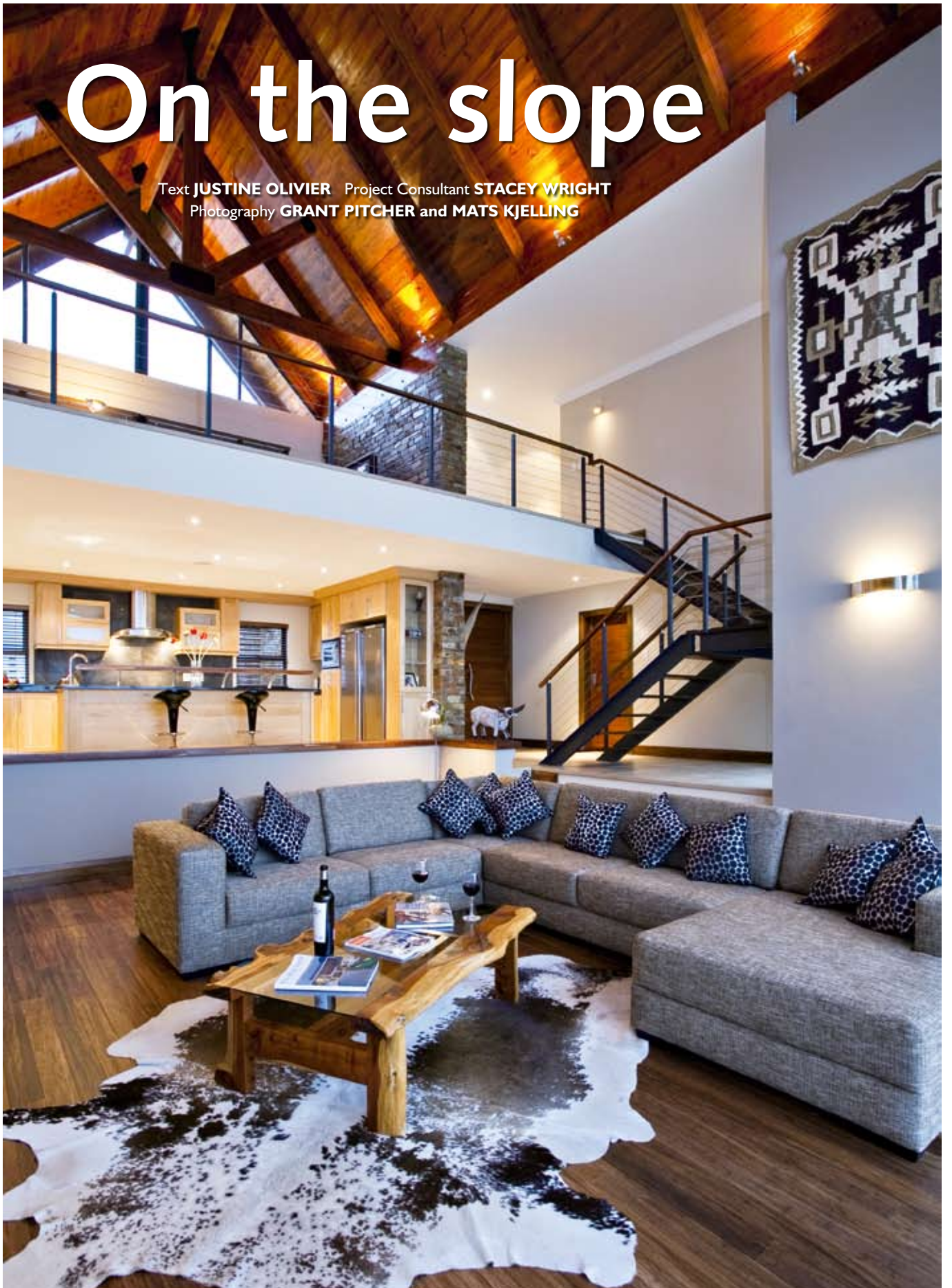


# On the slope

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**WHAT MAKES THIS** home different from the surrounding properties in the estate is its distinct design and architectural style. This double-storey abode is reminiscent of contemporary Alpine architecture, where the roofs are designed to bear heavy snow loads during the winter season. Snow being the least of the home owners' worries in this southern hemisphere climate, the design enhances the aesthetic exterior appearance.

It was the residents' appreciation of contemporary Alpine architecture experienced on a host of skiing trips that inspired the design and building of the home, as well as years of mulling over concepts and ideas before the fruition of their dream home. Surrounded by large vertical windows which allow a plethora of natural light in, illuminating the home during the day, along with the exterior appearance similar to a chalet you'd find in any ski



**BELOW:** Inso Aluminium, one of the largest independent manufacturers of aluminium windows, doors and showers in South Africa, was responsible for the design, supply and installation of all aluminium, glass windows and doors including high performance double-glazed units. The company used charcoal aluminium and clear, tinted glass ensuring that a sophisticated and elegant design continues throughout this contemporary home. Inso Aluminium prioritises safety, ensuring that each unit is SABS-approved leaving home owners with peace of mind.

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resort or village, this home boasts contemporary design externally and internally.

The interior decor, while simplistic and minimalist in design, boasts a commingling of local and contemporary ideas, with the use of natural materials such as Nguni cow-hides on solid bamboo flooring, and woven rugs. Decorated with personal yet tasteful furnishes, the interior decor is equipped with ski pictures and photographs, paintings of local scenery and carved and woven artefacts from local and ancient tribesmen. The two Nguni cattle models – male and female – are intricately woven from steel wire beads and grace the entrance to the sunken lounge. The fireplace, clad with raw masoned rock, mined locally in Howick, not only ensures more than adequate heating during the cooler months but is also great for socialising.

The double-volume sunken, open-plan lounge and kitchen are designed with the kitchen overlooking the lounge, with an L-shaped loft perched above the kitchen wrapping around an open-plan study with a TV room directly above the kitchen. The architects designed this living space in such a way that a view over the lounge and fireplace from the loft was ensured, thereby creating a feeling of cosiness and connec-



tion in being able to live in the entire space at once whether upstairs or downstairs. The architects of this contemporary abode ensured that the home owners wouldn't miss the amazing views below and capitalised on such with sweeping views of the golf course over an ancient indigenous forest and valley.

"My advice to any aspiring home owner is that one should plan the exercise carefully, negotiating with every supplier for a better price, and shop around! There are a lot of people out there looking for work in the construction industry and if you do your homework you'll reap the savings. But the main thing is to stay focused on your goal



– there is never a right time to build as costs are always escalating so don't dilly dally either," say the home owners. "And lastly, pay attention to the detail and the main thing is enjoy the experience, there is a lot to be learned," they conclude. 🏡

## ON THE SLOPE

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