

'Most beautiful house in the most beautiful town'

When one thinks of Stellenbosch landmarks, it's mainly Cape Dutch gables, ancient oak trees and whitewashed university buildings that spring to mind.

Yet one of the most eye-catching and talked about buildings in the Boland town is not one of its historic landmarks – it's a private residence on the slopes of Stellenboschberg, built only 50 years ago.

De Hoge Hoek is an example of one man's love of wood, and was described by one architect as "the most beautiful house in the most beautiful town in the most beautiful corner of the world". This unique

and sometimes controversial home has now come onto the market through Pam Golding Properties, priced at R6,9 million.

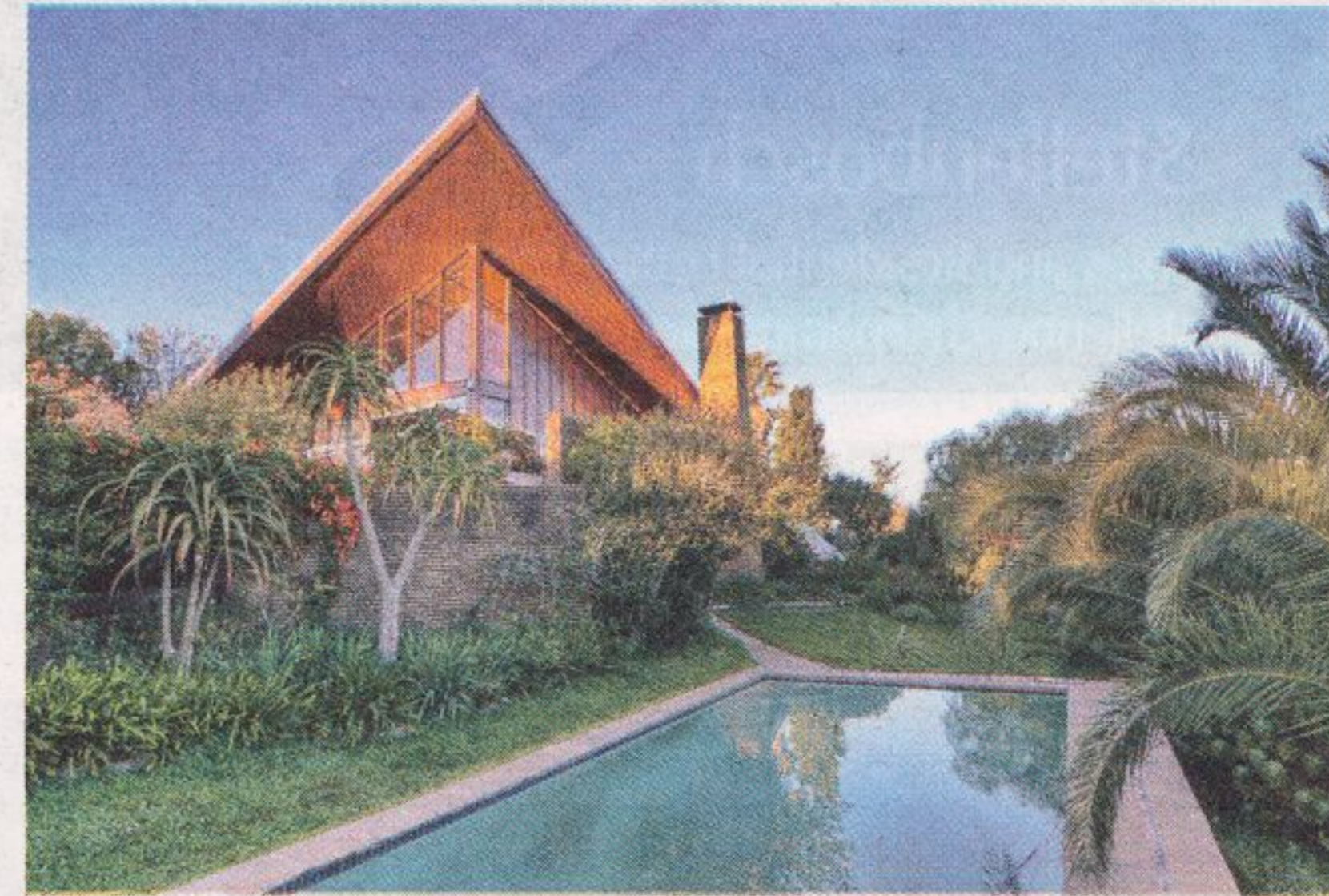
The name "De Hoge Hoek" is Dutch for "the high peak" – a name reflecting both the property's elevated location and its unusual hyperbolic paraboloid roof design.

The home's story begins in the late 1950s, when Dutch timber merchant and sailing enthusiast Kees Bruynzeel moved to South Africa. He wished to construct a home demonstrating the possibilities of building with wood, and hired a rising star from a leading Dutch architectural practice, Aart Bijl, to realise

his vision. Bijl and his mentor Pius Pahl were both followers of the Bauhaus tradition, known for its clean straight lines and integration of form and function. The young architect both incorporated and exceeded this tradition as he designed the new Stellenbosch home from the roof down – using teak rafters and yellow wood ceilings to create the unique saddle-shaped sweep. The roof never rests directly on the walls, but rather on the home's massive windows, and has space to move under pressure from inclement weather. The home's walls were designed on a slight slope of just three degrees, creating elegant lines with a finish of face brick, using custom-made extra-slim bricks.

The home is noted for the high quality of workmanship, with finishes including teak panels, moulded plaster ceilings in the bedrooms, and huge expanses of glass set in teak frames. The unique roof design means that some corners of the home enjoy a ceiling height of up to 6 m, while the large windows frame magnificent views towards the Simonsberg, Stellenboschberg and even the back slopes of Table Mountain.

On completion in 1962, this super-modern design met with mixed reaction from the local community – it outraged some and delighted others, most notably engineers and creatives. And it has remained a talking point ever since.



On both levels of De Hoge Hoek, several rooms have sliding doors opening into the garden, which includes a large saltwater-chlorinated pool measuring 4 x 10 metres.

De Hoge Hoek occupies a plot of just over 2 100 m² and has its entrance on the upper level, leading into a mainly open-plan living space with a formal lounge, dining room and study, a modern kitchen and a small mezzanine library or family room. The lower level contains the sleeping quarters, with a master bedroom suite and two additional bedrooms, as well as a family bathroom, linen room, wine cellar and several storage rooms. A double garage and off-street parking area are also located on this level.

On both levels of the home, several rooms have sliding doors opening into the wonderful garden with its large saltwater-chlorinated pool while two of the bedrooms open into the more private inner garden. An annex to the main building includes a laundry and small guest suite or staff quarters.

The property is located in the suburb of Welgelegen.

To view De Hoge Hoek, contact PGP agent Lizette Botha on 084 440 1057/021 8871017 or e-mail to lizette.botha@pamgolding.co.za.



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