

Q&A

with Dewald and Erika

Any cost-cutting tips? Our antique theme made it easy to save on costs as a lot of affordable items bought at second-hand shops fit well in this quaint little cottage. Renovating a building this old, we realised that most of the work in the early days was done by hand and people used what was available. We did the same.

Where did you get your ideas? Home got us going! There are also many creative people living in Prince Albert; being in this environment is inspiring.

What do you enjoy most about this space? There's no TV, no modern technology and no rush hour. This adorable little cottage has no straight walls and the floor is rough, but it has an enormous heart. What's not to love?

Any other advice for renovators?

- Don't be afraid to make mistakes. You are unlikely to get everything right the first time; it's a process of trial and error.
- Plan properly – this will save you a lot of time and money.
- Keep your eyes open for items that can be re-used or upcycled, such as an old door frame that can be repurposed as a window frame or even a tabletop.
- Take a risk. Even though the cottage is 1 400km from home, we manage it with great success.
- Bend your back!

What's next? Being in the guesthouse industry, we're constantly renovating and looking for a new challenge. 🏠

The typical roof structure, known as a "brakdakkie", consists of several crossbeams and poplar latte covered with hessian and topped with a mixture of salt and clay, roughly 400mm thick. That's it!



Renovators' notes

Dedicated teamwork and a little elbow grease go a long way!

Price tag:
R52 690

Fine finishes

Slow combustion stove

Classic Fires (044 884 1240, classicfires.co.za)

Antique furniture and décor items

Prince Albert Country Store (023 541 1053);
The Olde Shop (072 468 6040)

Wooden frames and windows

Boshoff Boumateriaal (044 272 0788)

Freestanding slipper bath

Bathroom Bizarre (0861 555 000, bathroom.co.za)



Costs

Building/contractors	R13 240
Building materials (bricks, cement, sand, etc)	15 000
Sash window	1 900
Lounge	
Stove	R8 000
Lock	50
Old cupboard	50
Old kist	10
Tray table	150
Paint	650
Subtotal	R8 910

Bedroom and kitchen

Glass	R220
Door	200
Locks	100
Basin	1 200
Fittings	2 100
Taps	300
Door	700
Subtotal	R4 820

Bathroom

Toilet	R210
Cabinet	150
Accessories	90
Bath	6 000
Basin	420
Sink	250
Subtotal	R7 120

Exterior

Paint	R120
Lime and other	1 580
Subtotal	R1 700

Floor plan

