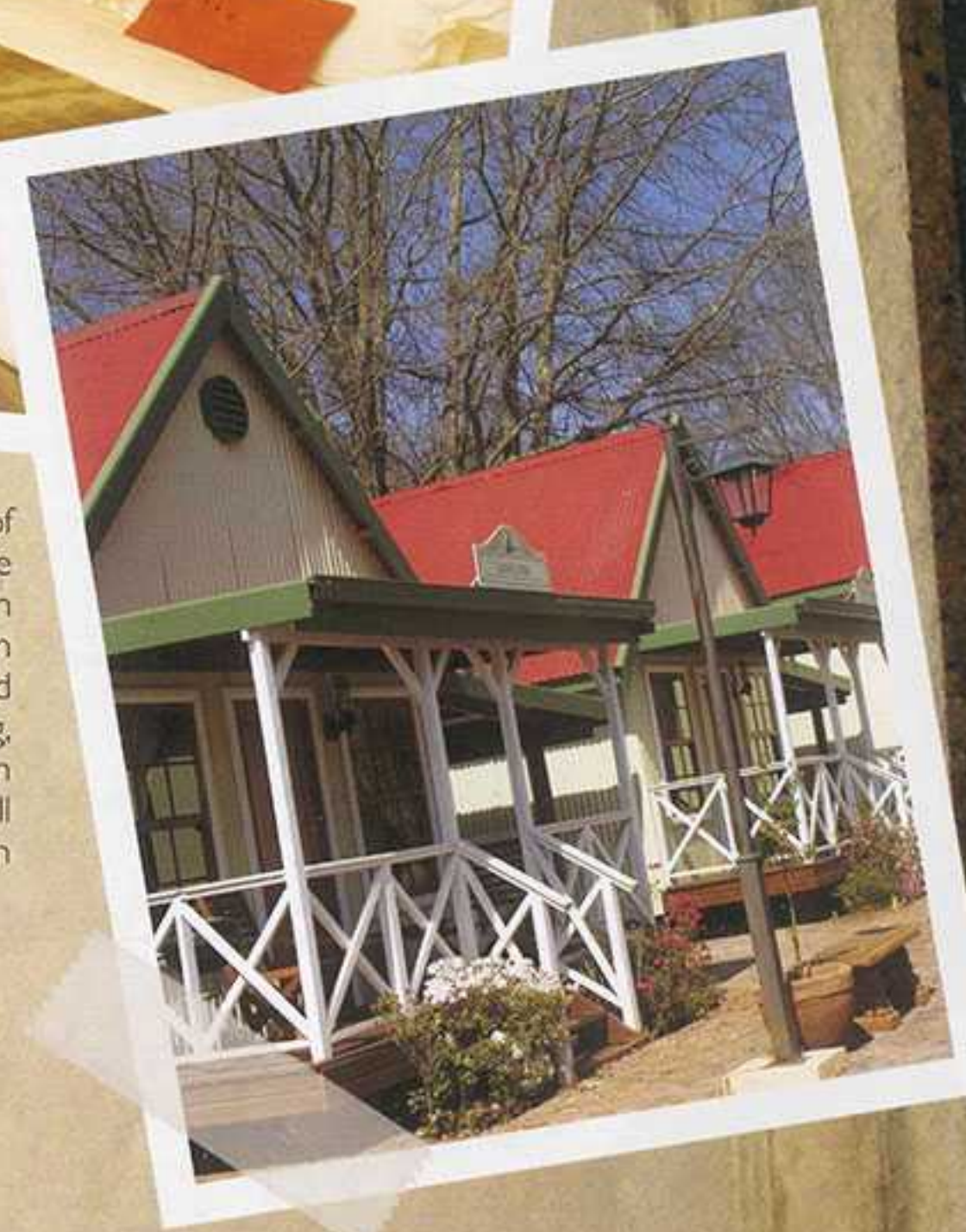
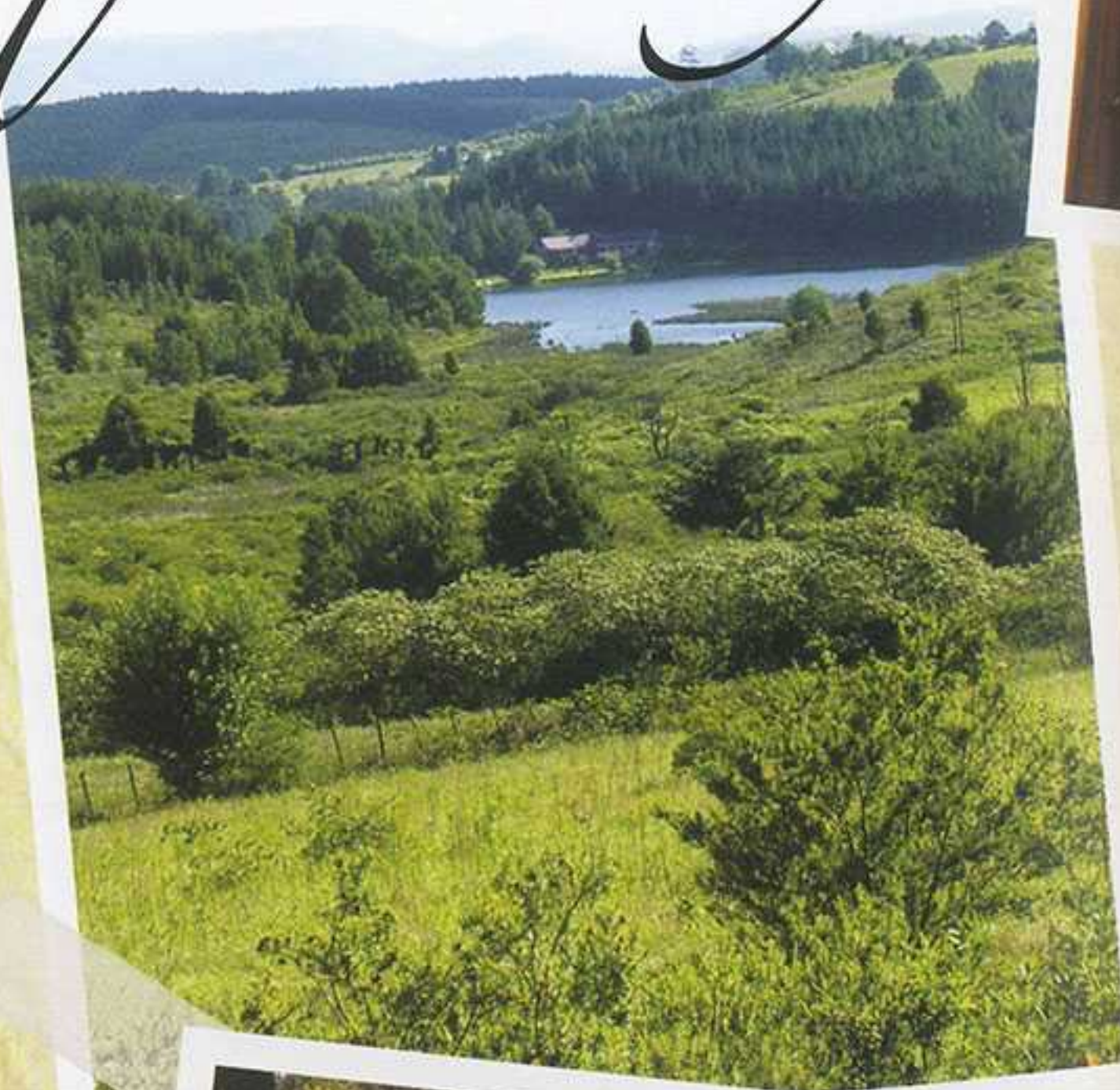


LAKE SIDE *tranquillity*

Combining country living with the lap of luxury, Bramasole Guest House is an adorable location for a relaxing getaway. **Natalie Hilleli** treks to Limpopo for the excuse to switch off her mobile phone

Once just a massive concrete shed built to house an Angora rabbit farm, the 2 400m² building on a massive property on the edge of a spectacular forest, caught the eye of Robin McIntosh who had the vision to convert the space into a boutique guest house. An experienced architect with a passion for restoring old buildings, McIntosh decided to buy the property. It took him 10 years to officially move, together with his wife, two kids and parents, to commit to country living – once he was sure he had created a beautiful enough home for them as well as a four-star luxury guest house that is unique.

Bramasole, meaning 'yearning for the sun' in Italian, is situated in the picturesque Magoebaskloof region, at the northern tip of the Drakensberg Mountains in the Limpopo Province, an area often referred to as the 'Land of the Silver Mists'. A three to four hour drive from Johannesburg, Bramasole is a wonderful stopover option for those visiting the Kruger



National Park which is an hour away. There is plenty to do in the area with tea gardens, restaurants, shops and outdoor activities like fly fishing, mountain biking, abseiling and quad-biking on offer.

The guest house offers eight elegantly decorated suites including standard luxury rooms, self-catering suites

inclusion of recycled bullet proof glass stairs which illuminate the bottom floor of the house. An eclectic mix of antique and modern furniture and decor have been used and even reclaimed parquet flooring, taken from the old synagogue in Polokwane, was utilised for wall cladding and counter surfaces in most rooms.

The interiors incorporate some unusual signature touches like the inclusion of recycled bullet proof glass stairs which illuminate the bottom floor of the house

and the luxurious 'Paris' apartment which also offers a lounge/dining/kitchen area and outdoor braai patio. Each room has the theme of a different country so guests can choose from the subtle influences of an African safari, feel like an Egyptian pharaoh or indulge in the rich colours of Morocco. The rooms are an oasis of relaxation with views of the bordering forest, picturesque lake or manicured gardens.

The interiors incorporate some unusual signature touches like the

For the more adventurous there are various activities at Bramasole and in the surrounds to keep guests entertained, including exploring the neighbouring forest, trout fishing in the lake on the property or going on hikes. Birdwatchers will stay amused with a wealth of bird life calling the area home, including the rare wood owl. But keeping busy isn't for everybody when visiting such a tranquil place, so for those less active there is a library where you can choose a good novel and

curl up by the fireplace or you could treat yourself to a hot rock massage which can be arranged in the comfort of your own room or in the Growth Centre.

Bramasole is a lovely location for team building, conferencing or intimate weddings for up to 60 people, and they offer a package to help you plan your special day.

For reservations and further information call (015) 276 1223 or visit www.bramasole.co.za