

A MOSAIC OF ART NOUVEAU



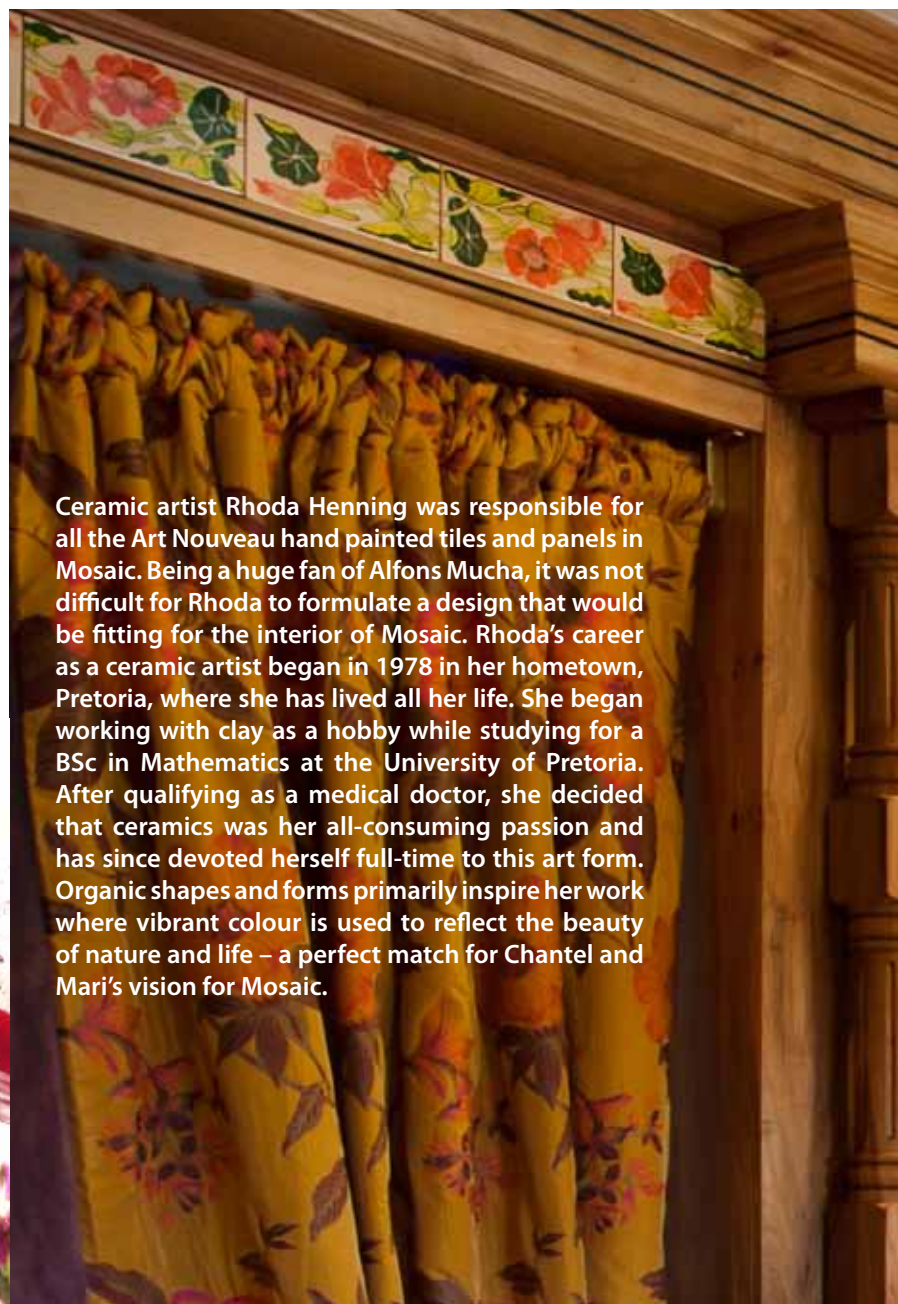
There is nothing more therapeutic than a fine-dining experience, where you can immerse yourself not only in culinary elegance and high standards, but also in an atmosphere that makes the monotonous everyday world feel far, far away. Such an unforgettable experience is to be found at Restaurant Mosaic at The Orient.

The Moorish inspired Private hotel houses Restaurant Mosaic, headed by award winning chef Chantel Dartnall at the run of things. In only a mere seven years Restaurant Mosaic has grown into a well-known South African establishment synonymous with quality, elegance and exquisite taste.



Chantel together with her mom Mari, travel extensively every year in search of beautiful collectables in the world, not only for Chantel's well-known Botanical cuisine, but also in decorating the interior of The Orient and Restaurant Mosaic. From the first time Chantel and Mari visited Paris, they fell in love with the Art Nouveau movement and architecture, and Parisian restaurants like La Fermette Marbeuf, Vagenende and Montparnasse 1900, are some of the picturesque Art Nouveau restaurants that inspired the initial interior of Mosaic. It was not only Paris that presented inspiration, but also Brussels, Vienna and Budapest where they discovered the rich history and culture of the Art Nouveau and Jugendstil movement. In Brussels, Chantel followed in the footsteps of the Belgian architect Victor Horta, one of the most important names and undoubtedly the key European Art Nouveau architect. Even in the highlands of Glasgow, Chantel studied the designs of the famous Art Nouveau artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh, a designer in the post-impressionist movement and the main representative of Art Nouveau in the United Kingdom.

In June this year Chantel and Mari visited the breath-taking L'Ecole de Nancy, the temple of Art Nouveau and private home of the leading patron of the time in France, Eugène Corbin. Sure enough, they brought back with them an enormous amount of inspiration



Ceramic artist Rhoda Henning was responsible for all the Art Nouveau hand painted tiles and panels in Mosaic. Being a huge fan of Alfons Mucha, it was not difficult for Rhoda to formulate a design that would be fitting for the interior of Mosaic. Rhoda's career as a ceramic artist began in 1978 in her hometown, Pretoria, where she has lived all her life. She began working with clay as a hobby while studying for a BSc in Mathematics at the University of Pretoria. After qualifying as a medical doctor, she decided that ceramics was her all-consuming passion and has since devoted herself full-time to this art form. Organic shapes and forms primarily inspire her work where vibrant colour is used to reflect the beauty of nature and life – a perfect match for Chantel and Mari's vision for Mosaic.



for Mosaic. L'École de Nancy Museum holds a magnificent collection of furniture, objects d'art, glasswork, ceramics and fabric that demonstrate the diversity of creative techniques used by the artists of the early 1900's. The museum offers a glimpse into the French Art Nouveau movement through the works of Guimard, Chaplet, Selmersheim and Carabin – all of which have been of infinite inspiration when Mosaic was founded seven years ago.

Mosaic is known as the destination of choice for a special celebration – a destination restaurant with rooms, where the opulent dining rooms flow into the Belle Époque interior of The Orient Hotel - a romantic paradise of harmony and tranquillity. The Restaurant's luxurious interior tells about the Jugendstil and Art Nouveau movements of the time, the only restaurant in South Africa decorated in this highly sophisticated style. The opulence, attention to detail and quality is remarkable, with priceless collectables and fine art pieces that reflect the splendour and grace of a bygone era.

Earlier in the year, Mari and Chantel commissioned Patti Di Ciccio and Gert Gertzen to enhance the décor of the restaurant and private dining rooms. Enthusiastic to take this beautiful restaurant to the next level, Gert and Patti used this opportunity to make some lavish changes to the décor and wall-fittings, yet keep the elegance, nuances and the rich taste characteristic of the Art Nouveau interior.

Patrons of Restaurant Mosaic can now return to a "new" restaurant embellished in carefully selected Art Nouveau elements, reflecting the true spirit of the Belle Époque. Subtle yet gallant changes can be seen like the affluent wall coverings in purple, gold and black; meticulously hand painted panels and tiles that border the honey coloured wood panelled walls.

The combination of all these elements creates an effect of fantasy, lightness – a mesmerizing ambience, rendering Mosaic a true gem that offers an exclusive and romantic atmosphere that transports you back in time to a world of refinement, elegance and style...

Visit us at www.restaurantmosaic.com and www.the-orient.net



Gert Gertzen was born and raised in Pretoria and studied art under the famous artist Walter Batiss. After numerous travels overseas and gaining knowledge and experience, Gert returned to South Africa in 1972 where he managed Reney Otto Interiors. Ten years later Gert Gertzen Interiors was born and today this humble man can proudly boast about his international reputation encompassing projects from Ethosha and the Kalahari, to The Pulana Hotel in Maputo, houses in Geneva, London and Switzerland; Tuinhuis in Cape Town, offices for FW de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, including their private jets.

In his own words, Gert described his philosophy on designing:

"Nothing is just decorative - it is very important that there are lots of hidden qualities and even if you don't understand all these things, they should be there."

Some of Gert's current projects include a penthouse in Clifton, a house in Wentworth in the United Kingdom, a private gym and spa in Bavaria, a lodge in Timbavati and his ongoing project at La Petite Dauphine in Franschoek where he is co-owners of this lovely establishment.

Patti Di Ciccio trained under Gert for 10 years, gaining invaluable experience and knowledge. She started Patti Di Ciccio Interiors in 1990 and has since completed projects to the likes of homes in Leopard Creek Golf Estate, farmhouses in the Free State and exclusive private homes in Pretoria. She mostly works in the domestic industry, completing entire homes in SA and abroad.

