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HOUSE & GARDEN

SOUTH AFRICA

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R85 (incl. VAT)
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Other countries
R73.91



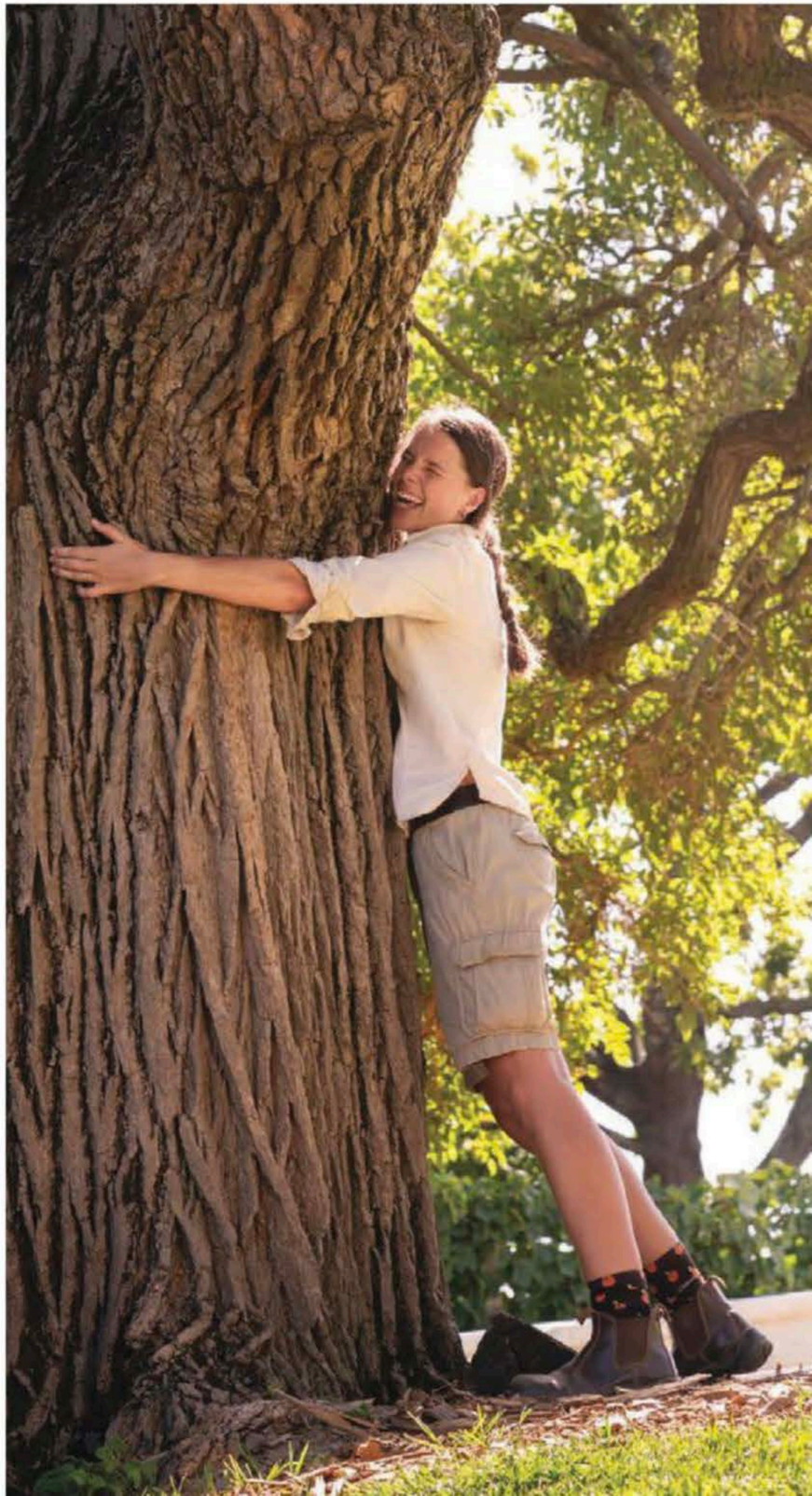
TAKE IT OUTSIDE

WHERE *architecture*, LANDSCAPE AND *life come* TOGETHER

CONDÉ NAST HOUSE & GARDEN







A Little Wild

Garden Day invites us to step outside the rulebook and make more room for nature. This year they encourage us to embrace a little untidiness, a little experimentation and a lot more life.

text HEIDI BERTISH

Eleven years ago, the Garden Day movement turned traditional gardening etiquette on its head, asking South Africans to do something rather radical on Garden Day: don't garden. Instead, take a day off from weeding, pruning and watering, invite friends and family over and celebrate the garden simply by enjoying it.

This year, on Sunday 18 October, that spirit of breaking the rules continues. Because perhaps the best thing we can do for our gardens is to rethink some of the rules we've inherited along the way.

The modern garden is becoming less about perfection and more about purpose: a place to grow food, support biodiversity, conserve water, connect with nature and importantly, enjoy being in.

For architect turned landscape designer Ian Dommisse, one rule worth breaking is the idea that a lawn should dominate the garden. 'A lawn should be seen as an area rug, rather than wall-to-wall carpet,' he says. 'If it's used for children to play or sport, keep it. But where it's simply filling space, consider ornamental grasses, groundcovers or other planting that brings more life, movement and biodiversity to the garden.'

Comine Joubert, a horticulturist at Babylonstoren, agrees that we should be looking at lawns differently, rather than simply eliminating them. 'Variety is important,' she says, suggesting alternatives such as Roman chamomile,

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TOP LEFT AND RIGHT
Horticulturist
Comine Joubert