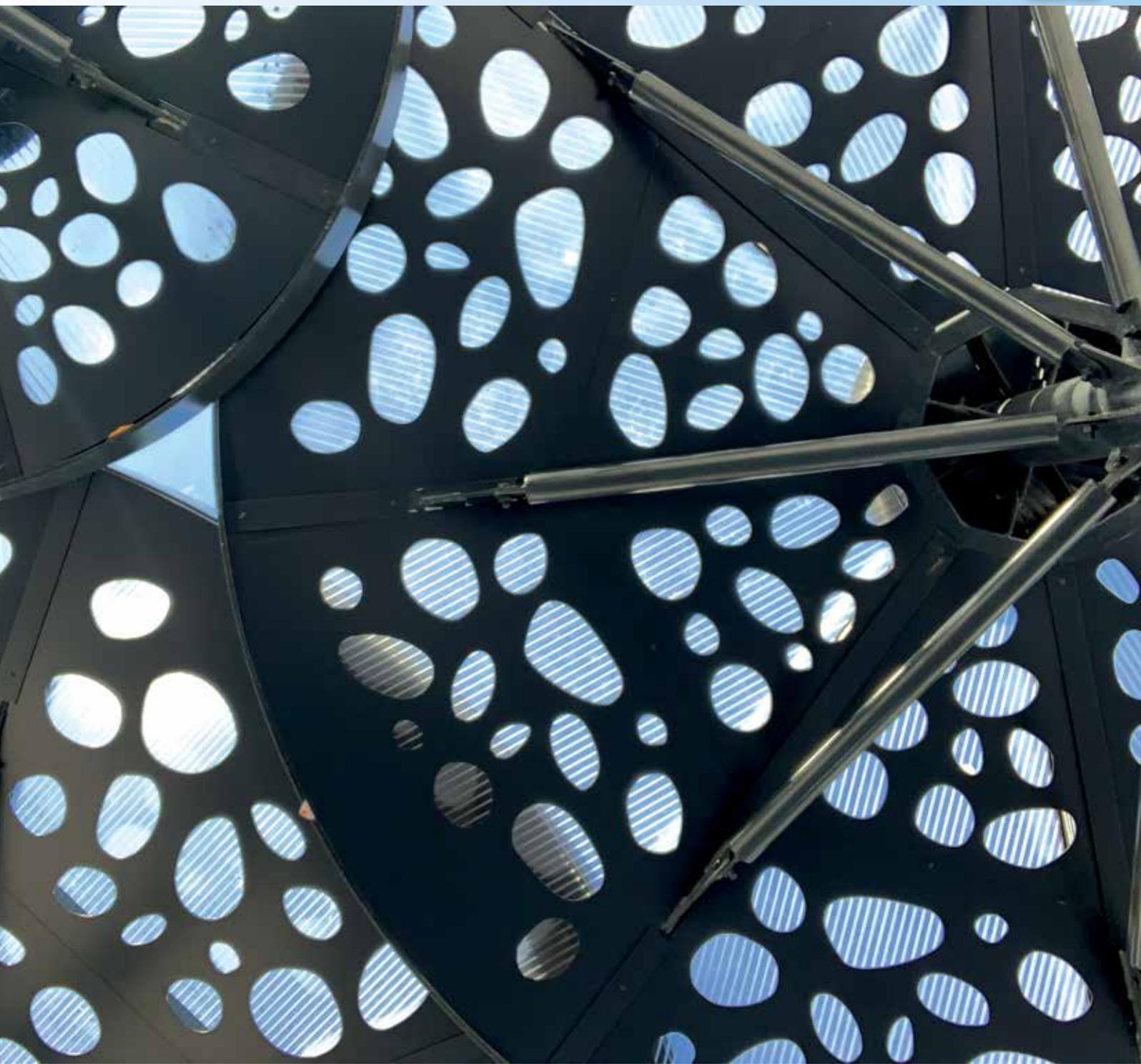


# landscape sa

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### ON THE WEB

This and previous issues of Landscape SA are available online at <http://www.landscape-sa.co.za>

### On the Cover

Galvanised steel parasols act as urban sculptures at the V & A Waterfront Canal Plaza. See article on page 4.



**Mary and Val**

Mary Vincent and Val Wamsteker both recently retired from SALI – Mary after 25 years with SALI Cape and Val after 32 years with SALI Gauteng. These two stalwarts have played vital roles in the growth of SALI as an organisation representing the green industry in South Africa. I posed a few questions to them and below are their stories.

Mary says that in the past 20-25 years, she has seen many changes, most notably a more professional approach to industry-related issues, and that members should be commended on the way they handled the water crisis in the Western Cape. She adds that the industry is now very corporate, “not that this is a bad thing, but way back when I first started, the attitude was that of a big, happy, laidback family”.

She says that in terms of her own job, things changed a lot and she had to move with the times: “No more printing out faxes or posting statements – everything was done via email and stored in the cloud or somewhere in cyber space. It certainly was a good learning experience and kept the brain active!”

With regard to the SALI awards she was always involved with, Mary says that over the years members began to devote more time and effort when preparing their portfolios, with some even making use of drones and producing spectacular results. Portfolios are now mostly used as marketing tools, she states.

Mary enjoyed the comradeship with the ladies in the regional offices, getting together before national meetings and working together with them in preparing for the next day's meeting, as well as the excitement and hard work at conventions. “I also loved getting to know the members when attending meetings, outings and conventions. These are memories I will carry with me for a very long time. Val, Sylvia and Debbie – thank you for the wonderful years that blossomed into

wonderful friendships!”

Mary says that her future plans are just to sit back, put her feet up and do nothing for a while, then plan trips to visit friends living out of town and family overseas. “I would like to thank the people in the industry who made my life at SALI so very enjoyable. I will miss you all!”

Val agrees with Mary regarding the major change in the industry, saying it used to be very informal but is now much more structured. “Comradeship is still so important though, to allow members to discuss problems common to everyone and debate the best ways of addressing them. Mary, Sylvia and I also enjoyed a wonderful comradeship while working together during the SAGIC Conventions. Even the hard work was fun and I will never forget these special times, as well as working for SALI and the Green Industry at large,” she states.

In terms of her own job, Val says that it was essential to “move with the times” in her office in order to ensure that members were aware of what was happening, and when and where. “Emails are so quick and efficient when advising people about meetings, events and functions”.

With regards to the SALI Awards, Val says there is no doubt that the awards programme raised the quality of work from SALI members, and ultimately raised the bar in the wider landscaping market.

Val says that her future plans are just to enjoy being at home and in the garden with her dogs, cats and her son Charl, who runs his own IT company.

Thank you, Mary and Val, for your outstanding contributions, and all the very best for whatever you do in the future.

**Karyn Richards**  
Editor

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# V & A WATERFRONT CANAL PLAZA

*The V & A Waterfront Canal Plaza project aims to do away with the Dock Road traffic circle at the end of Walter Sisulu Avenue and replace it with conventional signalised intersections. The main driving force behind this decision was to ease pedestrian access while allowing improved traffic control during peak hours. Circles and roundabouts are great for cars but the absolute worst for pedestrians, says landscape architect Jaco Jordaan.*

## Project Team

**Client:** V & A Waterfront Pty Ltd

**Landscape Architects:** Planning Partners

**Civil Engineers:** Mowana Engineers

**Quantity Surveyors:** RLB Pentad Quantity Surveyors

**Project Manager:** Msingi Construction Project Management

**Electrical Engineer:** Element Consulting Engineers

**Civil Contractor:** Amandla Construction

**Landscape Contractors:** Afrilandscapes

**T**raffic within Cape Town and its wider city network has gradually increased over the years, causing congestion and making pedestrian access from the CBD to the Waterfront very challenging. This plaza design aims to accommodate main entry and exit traffic flow into the Silo and Canal districts within the Waterfront and encourages use of the faster Granger Bay Boulevard and Helen Suzman Avenue options.

The Canal Plaza is more than a traffic solution – it is a public space, a meeting point and a transit hub. It further connects the Silo district to the recently completed Battery Park which offers numerous activity based park and water facilities as well as food and beverage outlets, stand-up paddle, a skate park, basket ball and park events.

## Brief

The brief from the client called for the creation of a plaza to announce and celebrate the access into the Waterfront from the city. It also required the following:

- \* to provide a place for pedestrians to pause and orientate themselves – it is difficult for first time visitors to understand that they have 'arrived' at the Waterfront, as the CBD flows seamlessly into it;
- \* to populate the plaza with street furniture, urban beacons, trees and direction signage;
- \* the design was undertaken so as to ensure future space for an information kiosk and toilet facility that will follow shortly;
- \* to design the plaza so as not to obscure the view of the synchro lift area (where large ships are pulled from the sea for maintenance) from Walter Sisulu Avenue;
- \* to design the plaza so that it logically directs pedestrians to either the Silo Precinct in the east, the central Waterfront precinct in the north and Battery Park in the east. The plaza acts as a knuckle from which many directions can be taken.

## Landscape design philosophy

In terms of hard landscaping, Jordaan's design philosophy was to create a space with maximum pedestrian flow and minimal obstructions, using materials similar to the surrounding development, namely Waterway House and Battery Park, in order to create a cohesive precinct. The planter openings, seats and paving design all reflect organic, free flowing shapes. Grey pavers indicate the main pedestrian movement flows and brown pavers the passive, pause areas.

Bluestone (Hornfels) seating walls were designed to hug around



Aerial view of the plaza, with Dock Road on the left, West Quay Road on the right and Walter Sisulu Boulevard below



View down Walter Sisulu Boulevard with Devils Peak as backdrop. Way finding signage is on the left, and newly planted Ficus trees and seating on the right.

the tree planters, providing cool, shady seating positions under mature trees.

Circular bicycle racks are provided to promote non-motorised transport, as a further consideration to pedestrians.

A standard V & A wayfinding signage pylon is prominently placed in the plaza, and standard V & A timber and steel recycle refuse bin clusters are placed at key areas.

Rectangular pots and bollards were placed to assist in defining the plaza edges and direct vehicular flow along West Quay Road. The pots and bollards further act as safety measures to keep vehicles out of the plaza.

Lighting along the edges of the plaza conforms to the traditional timber pole units with bell shaped luminaires. A matrix of contemporary lights was placed inside the plaza to increase lighting levels and strengthen the link with Battery Park, where the same product was used.



*Aloe arborescens* in rectangular trough planters, with parasols and trees providing form giving elements in the plaza



Synchro-lift as a backdrop, with contemporary light fittings to illuminate the plaza. The triple cobble bands between paving materials serve as a framing element to the planters.



A cluster of parasols at a pedestrian crossing, with Waterway House in the background



Circular bike racks and seating walls around the tree planter. The tree supplier specified that mature trees should be braced/staked.

In terms of soft landscaping, the focus was on creating an instant people-friendly space, altering the microclimate by providing shade and shelter from wind and reducing glare from paved surfaces. A mixture of 3 000 litre and 4 500 litre mature *Ficus natalensis* trees were selected and positioning these proved to be a challenge, according to Jordaan, due to the 'spaghetti mess' of underground services; positions were dictated by these services. Underground root barrier walls were constructed at 1,5m deep to prevent root damage to paving and services, common to *Ficus natalensis* trees. Tree positions also had to respect the view cone as alluded to above.

Special care had to be taken not to plant over the root balls but to allow for future cover by planting *Carissa* 'Green Carpet' next to the root ball zone. The root ball area was then treated with a bark nugget mulch for a neater finish.

Underplanting comprised basic, robust indigenous species which are more water wise and will ultimately still grow under the increasing canopies of the *Ficus* trees. The planting was limited to lower growing groundcovers and bulbs to ensure visibility over the planters in the plaza as well as for general public safety.

Pots were planted up with hardy indigenous succulents which have very low water requirements.

An element designed by Planning Partners to give the plaza a unique character and act as a placemaking symbol are the parasols; these are large urban beacons/ sculptures that attract pedestrians to the plaza. They are placed in three clusters, each one with a small, medium and large structure. The structures are manufactured from galvanised mild steel, and aluminium and laser cut panels are fitted as ceilings. The roofs are translucent plastic panels and the parasols are fitted with LED lights in order to be prominently visible at night as well.

The clusters are placed at major pedestrian crossing points and provide shade from the sun and shelter from the rain while pedestrians are waiting for the traffic signals change to allow them to cross over.

### Landscape installation

This was undertaken by Afrilandscapes, whose scope of work included earthworks, importing soil and compost into planters, tree planting, installation of a pop-up irrigation system and pot installation.

Maria Kotze of Afrilandscapes says that site challenges included the constant traffic and little space for stockpiling. Soil was therefore delivered in sections and had to be used before the next load could be delivered. A lack of water during planting was also a challenge. Trees were delivered and planted over two days – half on day one and the rest on day two. Upon delivery they were placed directly into the planters.

Afrilandscapes will maintain the project for three months, after which it will be handed over to the V&A Waterfront maintenance team. Presently the maintenance includes weeding, pruning, mulching, tree stakes and ties, litter removal, monitoring and spraying for pests and diseases, cleaning of roads, sidewalks, pathways and stormwater channels. *Isa*

*Text supplied by Jaco Jordaan, of Planning Partners and Maria Kotze, of Afrilandscapes. Photos supplied by Jaco Jordaan.*

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Artist's impression of the Noordgesig upgrade, courtesy of IYER Urban Design Studio



# NOORDGESIG

*Noordgesig is situated in Soweto, Gauteng, at its northern most boundary. Historically a “coloured” township, it is colloquially called Bulte (meaning hills) by its residents, referring to the mine dumps surrounding the area.*



Noordgesig precinct plan courtesy of Newtown Landscape Architects

## Project Team

**Client:** Johannesburg Development agency (JDA)

**Project Managers:** Akweni

**Landscape Architect:** Newtown Landscape Architects (NLA)

**Urban Design and Architecture:** IYER Urban Design Studio

**Landscape Contractor:** Plantwise/ Tswellapele

**Community Participation:** Gibb

**Heritage Consultants:** Tsica

**Quantity Surveyors:** Delta Built Environment Consultants

**OHS Consultants:** Nyeleti

**Civil & Structural Engineers:** Kgalawu Consulting

**Electrical Engineers:** Element Consulting Engineers

to the community, followed by a workshop and an open day, inviting public participation in order to understand the needs of the community. “The community engagement process was extensive”, explains Tahira Toffah, associate director at IYER responsible for the urban planning upgrades.

The social cluster is the heart of Noordgesig, comprising the library, community centre, park, sportsfield and public swimming pool. Urban design strategies focused on creating a good public space around it, and priority was given to the pedestrianisation of key routes and non-motorised transport (NMT). This would improve connectivity and develop an interface between Noordgesig, Pennyville and Orlando East.

A heritage study was carried out to identify historical and cultural issues, as well as to determine an approach to manage them within the context of the development. A heritage impact assessment was done and conservation management guidelines were established. The heritage aspect adds a further layer to the project as a whole and provided the basis for bringing public art into the space.

**T**he development of Noordgesig forms part of the City of Johannesburg’s Corridors of Freedom, a spatial development programme with the aim of “re-stitching the city and creating a people-centered, inclusive urban environment”. The site is also part of the Rea Vaya bus rapid transport system (BRT) and is accessible from two points for pedestrians, creating an opportunity for social interaction.

## Urban planning and design

Working together in a joint venture with Newtown Landscape Architects, IYER Urban Design Studio was appointed to the project in 2016. Their involvement commenced with a roadshow presentation



Podium and mosaic detail in the central plaza



Landscaping around the central plaza, and terraced seating



Concrete bench with "Bulte" engraved on it. Bulte, meaning hills, is the colloquial name of the area, given to it by the community

Landscape architect Johan Barnard says that the site was already a "hub" with a public swimming pool and community centre, and the brief called for additional facilities that could benefit the residents. The central plaza, originally a parking lot, presented an opportunity to create a civic space comprising a small amphitheatre and terraced

seating where braais and events can take place. Some of the existing exotic trees were removed and replaced by indigenous White Stinkwood and Olive trees to retain greenery and provide shade. "They also look after themselves", says Barnard.

Across the road from the new civic space is a public library and the project's overall design philosophy was to integrate the various aspects of the site, namely the swimming pool, plaza, library and community centre, into a cohesive space. A further requirement was to introduce additional lighting for safety purposes.

Although trees, plant material and lawn are present, emphasis is on hard landscaping in the form of the abovementioned amphitheatre, terraced seating, custom designed bollards, concrete benches, lazer cut steel litter bins and a small podium in the central space. The top of the podium has been artistically decorated with a colourful mosaic design, establishing an attractive intervention with the public.

### Installation

Zak Prinsloo of Tswellapele/Plantwise was responsible for the project's entire installation. Earthworks were a critical part of his work in order to level the area which was heavily sloping to begin with. He and his team of 60 workers also had to ensure that paving patterns knitted correctly into each other, according to Barnard's design detail specifications. Barnard confirms that the

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*Noordgesig Social Cluster, Soweto  
New Library and Plaza*



Entrance to the public swimming pool

brickwork was challenging due to the numerous corners and angles on the site. Other aspects of the installation work included:

- \* clearing, bulk earthworks and shaping;
- \* road upgrading and re-surfacing;
- \* rebuilding the sub-bases for paving and removing 100 mm of asphalt for replacement with brick;

- \* replacing all curbs and upgrading the existing stormwater structures in accordance with the engineers' specifications;
- \* underground services;
- \* overseeing the work of SMMEs appointed for tasks such as soft landscaping, tree grid installation and some earthworks; and
- \* construction of planters and retaining walls.

Prinsloo explains that the project installation took place in a very confined area with little to no offloading space, adding to the challenge that 80% of the work involved the area's roads. "Traffic management was difficult as we were not allowed to close off the roads at any time, and we had to submit a traffic management plan to the JRA (Johannesburg Roads Agency). The site was to be kept as 'live' as possible, allowing traffic to flow without congestion during peak hours. Our effective and productive construction time was a mere five hours on the road each day, and this was extremely challenging.

Fortunately we had positive buy-in from the community and they saw the end picture. The project

taught me a lot in terms of skills, the importance of support from the professional team, and contractual obligations. All communities have their own challenges but Plantwise has always approached and embraced SMMEs with a good attitude. On this project there was a lot of trial and error with them and we had to put some of our own staff members into their teams to ensure the best possible outcome." **lsa**

*\* Source: University of the Witwatersrand School of Architecture and Planning; SA Research Chair in Spatial Analysis and City Planning.*

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# MAINTENANCE AT FOUR SEASONS HOTEL THE WESTCLIFF

*Life Landscapes has been maintaining this prestigious hotel for the past three years, enjoying a good relationship with the client and receiving positive feedback and compliments from guests, who are mainly overseas visitors accustomed to high standards.*

**D**ivisional Manager Iwan Bronkhorst says that their work on the site involves both maintenance and upgrades, and is an ongoing, evolving scenario. The emphasis is on splitting and dividing as much material as possible, as well as using colour in key areas. Both these aspects ensure that costs are contained, but without compromising on quality and the overall appearance of this upmarket establishment.

Bronkhorst explains that the hotel's landscaping still keeps to its formal style, but that more indigenous material is being introduced, resulting in a more relaxed look in some places. "Hotel guests are mainly from abroad and seem to want a Tuscan style of landscaping, so we keep to this while slowly encouraging the client to bring in indigenous species. We understand the need to respond quickly to the client's requests and our maintenance work is a 100%, seven days a week commitment. This has led to the good working relationship between us."

Life Landscapes follows a daily schedule which is adapted to seasonal changes. All eight staff members on site have their own specific area of responsibility, and report to Freddy Sithole, the area manager and team leader on site. He is the link between Life Landscapes and the client. Bronkhorst says that as this is a high profile garden, it requires a variety of specialised horticultural practices to reach and maintain the standards of a five star hotel. The following schedule is adhered to:

## All year round

Weed control; hedge trimming and shrub pruning; corrective pruning and dead-heading of old flowers and dead plant material; litter control in bed areas; light pruning of tree branches up to a 2m height; removal of rocks and other debris from gardens; splitting, dividing and transplanting of plant material; weekly removal of all green waste from site; herbicide control of weeds on all hard surfaces; sweeping of hard surfaces; mowing of lawns weekly in summer and fortnightly in winter; monitoring of the irrigation system; cleaning of water features.

## Autumn

Fertilising of lawns and garden beds; planting of seasonal annuals.

## Winter

Pruning of roses; spraying of weeds in lawns.



A section of the site upgraded by Life Landscapes for the newly constructed bar area

## Spring

Fertilising of garden beds and lawns; planting of annual colour; seasonal lawn treatments such as scarification, top dressing, and weed control.

Noteworthy points for the overall maintenance include the following:

- \* Life Landscapes uses a horticultural consultant, Megan McKenzie, who meets with the client on a weekly basis;
- \* the irrigation system is automated, with satellite controllers, although some areas are manually operated. The surrounds of guests' rooms are irrigated early in the morning so as to cause minimal disturbance, but irrigation can sometimes take place up to 10pm in automatically controlled areas. Irrigation nozzles are checked regularly for blockages by the staff member responsible;
- \* the noise factor is a strong consideration for guests and Life Landscapes is in the process of changing over to battery operated blowers for this reason;
- \* the site is very steep, with different levels and numerous staircases which are major challenges for maintenance as they restrict access and ease of movement;
- \* conifers in some areas, planted many years ago, have been removed in line with the gradual change towards indigenous plant material;
- \* Life Landscapes is also responsible for the general cleaning of water features;



The traditional, formal landscape of the hotel as maintained by Life Landscapes



The Jacaranda Conference Centre is a focal point and is maintained in a formal style



Trailing geraniums add colour in this key area



Yellow Strelitzias introduced to bring in a more informal style of landscaping with indigenous planting



Star Jasmine is being trained to grow up and twirl around these pillars leading to the Protea Room

- \* the client inspects the quality of plants when new or replacement material is brought to site. Bronkhorst advises and recommends what material should be used and the final decision is a joint one between the client and Life Landscapes;
- \* colour is used mainly in high profile areas;
- \* several heat waves in Johannesburg caused a loss of plant material, but the client was able to allocate additional budget for this;
- \* in front of the Protea Room, Star Jasmine is being trained to twirl up and around several pillars leading to the entrance. It is also used in the pool area for its pleasant scent;
- \* the Jacaranda Conference Centre is a focal point on the site

and is formally landscaped with roses and a neatly trimmed lawn; and

- \* an in-house judging initiative has been introduced to reward the maintenance staff for their efforts. It was introduced by Sithole, who selects a “gardener of the month” for his/her good work.

**SALI Award**

Life Landscapes received a Silver Award for the project in the 2018 SALI Awards of Excellence. It was entered in the category of Landscape and Turf Maintenance. [Isa](#)

**Text and photos by Karyn Richards**



Winner of the SALI Trophy for Best Landscape Construction with In-House Design.

**In 2018 Life Landscapes received:**

4 Gold SALI Awards, 5 Silver SALI Awards, 2 Bronze SALI Awards



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The Johannesburg Development Agency (JDA) is a wholly owned area-based development agency of the City of Johannesburg with an emphasis on the development of resilient, sustainable and liveable urban areas in identified transit nodes and corridors. This means that as a area-based development agency, we are more than just a project management agency or an economic development agency.

The JDA is mandated as an area-based development agency, unique in that unlike traditional development agency models it straddles both a market and citizen facing approach (not fully combusted in either direction). Instead, the JDA combines a social, economic and environmental mandate. Johannesburg cannot afford to only consider economic factors but requires developmental approaches attuned to complexity.

The JDA deals with the renovation, innovation and re-imagination of Johannesburg's built environment and urban communities through a reinforced programme of place making and area-based development. In the past, it has undertaken and delivered projects and programmes that have been located spatially across city, precinct and neighbourhood scales.

One of our key programmes is the development of strategic economic nodes such as the Nancefield Transit Oriented Development. The objective of this programme is to develop nodes that are compact, walkable, liveable, mixed use and mixed income areas and centres around which to densify. They should be areas where people can live, work and play and have good access to public transit.



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# KLIPSPRUIT SPORTS CENTRE, SOWETO

Main building housing the indoor multi-purpose courts

## Project Team

Client: Johannesburg Development Agency (JDA)  
Principle Agent and Project Managers: Archway Projects  
Architects and Urban Designers: Iyer Consulting  
Main Contractor: Shomang Construction



**A new, multi-purpose sports centre in Klipspruit, Soweto, is part of the Nancefield Transit Oriented Development (TOD) project, the main objective of which is to develop facilities that will bring economic and social development to communities. It is one of four key TOD projects that the city has identified as a priority.**

The Klipspruit Sports Centre is the fourth phase of the Nancefield Station Precinct project which entails the upgrading of existing roads, bulk services, new roads, the sports centre and community parks. The facility is adjacent to the Nike Sport Centre in Nancefield, Soweto, and was initially called Nancefield Multipurpose Centre. The City of Johannesburg's Department of Community Development subsequently approved that it be officially named the Klipspruit Sports Centre. Since the inception of the Nancefield TOD project, the JDA, project team and contractors have donated to the community and some schools in the area through their various Corporate Social Responsibility programmes.

Iyer Consulting was appointed by the JDA as lead urban designers, working with a multi-disciplinary team to establish an urban development plan for the TOD. The project has a strong social

development emphasis to create a cohesive and connected precinct, focused on promoting the TOD. The project team was led by Archway Projects who identified, designed and co-ordinated key projects for implementation – these included major public environment upgrades and a sports complex which is envisioned as the home for basketball in the region.

The design intent for the sports complex was to integrate it into its urban context as a public programme. The site has a street relationship with Mofokeng Street on its one side and on the other, a strong relationship with a linear park space which forms part of the broader upgrades. The project site retains a strong pedestrian link connecting the park to Mofokeng Street along a landscaped promenade. The complex comprises the following:

- \* a 1 500 m<sup>2</sup> indoor sports hall with support facilities;



Indoor courts for basket ball, netball, volleyball and five a side soccer



Play pieces in the splash pad



Floor design and colour is kept simple and has a non-slip surface

community could identify with and that could not be vandalised. Landscaping had to match the existing and previous work and he decided to give the sports centre a unique pallet, while still keeping to the overall design language.

In terms of hard landscaping, the 80mm interlock paver was used for the parking and driveway areas as it can handle the weight of the trucks and

busses that come to the sports centre. For the main pathways, an urban granite paver was used. This is a large, smooth, non-bevel paver which is access friendly. It is complemented by other pavers and polished concrete that flowed from the interior of the building.

### Splash pad

The splash pad design was a collaboration between Iyer Consulting and Craig Everett of Rocky Waters. It was chosen as a programme on the site as it is safer and a more cost-effective way to give children access to water play. It is also safe for young children and people with disabilities.

The splash pad is located on the eastern edge of the site, adjacent to the linear park. This was a deliberate choice as it was conceived of as being an extension of the park and a continuation of the overall public space-making aspect between the two phases of the project.

Everett says the design principles focused on overall safety and the creation of an interactive play space within the limits of the client's budget and size constraints. In terms of the placement of play pieces, he says that careful thought is given to the prevailing winds, and larger pieces with heavy water spouts are positioned in the middle of the splash pad. Other factors considered specifically for the Klipspruit splash pad were the following:

- \* colours and floor design were kept simple, with primary colours mainly used. The floor design was decided on by himself and Iyer Consulting;
- \* there is a central sump/water feature system, with 1.5km of pipes underneath the slab. Each play piece has its own specified pipeline and pump; and
- \* ground preparation in the form of extensive civils work and compaction is needed to ensure a stable base. The splash pad has a poured, reinforced concrete surface with a top layer of polyethylene paint coating which contains granules that act as non-slip layers.

Rocky Waters was responsible for the manufacture and installation of all the play pieces. [Isa](#)

**Text and photos by Karyn Richards**

- \* a landscaped spill-over courtyard;
- \* two outdoor training courts;
- \* an outdoor water park/splash pad;
- \* bus and vehicular parking; and
- \* a guard house and caretakers house to ensure the safety of the facility as well as community members.

All courts are multi-purpose, catering for volleyball, basket ball, netball and five-a-side soccer. For the indoor court, features required for the different sports are mobile, depending on the game being played, such as goal posts for soccer or hoops for basket ball.

The building is positioned to make a strong public gesture on the street side with its bold roof shape and step-up plinth forming the main entrance into the space. Typically, South African municipal sports halls are extruded boxes with minimal design form and features, but the designers chose to push the boundaries on this project by breaking the elevation into a heavier base, clad in profiled sheeting, and a lighter polycarbonate screen element above. The screen is made from an innovative façade system which cost-effectively maximises light into the building and creates an animated building signifying its public nature.

### Landscape design

Clive Tsimba, Senior Landscape Architectural Technologist at Iyer Consulting, says the design concept complements and celebrates the existing pedestrian link from Mofokeng Street to the nearby linear park. Due to the anticipated heavy vehicular traffic that would come to the centre, a significant portion of the site has been allocated to parking, which is accessible from either side of the site.

The brief was an open one, with the intention to support the activities and functions of the sports centre. Planting had to be low in maintenance and able to handle the high traffic volumes coming to the sports centre. Tree types were selected specifically to provide shade from the hot summer sun.

Tsimba says that for his design philosophy, he wanted to create a landscape that could be identified within the region and provide shade because of the extensive parking and paving areas. Hardy plants had to be used as maintenance was proving a challenge in the earlier phases of the project. He also had to consider water wise planting that the

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# GREENED UP

## Corobrik's award winner re-imagines traditional village setting

University of Cape Town landscape architecture student, Lesego Bantsheng, focussed her thesis on finding a strategy to re-envision traditional village settlements by looking at how the communities in these areas relate to shared communal space. Entitled 'Pula! A Ene: Rain! Let it Rain – Occupying Land in Restituted Barolong Homelands', the thesis earned her Corobrik's Most Innovative Final Year Landscape Architecture Award for 2018.

Bantsheng took the decision to present a strategy rather than the traditional architectural landscape design. She looked at the story of the Barolong Boo Rra Tshidi clan of the Tswana tribe who have settled in Makgobistad – a large village in the northern part of North West Province. Most of these rural areas have reached maximum capacity and the idea of rural to urban migration is not completely correct. There is a migration but it's between the two areas – people are returning to rural areas.

With this in mind she considered the rural village pattern, traditional farming, community structure and interaction with public spaces. This informed a strategy that embraces both traditional constructs and contemporary environmental land management practices.

The first element to address was water, and she proposed designing water retention systems and ways to replenish aquifers. She then looked at the current lekgotla system where village leaders discuss matters, and suggested communities nominate individuals for leadership roles to ensure that open communication between different settlements continues.

She finally looked at the use of space. Where people in towns and cities might require a park for relaxation, the need in traditional areas is more pastoral. The suggested model is rather larger yards for individuals where farming can take place and water can be harvested.

Bantsheng says she is very grateful for the guidance of her supervisor, Tarna Klitzner, and her lecturer, Julian Raxworthy.

Corobrik's Director of Sales, Allin Dangers, said that the award serves to highlight the innovative solutions emanating from students, for modern society. He commented on the creative incorporation of Corobrik's clay pavers into landscaping designs as they show the

dynamic aspect of the paver range varying in colour and size. A natural resource, the colour ranges of the clay reflect the region from which they are sourced, reinforcing the particular character of both urban and rural settlements through the selection of the appropriate clay bricks and pavers.

**For further information contact Allin Dangers on 021 888 2300**

## Tackling the invasive beetle

In March Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo (JCPZ) commenced the removal of 42 dead *Acer negundo* trees, commonly referred to as Boxelder Maples. This took place in Craighall Park, a day before the International Day of Forests which is commemorated globally on 1 March under the theme "Forests and Education". It is aimed at removing dead trees that have succumbed to *Fusarium* dieback (obstruction of the tree's vascular system) after being infested by the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB). This beetle was first detected in South Africa in 2017 and while it does not itself kill the tree, it introduces a fungus that blocks the vascular system, leading to a tree's rapid or gradual dieback.

Recently JCPZ came under the spotlight for not responding speedily to residents and tree maintenance providers, to eradicate all PSHB-infested hosts and reproductive trees. The full list of affected species is available on [www.jhbcityparks.com](http://www.jhbcityparks.com).

Through its day to day monitoring of the impact of the beetle, JCPZ found that the results of the infestation vary – even in trees of the same species within close proximity of each other and in similar micro-climatic conditions. Some trees, such as the London Planes, although heavily infested, were not exhibiting rapid stages of decline. These findings can be related to the complexity of the issues posed by the PSHB.

JCPZ has met with counterparts from affected municipalities to design a management plan to intensify public awareness, establish a customer interface for residents to report infested trees and strengthen monitoring to control the beetle.

In the interim, JCPZ has identified sites suitable for solarising infested wood that is removed from public spaces. Affected trees will be chipped and safely transported to the nearest street trees depot, where the chipped material will be covered in a sturdy plastic to allow for the solarisation process that destroys the beetle. The process will be closely monitored over a six month period before the wood chippings are re-used as mulch or compost.

Residents are urged to monitor their private trees as well as their street trees for symptoms of the beetle and to report sightings to 011 375 5555. Symptoms to look out for are small holes on trees, wet spots, frass or oozing resin. Areas with reports of high infestations include Craighall, Hurlingham and Dunkeld.

There is currently no approved chemical application in South Africa to eradicate the beetle and JCPZ would like to caution residents against the use of any chemical which has the potential to cause more harm than good to the environment. Concerns around the use of unapproved chemicals relate to the contamination of groundwater, loss of animal habitat and death of pollinating insects such as bees.

Residents are asked to only remove dead trees and branches on their private properties.

**For further information email [trees@jhbcityparks.com](mailto:trees@jhbcityparks.com). See article in Landscape SA Number 86 (Nov/Dec 2018)**



Allin Dangers and Werner Oelofse of Corobrik, with Lesego Bantsheng, winner of the 2018 award

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# Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo



Joburg City Parks and Zoo is working to control the Polyphagous Shothole Borer (PSHB), a minute beetle that has infested certain trees in parts of the city. The true extent of the infestation is yet to be determined, and there is no approved chemical application to tackle the beetle. JCPZ, however remains committed to removing dead trees especially the Box Elders that have succumbed to the beetle. Residents are being urged to inspect private and street trees; be cautious when transporting dead branches and when purchasing plant material. Keep trees fertilised and hydrated this autumn. Healthy trees are less likely to succumb to the impact of the beetle.



Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo

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