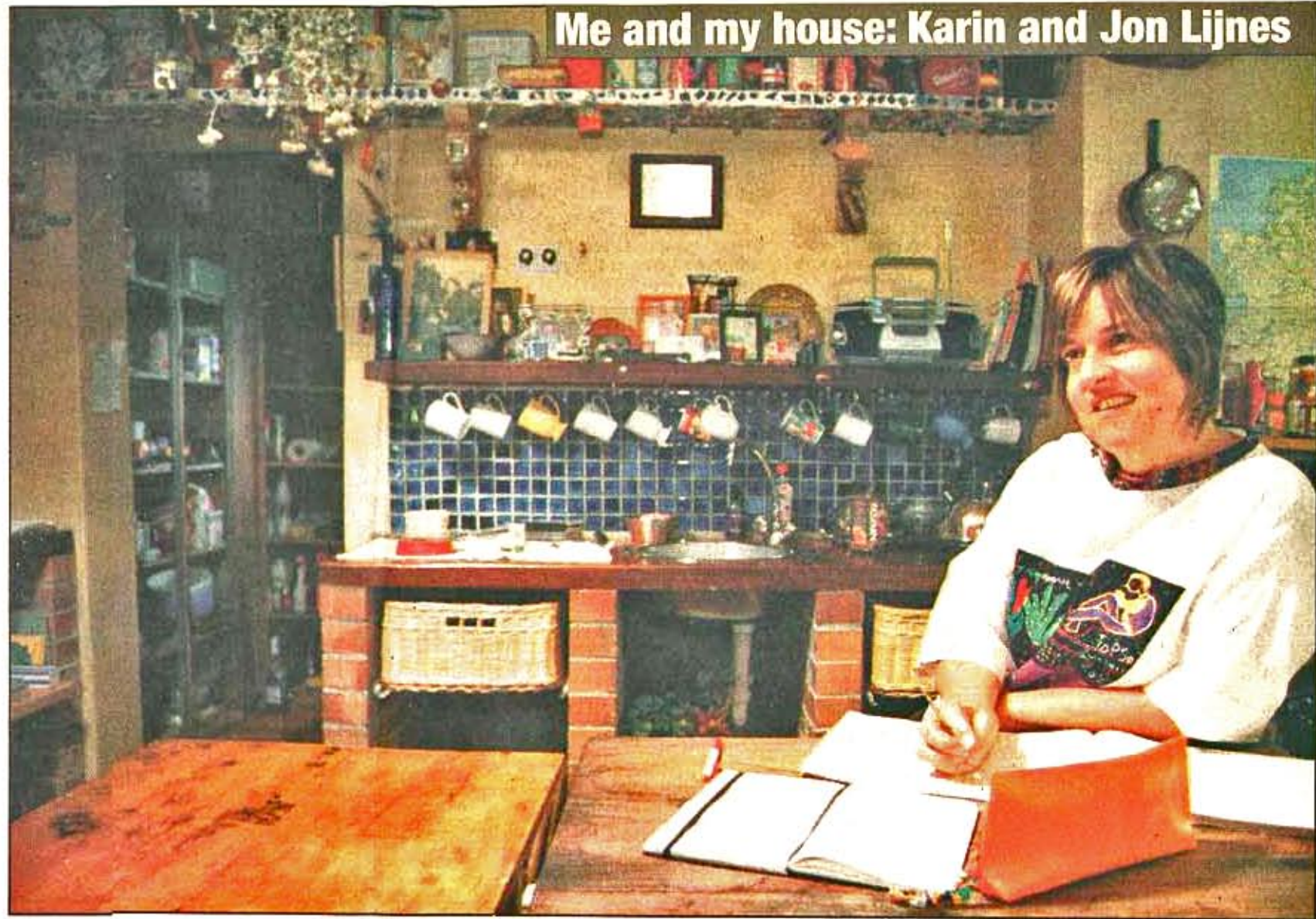


Special: above, the dining area has a sense of the sacred, with its domed roof and the interplay of light from the round windows and glass features.



At home: right, artist Karin Lijnes in her favourite space, the kitchen, where she often sits and writes.

Domed house with a sacred touch

The Lijnes's Noordhoek home has been transformed from a modest farmhouse into a creative space using natural textures and exquisite art work to draw the eye

Fact box

Moved in: 2001
Cost: R900 000 – plus, plus to renovate
Lived where before: Pretoria
Favourite room in summer: Studio and kitchen
In winter: Bedroom – in bed with a laptop
Best home alone meal: stir-fry
Rules for pets: none – the parrot rules here
Rules for kids: none – they're all welcome
Do you have a toolbox? 'Yes, I've got a writing toolbox,

a brushes and paints toolbox and Jon also has a toolbox. There are many levels of toolboxes.'
Three things in the fridge: vegetables, lean bacon and low-fat cottage cheese
In your CD player at the moment: *The Concoctions Play*, which is a self-produced CD from Ocean View's Robert Franke and Abraham (Shaba) Opperman – it's jazzy and very like the Gypsy Kings.

MCCONELL

EARTHY tones and a warm, expansive feeling greet you when you walk through the Burmese teak door of Karin and Jon Lijnes's Noordhoek home.

JEANNE VIALI
Feature Writer

ANGELO KALMEYER
Staff Photographer

Immediately you're in a domed dining area that's a unique feature of this house, built out of reddish bricks with a skylight to make the room light and airy.

Everywhere details grab the eye, leading you on to the next artwork, a heavy polished roof beam, or intricate mosaic details.

Jon is a civil engineer, Karin an artist. Each has their own space, Jon's office is above the garage and Karin has a studio in the garden.

There's an intricate mosaic path still in the process of being created leading to the studio.

When the Lijnes bought the house it was a simple

farmhouse with small square rooms and an overgrown garden.

"We didn't want to encroach on the garden, so we built up," says Karin. Their intention was not to build too big, or too expensive. The best part of the renovations was that everything they did was for themselves, not for "resale". And so Karin has been able to bring her artist's eye into everything.

Her exquisite art work is also placed around the house.

"We wanted rough and natural textures," she says. The



Blue loo: the guest toilet was painted by Karin.

bathroom tiles have plant fossils embedded in them; some of the walls are plastered roughly, windowsills are made from rough wooden sleepers. The ceiling is reeded.

Heavy pieces of teak were salvaged from The Castle for roof beams. "They looked like big pieces of rotten wood when we got them," says Karin, and they took a lot of sanding to become the beau-

tiful pieces they now are.

Many of the walls, both inside and out, were painted with Kheim, a non-toxic paint which gives a special luminescence. "We have people stopping and asking us what paint we've used," says Karin. The downside is that it's expensive, the up-side that it lasts much, much longer than other paint.

The kitchen is Karin's favourite room, where she often just sits and writes. It has slide-out shelves, so there's no scratching at the back to find things.

As in the bedroom, there are no cupboard doors, which makes a lot of sense – why keep on opening and closing doors when you don't need to?

"As we went along, we said, let's make a recess here for the fridge, the cupboard here."

The front door has had a travelling life – it was found

at the Mount Nelson many years ago, taken to Pretoria by the then owner and built into his house. When the Lijnes's came to Cape Town, they brought it with them.

Above it is a window made from different coloured glass bottles, which give a glowing effect.

The chandelier in the domed room is made of glass bottles, resin shapes and Ngwenya recycled glass drops, to beautiful effect.

The dome is an architectural wonder, built using an ancient method. "I thought it would be much smaller," she says, using her arms to describe the size. It ended up being six metres in diameter. The architect who directed its building, Andy Horn, had only made a two metre one beforehand, so in a way it was experimental.

What the dome does is create a space of great beauty with a sense of the sacred.