

SA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL MAGAZINE

WIN*
R89 000
WORTH
OF FAB
PRIZES

WIS



THE B CRUISE SHIP
PHOTOGRAPHED
BY DOOK IN
PARIS



OCT/NOV 2018
NO 98
SA R56,00
OTHER COUNTRIES
R48,70
EXCLUDING TAX

SUMMER GOALS

**THE CRUISE DISRUPTOR:
THE STYLISH NEW WAY TO TRAVEL**

SUPER-SIZED ANIMALS COME INDOORS

**MODERN MONOCHROME MEETS
MILLENNIAL PINK**

10 HOT YOUNG SURFACE DESIGNERS

NO 14 WELL CONNECTED

BrandKonnnect is using its expanding hospitality footprint and comprehensive knowledge of the import/export market to celebrate and grow local design.



BrandKonnnect specialises in supplying bespoke interior projects in the hospitality and leisure industries, including spaces such as the now-iconic Vida e Caffè, the Woolworths Cafés and the designer Robertson Small Hotel. Headed up by Sean Weldon, it works alongside its convergent business sibling Inova Contracts, managed by Sean's brother Brent. With offices in Cape Town and London, Inova has long-standing relationships with high-end European brands, simultaneously supplying BrandKonnnect with international brands and offering its local procurement global reach. "BrandKonnnect takes projects from concept to creation, and connects the dots between local and international design," explains Sean.

This synergy was evident in the extensive renovation of the One&Only Le Saint Géran in Mauritius, where Sean used his network of local suppliers and makers to meet the interior designer's brief. As well as incorporating Mungo throws and Indigenous planters, BrandKonnnect worked with, among others, Ceramic Matters on custom sanitaryware, Guideline MNF on dining chairs, Moonbasket on baskets and pendants, and Laurie Wiid van Heerden on room amenities and artworks.

"Hospitality in Africa is volume and scale," says Sean. "We work with a designer or manufacturer to create a bespoke piece. Then, once the client is happy and we're in production we get to test the supply chain and the whole process gets the supplier fit to produce multiples, which is what's required to stock a global retailer." After several local and international projects featuring Indigenous planters, Sean is now its biggest exporter to the UAE through the BrandKonnnect Dubai office.

BrandKonnnect is also uniquely placed to take advantage of its position in the SADC Free Trade Area, enabling duty-free trade within certain member states and so promote competition of local craft with Eastern imports. Global hotel chains are set to increase their footprint in Africa, which will present amazing opportunities for the local market.

brandkonnnect.co.za



TOP BrandKonnnect commissioned Laurie Wiid van Heerden of Wiid Design to create the artworks for the renovation of the One&Only Le Saint Géran in Mauritius. Other local names are Mungo, Jo Carlin, Sky Fans and Moonbasket. ABOVE Indigenous planters at the Jumeirah Al Naseem luxury resort in Dubai. TOP RIGHT Brent and Sean Weldon. For a full Q&A with Sean, co-founder of BrandKonnnect, visit VISI.co.za.

WORDS AMELIA BROWN