

scape
project

Bucolic Elegance

Against the Verdant Slopes of the Tsitsikamma Mountain Range,
Tamodi Estate & Polo Reserve, with interiors by Studio Ashby, Emerges
as a Masterful Intersection of Landscape, Luxury, and Heritage



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Located in Plettenberg Bay, the estate offers a sensorial retreat designed for contemporary nomads – travellers seeking a refuge defined by stillness, generosity of space, and a deep connection to nature.

The interior transformation was led by founder Sophie Ashby, who draws on her personal heritage, split between South Africa and the United Kingdom. The project's core philosophy is one of unhurried connection, and its design is free from unnecessary embellishment. The architecture's organic textures coexist with bespoke furniture and artisanal details.

Size: 811 m²

Location: Plettenberg Bay, Western Cape

@tamodiestate
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Images courtesy of Tamodi Estate & Polo Reserve.



MEET THE TEAM

Interior Designer: Studio Ashby | Art & Object Curation:
Reservoir, Sophie Ashby, Thatch

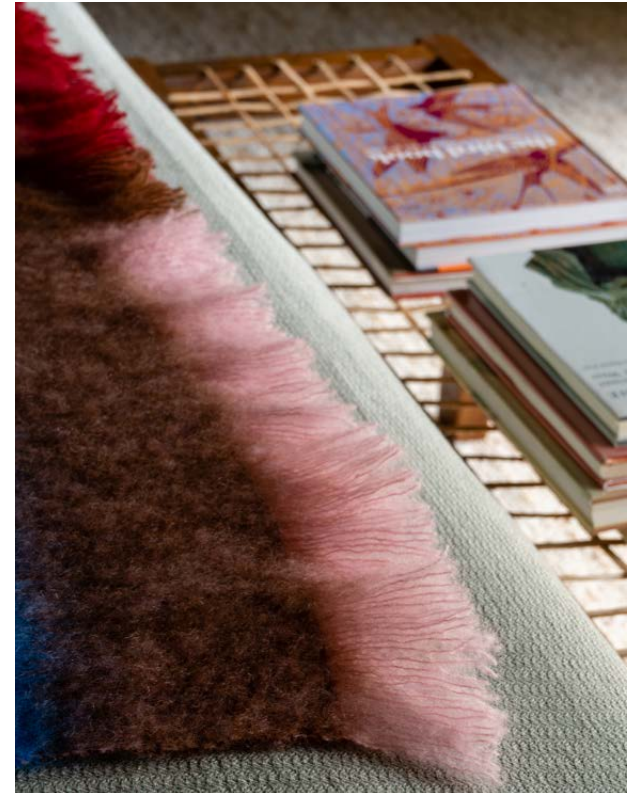




SUPPLIERS

Rugs and Textiles: Coral + Hive, Frances VH Mohair | **Furniture:** Lemon, BoFred | **Audio and Visual Systems:** Bang & Olufsen

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A private club and a personal retreat

The heart of the estate is a central building dedicated to shared living, spanning 811 square metres. Designed to echo the atmosphere of a private club, this hub includes a library, reading room, and serene terraces that extend towards a communal pool. The design strategically softens the boundary between shelter and landscape through generous openings and transitional decks. Inside, a palette of natural tones and organic textures, including stone, wood, and clay, creates a dialogue with the surrounding valley. New stucco finishes for fireplaces and refined joinery reinforce a timeless, cohesive aesthetic that feels deeply rooted in its environment. A notable addition to the estate is the Library Bar, converted from a previously underused area. Featuring a games table, an honesty bar, and a library of titles on South African culture, the space introduces an elegant informality that encourages guests to linger as the afternoon light settles over The Crag.

Privacy and scale define the guest experience, with only ten suites, each exceeding 100 square metres. Each suite serves as a personal sanctuary, complete with a fireplace, a soaking tub, and expansive views of the mountains. While the original layouts were preserved to maintain ease of movement, Studio Ashby focused on refining the sensorial layers of the interiors. This involved a careful selection of textiles, accessories, and a refreshed colour story inspired directly by the landscape: soft lavenders, olive greens, golden yellows, warm terracottas, deep browns, and sky blues.

Soft atmospheres and the sustainable furnishings

A commitment to South African craftsmanship is the project's defining characteristic. Large handwoven rugs were produced in Cape Town on looms designed specifically for the project. The interiors are further enriched by bespoke pieces: hand-carved tables, artisanal ceramics, and sofas, alongside South African antiques featuring the *riempie* technique, where leather strips are interwoven to create durable, tactile surfaces. This emphasis on localism is also a pillar of the project's sustainability strategy; nearly 80% of the furnishings are locally sourced.

The atmosphere is further elevated by a sophisticated art curation developed in collaboration with Reservoir Projects. The collection brings together works by emerging and established South African artists that engage with the tactile and chromatic schemes of the rooms without disrupting the sense of peace.

Modern comfort is seamlessly integrated through Bang & Olufsen audio-visual systems and movable decorative lamps, allowing guests to shape their own soft, personal atmospheres. Beyond the interiors, the estate is committed to environmental stewardship, with ongoing efforts to restore endemic flora, such as fynbos, to the surrounding land.

Ultimately, Tamodi Estate & Polo Reserve is a testament to the idea that design is an 'act of care'. By prioritising time, place, and craftsmanship, Studio Ashby has created a destination that feels like a lived-in family home, offering a gentle, deeply personal experience of the South African landscape.

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FEATURED ARTISTS

Adam Birch, Shirley Fintz, Bella Knemeyer, Anna van der Ploeg, Josephine Grindrod, Ben Stanwix, Xhanti Zwelendaba, Gabrielle Kannemeyer, Seretse Moletsane, Peter Eastman, and Balekane Legoabe