

# City cottages offer charming urban living



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Compact, colourful and easy to maintain – cottages are being sought by city dwellers who want the charm and comfort of a country home, in an urban setting.

“Cottages are also popular with young professionals, especially those with artistic vision who enjoy the quaint features that many of these homes offer,” says Bev Josten

Pam Golding Properties is marketing several cottage homes in Cape Town’s City Bowl that are filled with character and history, but that offer the lock-up-and-go lifestyle one expects from town living.

Bev Josten, Pam Golding Properties agent for the City Bowl, says there are many terraces of smaller homes, dubbed cottages, which were built in the 1900s or formed part of the early farms in the area. “The term cottage does not mean the home is shabby in any way. Most of these properties have been stylishly renovated with contemporary design.”

Filled with character, these cottages offer many desirable features including original fireplaces, wooden strip flooring, sash windows or French doors, notes Josten. Cottages often boast outdoor terraces or courtyards, which make them appealing to homeowners wanting an outdoor space that does not require the same maintenance as an expansive garden.

An Oranjezicht property, listed by Pam Golding Properties for R4.695 million, is just one of the many City Bowl cottages that offer a delightful courtyard area. In fact, this property has two patios – one as you step through the gate and the second courtyard, reminiscent of a European pied-à-terre, which follows on from the living area. This delightful cottage includes a wood fireplace, a large picture window that allows for some view of Table Mountain and an open-plan kitchen. Completing the cottage feel of this home is its tranquil location, in a quiet street. It is also within convenient walking distance of the Gardens Shopping Centre and parks in the area.

“Cottages are also popular with young professionals, especially those with artistic vision who enjoy the quaint features that many of these homes offer,” says Josten. Often, the cottage is considered as a starter home. “We have one of these cottages in Gardens, listed for R3.95 million. Situated on a cobbled street in Vredehoek’s “village” section, this appealing three-bedroom cottage, on a 174m<sup>2</sup> erf, is packed with personality. It has its original fireplace and a large farm-house kitchen.” Cottage properties are usually more affordable than freestanding homes on larger properties, and this make them a good option for buyers wanting to gain entry into a popular property market, says Josten.

She adds that international buyers, drawn to the idiosyncrasies of authentic cottages in the heart of the city, also want the lock-up-and-go-living which these homes afford. One of Tamboerskloof’s iconic terrace homes is on the market for R6.49 million. Pam Golding Properties agent for the City Bowl, Riaan Ackermann, says the home has an upstairs balcony allowing for stunning mountain views. In typical cottage-style, it has a back courtyard garden that offers the peace and privacy one would enjoy in a country retreat.

“Cottage homes of this era, circa 1900s, are inherent to the fabric of the City Bowl, and there’s considerable interest from buyers wanting to own a piece of local history,” explains Josten.