

Architect and Builder

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NEWSWORTHY



FAÇADE PROGRESS ON THE RIDGE, V&A WATERFRONT

With construction restrictions lifted, the V&A Waterfront's development team has returned to The Ridge site to install the long-awaited façade. The first cross laminated timber (CLT) and glazing panels arrived and have been installed along Marine Road. These custom-made panels with openable windows, are one of the key sustainability features of The Ridge building. It will assist in the natural ventilation of the office floors. CLT is a green and sustainable material since it is made out of renewable wood, sequesters carbon, and does not require the burning of fossil fuels during production.

The next milestone at The Ridge is making the building a living breathing one. It will consist of a mixed mode climate control to cover TABS, displacement ventilation and natural ventilation. Thereafter a world class interior to cover landscaping, flexible working areas, and staff wellness focus to name a few.

SAOTA AND JACO BOOYENS ARCHITECT WIN GOLD AT INTERNATIONAL DOMUS RESTORATION & CONSERVATION AWARDS

The restoration of the ensemble of heritage buildings on Buffelsdrift Farm - by SAOTA and Jaco Booyens Architect - won the gold medal at the seventh edition of the International Domus Restoration and Conservation Awards in Italy. The award, conceived and promoted by the company Fassa S.r.l. and by the University of Ferrara, recognises "excellence in the field of restoration, redevelopment and architectural and landscape recovery at an international level".

Buffelsdrift Farm is located west of Ladismith in the arid Klein Karoo region of the Western Cape in South Africa. The restoration involved a cluster of Cape buildings in a valley beneath the Swartberg mountain range, consisting of a main house and two barns, plus a store. A short way off is a flat-roofed building, typical of the Ladismith style, which was originally used as a wine store. Other structures on the property include a contemporary shed, a cottage further up a hill, and a graveyard. The house, barns and wine store were all restored.

The Buffelsdrift Farm is a building characteristic of South African culture, born from the mixture of different cultures and building techniques. It consists of multiple buildings dating back to the mid-nineteenth century inserted within a large agricultural property, again arranged and replanted.

The original buildings, made of raw earth, had undergone numerous alterations both in coatings and in covers, and, overall, due to inconsistent additions. The restoration attempted to overcome these inconsistencies, returning to the use of traditional construction techniques. The walls, where incomplete, were reinstated with raw earth and re-plastered according to local methods; likewise, a broad roof pitch covered with sheet metal in recent times, has been reconfigured according to the original straw technique, made with local plant materials. The end result is particularly convincing in the redefinition of the volumes inside of a natural landscape that is an integral part of the design.

SAOTA director Greg Truen, who acquired the farm in 2016, notes that while minor additions and modern alterations had been made to the buildings, the original house, was "in good condition, considering" and that the barns were "fundamentally untouched". "We looked for contemporary materials that spoke to the original materials," says Truen. "To honour the heritage of the existing buildings, materials were carefully selected to ensure that a little of the construction history is visible, showcasing elements of how these buildings were originally put together", adds Jaco Booyens. Interiors were completed by ARRC.



SUTHERLAND COMPLETES PHOTO-VOLTAIC SKYLIGHT

Sutherland Façades recently completed the new Parklands Head Office for I&M Bank in Nairobi, Kenya. The building is the first commercial building in Kenya to generate electricity using transparent solar PV glass in place of conventional glass, and is the largest photo-voltaic skylight installation in Africa. It consists of 2,200m² of Onyx Solar amorphous silicon technology supplied by ACES Africa, and combines different degrees of transparency to adapt to the design requirements. Generated electricity is 76.5kWp or 3,342,503 kWh over the 35 year life span, and the payback period is projected at less than 6 years. It also avoids approximately 84 tons of annual Co2 emissions.

Sutherland designed the full building envelope on the fundamentals of optimal materials usage and energy efficiency, whilst visual and thermal comfort for the building occupants was a key driver of design of the bespoke double glazed curtain walls.

www.sutherlandengineers.com

CASCADE FAÇADE SERVICES BRINGS TALENT TOGETHER FOR NEW INDUSTRY PLAYER

Recently established, Cascade Façade Services (CFS) brings together a number of seasoned experts in the fenestration and façade industry.

CFS operates confidently in both the commercial and residential markets, locally and outside the borders of South Africa. Offering design, supply and installation of aluminium fenestration, glazed curtain wall systems, aluminium composite panel and stone clad façade systems. They also provide a highly skilled rope access service, focussing on façade cleaning, repairs, remedials, joint sealant and the design and installation of access points.

Headed up by Anton Fish, previously with World of Windows, CFS are passionate about providing practical, cost efficient solutions to improve the performance of façades on existing buildings to meet the required performance criteria. From over-clads and external shading devices to internally installed double glazing conversions. CFS will design, supply and install the appropriate system.

With the guidance from well-respected façade engineers, they pride themselves on crisp, professional designs and workshop drawings backed by their solid project management team. Salvador Moita is Head of Projects and JP Joubert heads up the Design department.

Although the industry finds itself in challenging and somewhat uncertain times at the moment the company is positive and driven to continue contributing to the economy by building a successful, ethical, sustainable and profitable business. Providing excellent service and delivering high quality products on time is a key focus.

www.cascadefs.co.za



JP Joubert, Anton Fish, Salvador Moita

NEWSWORTHY

CIVILS HOLDS OPPORTUNITIES FOR GVK-SIYA YAMA

Despite the decline of the Civils sector, which saw a low confidence level of 24% as measured by the FNB/BER Index just before COVID-19, GVK-Siya Zama has tapped into its entrepreneurial spirit and added a dedicated Civils unit to its operational offering. The company aims to create jobs by filling the void left by many companies that had to close their doors.

This is according to Dumisani Madi, Chairman of GVK-Siya Zama, who says a time of crisis and uncertainty often presents entrepreneurs with good opportunities to grow their businesses. "Adding the Civils component to our services will expand our reach in the market and increase our chance of procuring construction work through exposure to different clients."

Based in Gauteng, the unit will be structured to enable it to work country-wide. It will be spearheaded by 35-year industry veteran Anton Botha, who has extensive civils experience at senior board level at some of the foremost construction companies. It is also important to note that GVK-Siya Zama is a level 1 BBBEE company, and there are few Civils companies that offer this and have the necessary experience to carry out the work, he explained. "As such, GVK-Siya Zama could bid on almost any kind of project with the requisite confidence that the requisite skills are there."



Anton Botha