



DWARSBERG - PODS

CASE STUDY

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Company Overview

This is us

At the heart of Arch on Main Architects is an awesome father-daughter team. We're passionate about good design and making our client's dreams a reality.



Introduction

Challenges

Project:

- New luxury pod units to a vacant portion of land at Dwarsberg Trout Hideaway

Location:

- Dwarsberg Trout Hideaway, Rawsonville

Team:

- Architect: Nikita van Zyl (ModH Design)
- Engineer: Frame Consulting Engineers
- Builder: SPAAS/ Green way Interiors
- Interior Designer: Kim Spyron (Oooh Inspired Design)
- Landscape Designer: Jan Hagen

Introduction

We're excited to announce our latest project at Dwarsberg Trout Hideaway in Rawsonville, where we turned an empty plot into a luxurious retreat with the development of cutting-edge pod units. This initiative seamlessly merges modern comfort with the area's natural splendor, providing guests with a tranquil escape.

Our primary objective was to design a retreat that embodies both sustainability and luxury, blending effortlessly with the environment while delivering an extraordinary guest experience.

From the architectural design to the interior finishes, each element was thoughtfully crafted to achieve the ideal mix of comfort, style, and eco-consciousness.

We're passionate about this project, which not only fulfills but surpasses expectations, offering a distinctive and refreshing experience at Dwarsberg Trout Hideaway.



Before



The need

The Obstacles

To summarise the primary issues identified were:

- A remote site accessible only by dirt road.
- A steep building area with mountain views complicating design.
- Challenges in transporting materials due to the location.
- The owner's request for quickly constructed luxury accommodations.
- The need for efficient solutions to meet timeline constraints.

The Challenges

1. Overview and Development

- Dwarsberg Trout Hideaway, a celebrated wedding venue and campsite, is renowned for its rustic charm and picturesque setting. With growing demand, the owner plans to introduce luxury lodging to elevate the site, blending elegance with nature. However, challenges arise due to the site's remote location and steep terrain, complicating the project's execution.

2. Challenges

- The remote access via a dirt pass road hinders material delivery and construction logistics. The steep incline designated for the new accommodations, though offering stunning views, demands a complex foundation, intensifying the project's timeline.

3. Logistical Complexity

- The rugged terrain and remote access add layers of difficulty. Developing luxury lodging on such a challenging site requires innovative planning to overcome structural and logistical obstacles, all while preserving the site's tranquil, natural charm.



The solution

To summarise

- **The initial idea** of using containers was discarded due to the site's remote location and difficult access, leading to the choice of light steel construction with sheet metal cladding for a container-like look.
- **The interior** features birch timber cladding, large glass facades, and sliding doors opening to a deck with a hot tub, blending luxury with nature.
- **Each pod is uniquely themed** around an element—air, water, or fire—providing a distinct experience that encourages repeat visits.

The Solution

1. Initial Container Considerations:

- We evaluated using containers but found them impractical due to the remote site and challenging access. This led us to favor light steel construction as a more feasible option. The design integrated sheet metal cladding to mimic a container-like appearance, balancing both functionality and aesthetics..

2. Interior Aesthetic and Functionality:

- To enhance the interior, birch timber was selected for cladding, creating a warm, inviting environment. Large glass facades were incorporated to showcase the stunning natural surroundings, with a sliding door leading to an outdoor deck. Each unit includes a hot tub to elevate the luxury experience.

3. Thematic Design and Visitor Experience:

- Inspired by nature, we themed each pod around an element—air, water, or fire. This design approach integrates natural elements into the interior, offering a unique experience for each stay, encouraging guests to return and explore different themes.



The end result

To summarise

- **Efficient Construction:** Light steel framework cut construction time to 6-8 weeks per unit.
- **Flexible Design:** Achieved container look with sheet metal, allowing more creative freedom.
- **Lighter Foundation:** Reduced impact on slope and minimized earthwork costs.
- **Landscape Integration:** Natural contours preserved; indigenous flora added.
- **Harmonious Interiors:** Design connected pods to their natural environment.

The product

The use of a light steel framework allowed us to complete the project swiftly:

1. Time Efficiency

- The construction timeline was reduced by months, with each unit completed in just 6-8 weeks, effortlessly meeting the client's deadlines.

2. Sleek Design

- The units, clad in sheet metal, feature a sleek, container-like look, while the light steel framework provided design flexibility, moving beyond typical rectangular shapes.

3. Lighter Foundation

- The framework required a lighter foundation, and the timber flooring minimized the impact on the natural slope, reducing expensive earthworks typically needed for strip foundations.

4. Natural Integration

- The landscape designer embraced the site's natural contours to create beautiful pools, and indigenous flora was planted to seamlessly blend the pods into their surroundings.

5. Harmonious Interiors

- The interior designer thoughtfully connected the indoor spaces to the outdoors, creating a harmonious and beautiful retreat.





To conclude

This project showcases how effective architectural design and an innovative team can transform a complex problem into a unique and stunning solution. The pods are now operational, seamlessly blending modern luxury with natural beauty. The exceptional guest response and high return on investment highlight the project's success, demonstrating that a well-executed vision can achieve both aesthetic excellence and financial rewards. We're proud of this transformative achievement.

A detailed architectural drawing in pencil or light ink serves as a background for the lower half of the page. It includes floor plans, elevations, and various annotations. Labels such as "room 2", "bed room", "living", "kitchen", "bathroom", and "terrace" are visible. Dimensions like "3420", "4118", "12m", and "3300" are also present. The drawing is overlaid with the large text "Get In Touch".

Get In Touch

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