



I am a daughter of Cape Town, that place of convergence, at the southern tip of Africa, the place where two oceans collide, where old intermingles with new, where black connects with white, where the wilderness joins the metropolis, and the sand meets the sea.

Convergence has been defined as: Two or more things coming together, joining together or evolving into one.

There is often boundless beauty in that place where divergent things come together. Not always in the obvious way as a line between two things, but in a way that the beauty of each element is enhanced by its adjacencies.





To the south lies Muizenberg, on the Indian Ocean, with its warm water and its shallow gentle beaches lined by colorful beach boxes. My grandparents had one, and on warm summer days we would sweep out the sand that blew in under the door to make way for our lunch and our beach chairs.

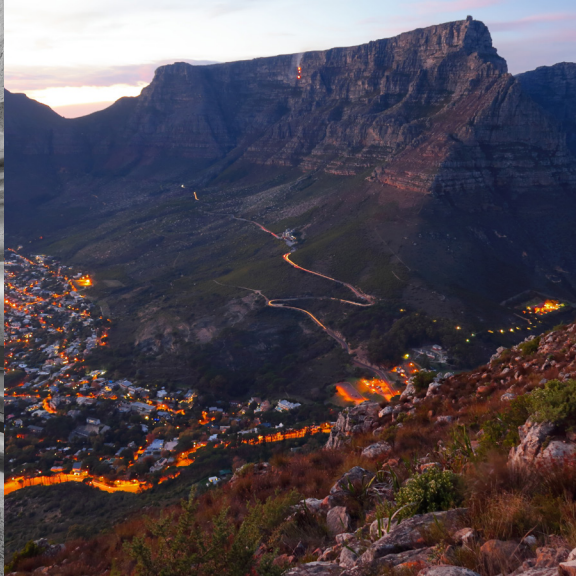
To the west is Clifton on the Atlantic Ocean with its numbered beaches, each more chic than the next, with its sharp cliffs, and rough waves. The hillsides of Camp's Bay have homes of glass and steel with epic views.

Table Mountain rises above it all, nestling the harbor below. Its flat form runs north south, and at the base sits Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens home to the protea, the strelitzia, and the disa uniflora orchid. Table Mountain is watched over by Lion's Head to the north. When as kids we would watch the inevitable cape fogs roll in, we called it the cloth over the table and the blanket over the sleeping lion.

Down the coast, at the tip of the continent, those two oceans meet, and the penguins make their home.



CONVERGENCE





The city, with its mix of historic locales, wealthy suburbs, squatter towns, business districts, and typical neighborhoods sits between the bays, bounded by the rocky mountains on the west and the verdant wineries of Stellenbosch on the east.

In the heart of town, near the financial center, the bustling wharf, and the Cape Town Stadium built for the 2010 Soccer World Cup, lies Bo-Kaap, once called the Malay Quarter, the oldest surviving residential neighborhood in Cape Town with its picturesque pastel homes and steep cobblestone streets.

The foothills of Constantia like the estates of Stellenbosch are dotted with grand homes in the Cape Dutch style, white-washed and distinct. On the northern edge of town sits Cape Flats and Gugulethu, shanty towns with dwellings made of scrap metal and found objects. In the Apartheid years these "illegal" and unpermitted dwelling were built by communities who were not allowed to live within the City. They were the first thing we would see when arriving from the airport.





Named by the World Design Organization as the World Design Capital for 2014, Cape Town has a thriving arts scene.

Traditional crafts have been infused by modern world materials and inspirations to produce iconic objects like the ubiquitous telephone wire baskets and whimsical wire and bead animals. Indigenous expression like the graphic pictorial Ndebele house paintings have provided a multitude of inspiration from mural art in the Woodstock neighborhood to limited edition graphically painted BMWs. While the unmistakable graphic textiles called shweshwe with their distinctive indigo dyes and geometric patterns are recognizably evident from traditional clothing and rituals to modern haute couture.

My favorite childhood doll wore a blue shweshwe dress and was wrapped in an ochre blanket shawl clasped with a beaded pin.





Formidable forces have always pushed on Cape Town from the perennial winds (known as the Cape Doctor) to the modern-day crippling droughts that have forced massive conservation efforts, from the colonialism that permanently upended societal structures to the hyper categorizations and extreme inequalities imposed by Apartheid.

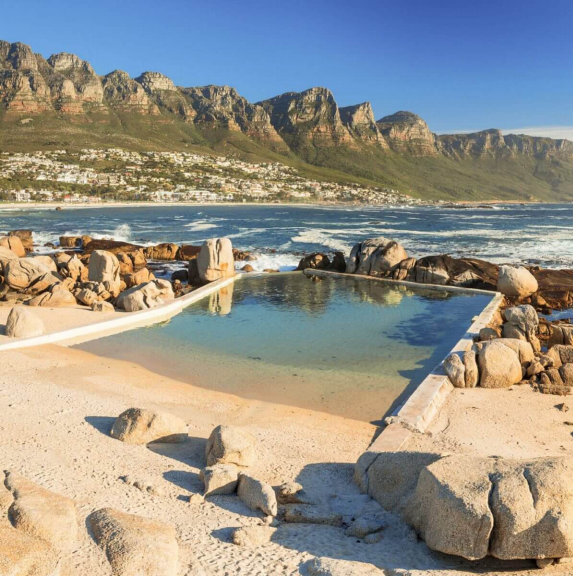
But Cape Town endures, and it blurs those lines in the most beautiful ways. And I am a daughter of Cape Town, a product of many forces and influences. My personal aesthetic is deeply rooted in the rich visuals of my childhood home.





PROJECT GOAL: TRAVEL TO CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA TO PRODUCE
A PICTORIAL COLLAGE AND INSTAGRAM FEED DOCUMENTING LIFE'S
INTERSECTIONS AND THEIR EXPRESSIONS IN CONTEMPORARY ART AND
DESIGN.

XPLORE# 201903



CONVERGENCE

