park was fenced off and the other half completely overgrown, with vagrants squatting there. We immediately fenced the area off and an amazing woman, Joanne Parsons, set up Friends of Rugley Rd Park to apply for funding from city, which they got.

Between City Parks and the Friends of Rugley Rd, they have fixed up old play equipment, sourced funding for new equipment and developed a beautiful picnic area with shaded roofing, and once again the park can report no new incidences since these developments.

The Teacher

**Geoff Cohen,
Director of Education
for the United Herzlia
School.**



This prestigious title is one that Mr. Cohen holds proudly. The school group incorporates 10 campuses consisting of 1 play-school, 4 pre-primary schools, 3 primary schools, a middle and a high school. Herzlia is one of relatively few schools in the Western Cape to have an independent middle school, and this is one of a handful of outstanding innovations the school features that attracts parents and children alike through its doors.

What other innovations does the UHS feature?

UHS is an all-inclusive school, something we are extremely proud of, and this means that, as a community school, we are committed to the principle of inclusion, which means providing a Jewish education for all Jewish children, including those with special educational needs, or those who are financially disadvantaged.

In addition, Herzlia has always been open to not only all Jewish communities but other religions also, and currently has 2,056 kids from pre-school – Grade 12 with 14% of those pupils non-Jewish (across campuses).

How long have you lived and worked in Oranjezicht?

I was in fact born in Oranjezicht and lived there for 25 years before moving close by to Higgovale. I am extremely lucky to live and work in such close proximity, and find that one of the biggest attractions to the area for me is that of city bowl living without the city feeling.

How has the area changed in your lifetime?

The biggest change has been in development, when I was born my parent's house was in the last road behind the mountain (Invermark Crescent), that is now 3 or 4 roads further behind.

There has also been a general modernization in the area with many older, more traditional homes having been renovated. The nice thing however is that this has all been done with great consideration for the area's aesthetic, and there are few if any “sore thumbs” in the vicinity.

Vredehoek and Oranjezicht also has a very well-organized neighbourhood watch, as well as the well-known City Farm initiative run by Sheryl Ozinsky, herself an ex-Herzlia student! To sum it up, I'd say there is a strong sense of social responsibility with an uplifting community focus.

What are the recent achievements that Herzlia and you are most proud of?

2014 saw our pupils and teachers produce outstanding matric results, placing Herzlia in the top schools in the Western Cape, something of which we are extremely proud. 2015 is also the year of our 75th anniversary, giving us a chance to reflect on the numerous achievements of our over 6500 alumni, another remarkable accomplishment.

For people living in the area, whose kids don't attend Herzlia, what role does the school play in the community?

We host occasional functions on Jewish Holidays on campus that all are welcome to attend, and have a very successful Nazareth House outreach programme whereby Herzlia school kids visit the house and old age home and donate their time. Herzlia and Goodhope School have an ongoing partnership whereby we share the use of their sports fields with UHS paying for their upkeep and having access to the facilities.

The Unifier

Sheryl Ozinsky
Passionate Capetonian
Former Manager of Cape Town
Tourism (who never takes a
holiday) The list goes on...



Sheryl, when writing this feature, we struggled with what title to give you. It's no secret you're not a fan of the job title per se, so how would you like to be known?

Besides the two listed, my biography includes having once been a marine biologist who was privileged to launch the Whale Well at Iziko Museums and the Two Oceans Aquarium at the V&A Waterfront, an establisher of two industry-led recycling organisations, PETCO and POLYCO, that currently collects millions of Rands in recycling levies from packaging manufacturers to increase plastic recycling, and now turned urban farmer growing multi-coloured rainbow chard under the shadow of Table Mountain. See if you can work that into an easy to pronounce acronym..!

You're getting a lot of attention for the City Farm these days, but you also assist the city with their Electricity Savings and Solar Water Heater Campaigns, can you tell us more?

Three years ago I started working with the City of Cape Town helping residents to save electricity. One of our slogans was, 'If you sing in the shower, sing shorter songs', referring to the fact that heating water consumes almost 40% of the electricity in your home. But using electricity more efficiently is not only about saving money. It is the most environmentally friendly and easiest way to reduce the risk of loadshedding – a term that's become part of our lingo - and to reduce our carbon footprint. Reducing your electricity usage and helping the environment go hand in hand. If we don't save its not just higher prices that will affect us - the extra power stations that the government will have to build (and is building) will cost us the beauty of our environment too.

How did you first get involved with city improvement and what is your ultimate goal for your work?

Ah, it was a long time ago (before my hair was grey) when I started working in tourism that I realised that I could combine my love for this city with my other love – a drive for sustainable development, improving the quality of our lives without it impacting negatively on future generations. I care deeply about making a difference and can see how a small piece of land in Oranjezicht where we grow food has changed the character of our neighbourhood with people working together to beautify, sustain and improve the area across boundaries of age, race and gender. There is a palpable sense of pride and belonging that is flourishing in Oranjezicht alongside the beetroots and buchu.

Importantly, we've created jobs, we're helping to upskill people and we are hopefully inspiring people to make changes in their own lives, improve their health and well-being, and adopt sustainable lifestyles. How about this as a wish to work towards - to find ways to ensure that all Capetonians – rich and poor – have a fair chance of getting wholesome, affordable, nutritious food onto their plates every day.

For property owners looking to move into the area, what would you say are the unique selling points and reasons to move here?

Besides all the usual attributes such as views, proximity to the city, schools, facilities, etc. I would say that we have a very special sense of community where people interact and talk, where residents are starting to get to know each other and feel safe to stroll their neighbourhood and enjoy their parks. There are many local actions occurring simultaneously – residents looking after safety through neighbourhood watches, volunteers growing food, locals who are informed and therefore empowered to get hold of their Councilor or someone else in the City and ask for a pothole to be repaired, a vine to be cut off an oak tree that it is strangling,

or more bus stops - a community that understand shared benefits and responsibilities.

Tell us more about the future plans for the farm, and also the market?

At OZCF, we have realised that the shared language of food is a unifier, bringing people together who would not previously have interacted. We've seen a diverse group of peoples' lives change and individuals enriched. Growing heirloom veggies is addictive, but growing a community, now that is worth getting very excited about.

We hope that one day our farm and a multitude of other urban farms will meld into the fabric of Cape Town, the presence of our work becoming as regular as the work of bankers, teachers and men working on the side of the road. I dream that one day urban farming will not be a struggle, but an intentional component of the city's food system. Abundant farm plots will pop up in every neighbourhood and corner shops and markets will be able to proudly say they carry produce grown right down the street. OZCF and other urban farms will have rich, deep soil from compost made from residents' kitchen waste. There will be communal greenhouses that grow healthy seedlings for urban farmers who grow salad greens, tomatoes and herbs year round.

People will walk past empty plots that are often eyesores, not ignoring them, but converting them into places that feed, enhance and beautify neighbourhoods. Retailers will label locally farmed foods, such as that coming from the Philippi Horticultural Area, so that consumers can choose this food over produce that has come from further afield. And more than anything, we hope that growing food will enable people to change their ideas about how a city feels and what is possible in an urban environment.

The Local

Photos by
Julia Merrett

Interview by
Kate Thompson-Duwe



Much like Giovanni's in Greenpoint, Lazari is a neighbourhood institution in Vredehoek.

It's the go-to venue for local moms' post-schoolrun breakfasts, business meetings amongst resident freelancers, or if simply in the mood for a home-baked sweet treat and free WIFI.

Owned and run by Chris Lazari, the bistro is open 7 days a week throughout the year, and has seen much positive change in its 11 year reign on the corner of Upper Maynard and Vredehoek Avenues.

Chris, how has the area changed since you opened your doors 11 years ago?



The area has seen an influx of younger families moving in which is a great sign for future development. Vredehoek was historically a very Jewish area but this changed when a lot of the Jewish families moved out approximately 10 years ago, and since then the demographic has become more diverse, and more recently seen a welcome return of young parents and start-up families.

What advice would you give people looking to buy in the area?

Buy soon! A few years back there was huge opportunity to buy old and renovate, but those opportunities are now few and far between. The area is only increasing in value so is a definite investment.

What do you like most about your location?

Definitely the proximity to the CBD while still feeling as if one is in the suburbs. Vredehoek is a juxtaposition of benefits, from the mountain walks and views to the greenery, plus the closeness to town and the feeling of space and remoteness. It's a special area that is not easy to replicate.

What improvements have you seen in the area since you've worked there?

The neighbourhood watch is phenomenal. They ensure that there is good safety and security and that permeates from the low crime statistics to the feeling one gets when in the area. That is not to say the crime rate is 0%, but it's on the decline and far more opportunistic and petty than in other areas.

Describe Vredehoek in one sentence:

Vredehoek is about community, that and delicious cupcakes at Lazari!

Take a Sunday walk, not a Sunday drive.

01 SIDEWALK CAFE

Another member of Madame Zingara's extended family of quirky "it-could-only-work-in-Cape Town" eateries. For anything from chilled breakfasts and brunches to casually sophisticated dinners, this friendly corner café attracts a diverse mix of clientele and devoted locals in their droves.

02 RED SOFA CAFE

For that distinct coffee buzz that keeps Cape Town's artistic community fired up, check out the Red Sofa. Strictly a day time venue, it also has some intriguing laid back meal options and the ubiquitous selection of craft beers. It's the place for cinephiles to discuss movies and of course, coffee.

03 CARLYLE'S

This boisterous, no-frills bar and pizza joint is almost always full and filled with the comforting din of revelry. The sort of place that's top of most people's list for any kind of celebration. The service is brilliant amidst the relative chaos and the locals swear by the generously topped pizzas.

04 VREDEHOEK LIBRARY

Easily the quietest place in possibly the quietest part of Cape Town, this quaint library is everything you would expect from one; secluded and serene with a wide range of books to take home or enjoy right there. No wallet is complete without a library card.

05 ECOCO

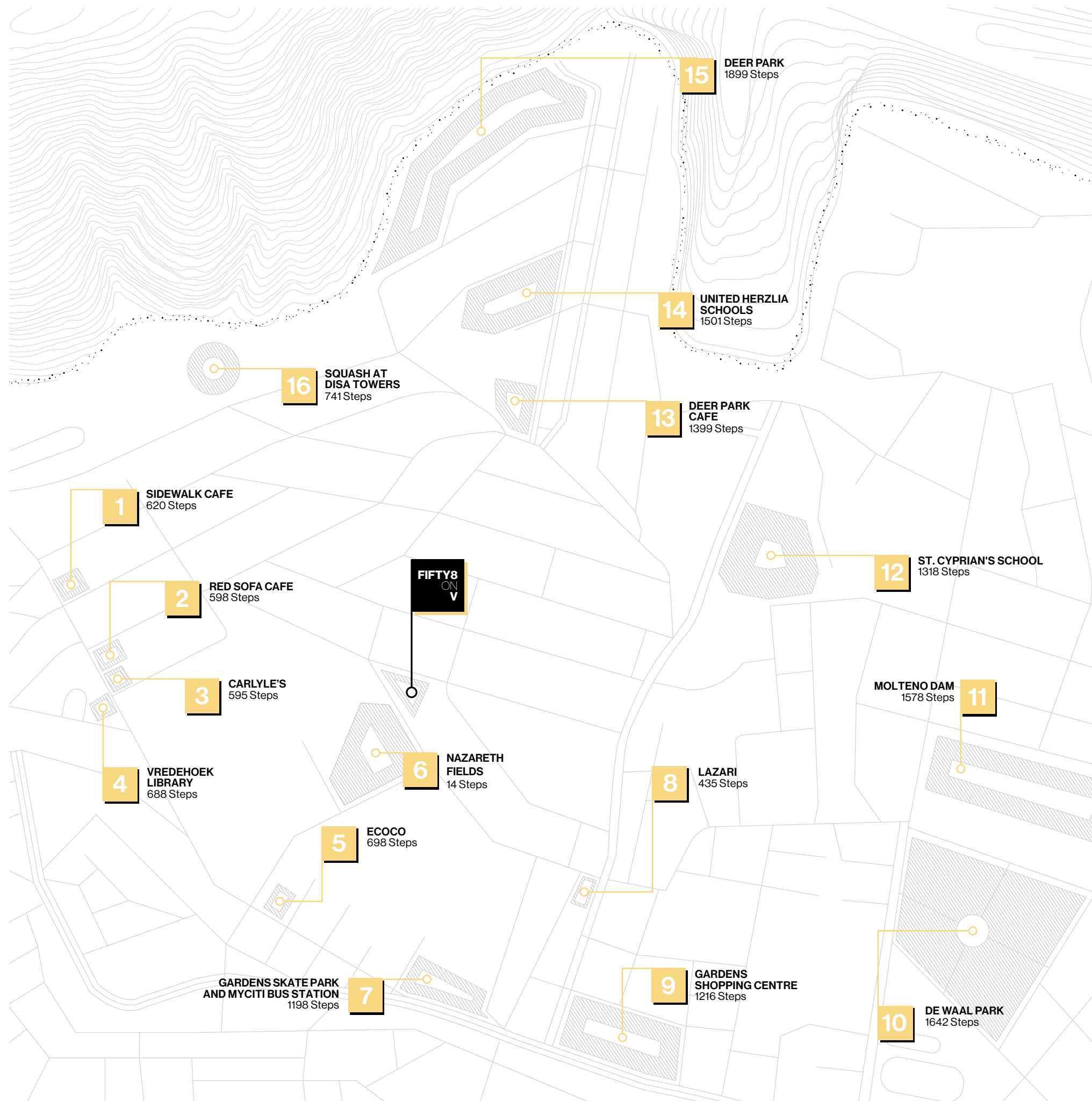
Short for the Ecological Cosmetics Company, this is a veritable treasure chest of indulgent soaps, lotions, balms, salts, candles, grooming products and luxury what-have-you's all made from 100% natural ingredients. You will easily find any last minute, unexpected gift for just about anyone you know right here, and you'll end up spoiling yourself no doubt too.

06 NAZERETH FIELDS

The perfect spot for a kick around, a few drop goal attempts or some touch. But watch out, the view over the city can be distracting, and that's usually when you miss or get tackled.

07 SKATEPARK AND MY CITI BUS STATION

It says a lot about a city as to how it treats its youthful citizens and this Upper Maynard Street skate park shows just how progressive Cape Town is. A centre point for kids both young and grown up to shred and hang out, situated just a short "push" away. Don't worry. For those that don't skate, make use of the MyCiti bus routes from the Gardens Station to get to wherever you need to go.



08 LAZARI

This established anchor of the neighbourhood serves up things slightly differently. It's always an ideal destination for amazing meals or their famous cupcakes at any time of the day and a perfect "hide" for people watching.

09 GARDENS SHOPPING CENTRE

Cape Town doesn't really do "malls", and the ever popular Gardens Shopping Centre is anything but one. Light-filled, modern and yet welcoming and warm at the same time it has everything you need in terms of convenience from major chains as well as amazing speciality stores and great places to meet. It's the only place you'll ever need to get the groceries done.

10 DE WAAL PARK

Park culture is booming in this neck of the woods and the largest of them all is De Waal Park. A perfect spot for exercising two or four legs and equally ideal for enjoying a picnic, ball sports or a simple stroll. In summer the place really comes alive with music concerts so keep an ear out for who's playing.

11 MOLTENO DAM

While obviously supplying the CBD with water this impressive structure also serves as a wonderful training route for many of the city's jogging enthusiasts. Water, water everywhere so be sure to take some along to drink.

12 ST. CYPRIAN'S SCHOOL

Widely recognised as one of South Africa's leading independent girls' schools, St Cyprians was founded in 1871 and still occupies its beautiful corner of Vredehoek on the slopes of Table Mountain. Covering the entire spectrum of education from pre to high school and combining academics with art, culture and spirituality, it's never too early for your daughter to become a "Cyps" girl for life.

13 DEER PARK CAFE

A hit with local parents, Deer Park Café opens up onto Rocklands Road park which is fenced and complete with swings, jungle gyms and plenty of space so the kids can be free, freeing you up to enjoy lunch.

14 UNITED HERZLIA SCHOOLS

Sometimes a great school makes an area famous and sometimes a great area attracts a great school. Sometimes it's both, and Herzlia - as the top academic school in the province and situated beneath Table Mountain - combines both looks and brains. Cool.

15 DEER PARK

Quite simply, the locals' communal backyard. Situated near the hippest places to hang out, Deer Park is still the original hip place to hang out, whether you're walking with the kids or hounds, chilling or exercising, this tranquil retreat in Vredehoek makes every day feel like Sunday.

16 SQUASH AT DISA TOWERS

If the wind's blowing and you want to blow off some steam, there's nothing better than smashing a few balls around a squash court. It's fantastic exercise combining with guile and power, making it the perfect old school workout.



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