

September 2010

### **Dalton Private Game Reserve is awarded the AfriSam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture**

Dalton Private Game Reserve in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands has won the top award at the AfriSam-SAIA Awards for Sustainable Architecture. The AfriSam/SAIA Awards for Sustainable Architecture is an initiative which is aimed at recognising outstanding achievement in sustainable architecture. Dalton's award winning design was created by Koop Design, with the focus on integrating the beautiful environment of the 3000 hectare reserve into the natural design.

Ian Gowrie- Smith, owner of Dalton Private Reserve said in response to the announcement of the SAIA award, that "he was delighted that the ethos and design formulated specifically for Dalton, has proved successful in its recognition by the SAIA for both Koop as the architects of origin and Dalton as the proponents of the design. It was a leap of faith that has proved successful in every way."

The Koop architectural practise, designed all infrastructural and residential buildings on Dalton Private Reserve, including the main accommodation, Dalton House. The social and environmental philosophy that Dalton and Koop share was instrumental in the creation of the Heritage inspired; contemporary African aesthetic and many of the buildings are furnished with pieces of furniture which were designed by Koop themselves. The Dalton Compound is the operational centre of the reserve with buildings that are flexible to various utilitarian needs yet they offer exclusivity to guests staying at the compound's luxury accommodation. The project removed alien vegetation, recycling it for use. It created a vegetable garden for staff and employed and trained local villagers for its construction.

As part of the Dalton Reserve , an initiative called The Dalton Education Trust was set up to restore and protect the indigenous vegetation and wildlife of the area and initiate social and environmental programmes for the development of the local community and to sustain and create a thriving environment. Koop Design and the Dalton Trust have now partnered to create the Koop –Dalton range of furniture which stems from their mutual social and environmental philosophy. Items are handmade by the Dalton Trust woodworking team in The Furniture Workshop using alien timber harvested and dried in solar kilns on the property.

Richard Stretton, Koop Design says, "Our work with the Dalton Trust reflects Koop Design's holistic architectural, furniture design and interior finishing offering. We feel honored to be a part of this project with Dalton. We have all learned a great deal through this project and are humbled by the commitment to people upliftment and planet rejuvenation that is central to the development ethos of the Dalton Reserve. The architectural resolution based on materials and skills available on site provides the reserve with a sense of place, a unique response to a challenging social and physical environment that is rural South Africa."

The ability to tailor-make every guest's encounter with Africa makes Dalton a unique destination. Dalton's blend of exclusivity and adventure makes for an experience like no other. Located only four hours by car from Johannesburg, two hours from Durban or a quick flight from any airport to the private landing strip on the reserve, the only decision is what activities guests want to do whilst staying at Dalton; the rest is all taken care of by the exceptional team.

Through the natural advantages of its magnificent location and the hard work and creativity of its people, Dalton has become an unforgettable destination, a place where guests will realise their own unique African dream.

[www.daltonprivatereserve.com](http://www.daltonprivatereserve.com)

[www.koopdesign.co.za](http://www.koopdesign.co.za)

The furniture range is available wholesale for retailers or as commissioned pieces for interiors projects. For enquiries please contact Koop Design +2731 3033922 or email: [koop@koopdesign.co.za](mailto:koop@koopdesign.co.za)

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