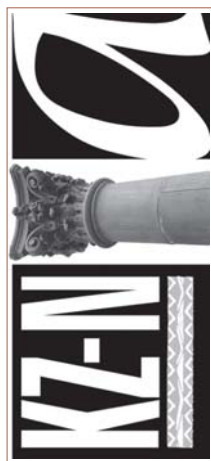


**Durban's New Beachfront**

Nature will thank you.







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This journal, now in its  
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 has since inception been  
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## NEWS

### Corobrik SAIA Awards of Merit and for Excellence

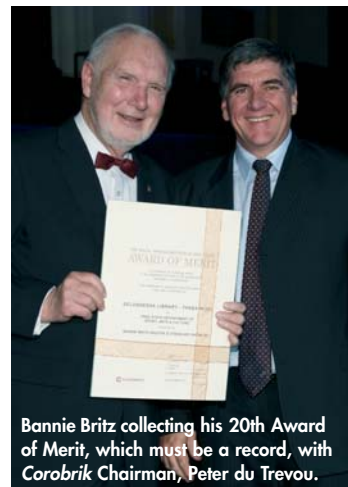
At a gala evening held at the Johannesburg City Hall on Wednesday, 22nd September, **East Coast Architects** were awarded a **Corobrik South African Institute of Architects' (SAIA)** Award of Merit for their **Seven Fountains Primary School** at Shayamoya, Kokstad, a project which went on to win one of only four **Corobrik SAIA Awards for Excellence**. In the view of the jury, the school represented an “outstanding example of a new, inclusive and successful form of architectural expression”. This is the second time East Coast Architects have collected the highest honour the Institute can bestow for buildings, their first being for their **Africa Centre** at Sonkhele, in 2004.

Readers are referred to *KZ-NIA Journal* 2/2006 and 2/2004 respectively.



Seven Fountains Primary School.  
 Photo: Angela Buckland

The other recipients of Awards for Excellence were made to **Stefan Antoni Olmesdahl Truen Architects** for their office building, Hatfield 109, in Cape Town, and **Typology Architects** (Henry Pretorius) for the **Taxi Terminus** on the Main campus of the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, the first Excellence award for a building in that Province. Uniquely and by exception the fourth went to the book edited by **Ora Joubert** *10+Years 100+Buildings. Architecture in a Democratic South Africa*.



Bannie Britz collecting his 20th Award of Merit, which must be a record, with **Corobrik Chairman, Peter du Trevou**.



Roger Fisher.

Photography of the gala evening: Erik Forster.

Awards of Merit went to **Smale & Partners** for the **Tricircle Pavilion** at Gqunube Green Ecovillage, East London; **Noero Wolff Architects** with **Ilze Wolff** for **House Wolff** at Observatory, Cape Town; **Matrix cc** for the conservation of **Caledonia Lodge** of 1899 as their studio at 22 Landsdowne Place, Richmond Hill, Port Elizabeth; **Bannie Britz** for **Seloshesha Library** at Thaba Nchu; **Kate Otten** for shops at **Parkhurst**, Johannesburg; **Mashabane Rose** for **Liliesleaf Legacy Project**, Rivonia; **Enrico Daffonchio & Rashma Patel** for **Energy Works** office block in East Parkwood, Johannesburg; and **Earthworld Architects** for **Centenary Building**, University of Pretoria.

### SAIA Personal Awards

On the same evening, the **SAIA Honorary Fellowship Award** was conferred upon **UIA Past-President Vassilis Sgoutas**, the **Writers and Critics Award** on **Roger Fisher**, while **Gold**



Past-SAIA President Trish Emmett and Vassilis Sgoutas.

“inspiration to numerous architects and students of Architecture in South Africa and abroad”.



Peter Rich, SAIA President Al Stratford and Jo Noero.

### SAIA Certificate for Meritorious Service

At the National Convention of SAIA held in Johannesburg on 24th September, **KZ-NIA Member Bruce Clark** was honoured *in absentia* with a **Certificate for Meritorious Service** for his “personal initiative, selfless dedication and commitment” in updating and extending the **SAIA Practice Manual** and for releasing it in electronic format.

### South African Institute of Architects (SAIA) President for 2011-12

On the same evening, **Fanuel Motsepe** (right) of **Gauteng Institute for Architecture** was inducted as incoming **SAIA President**. **Sandile Nkonyama** of **Border-Kei Institute** will serve as **Vice-President**.



### Durban: Host City of XXVII UIA World Congress, 2014

In his acceptance speech, **Vassilis Sgoutas**, referred to the **UIA-Congress** to be held in **Durban** in 2014:

“I followed the bid from very close, my heart beating with yours. And I sincerely believe that although South Africa is happy to have won this Congress, it is the world community of architects that should be grateful. Because Durban can change our perception of the role of architects in this unbalanced and unfair world.

I fully realize that the focus at most congresses is on environmental issues. And rightly so.

But it is in the field of social architecture all the way to housing for the poor that this Congress can be an awakening call for the world. By stressing what is of the essence for the majority. By stressing priorities that are different from the architecture that is customarily shown in the architectural magazines. So Durban stands to be a landmark Congress. If we all believe in this, it will happen.

The atmosphere of a world congress cannot easily be described to anyone who has not lived it. Probably more than 7 000 architects from over 100 countries. So sponsors take note. It will be a unique opportunity for showcasing South African products. But it will, first and foremost, be a mirror of what South African architects have achieved and can achieve. It will also show to governments that it is unthinkable to embark on large scale repetitive projects, such as housing, without a lead role for architects.

I strongly believe that the four-year road to Durban is as important for South African architects as the event itself. Needless to say that I will be with you on this road – as your team’s 12th man”.

### KZ-NIA Committee 2011-12

At the Annual general Meeting held at 160 Bulwer Rd on Tuesday, 5th October, the following were elected to the regional committee: **Kevin Bingham**, **Bruce Clark**, **Ivor Daniel**, **Patricia Emmett**, **Rodney Harber**, **Ndabo Langa**, **Joanne Lees**, **Miles Pennington**, **Walter Peters**, **Nina Saunders**, **Bharti Vithal**, **Melissa Wilkins**.

At a subsequent meeting, **Nina Saunders** was elected **President** and **Bharti Vithal** **Vice-President**.

### KZ-NIA President 2011-12



**Nina Saunders** graduated from **Natal** in 1994 and worked with **Rodney Harber** and the **Built Environment Support Group of Natal/UKZN** before assuming her current position with **eThekweni Municipality City Architects** in 2003. **Nina** proved her mettle in Institute affairs by co-ordinating the 1998 **ArchAfrica** conference, and in the 2014 **UIA** bid.

### In Memoriam

*KZ-NIA Journal* has learned with regret of the death of **Petrus Pretorius** (1929-2010); **John (Jack) Hesketh** (1917-2010) and **Karl Wildner** (1959-2010).

### 2010 Sophia Gray Laureate

On Thursday, 26th August, practising **Windhoek** architect **Dr Jaco Wasserfall** delivered the annual **Memorial lecture** and exhibition of his oeuvre in **Bloemfontein**. He chose as this theme the proverb *Stultorum calami carbones moenia chartae* – chalk is the pen of fools, walls (their) paper (no graffiti).



### Afrisam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture



At a gala evening held in the **Turbine Hall** in **Newtown**, **Johannesburg**, on Thursday, 23rd September, **Koop Design Studio** was announced winner of the above inaugural award for **Dalton Compound** in the rural district of **Estcourt**. The Award is to acknowledge architects who “shift paradigms with place-making buildings that are ecologically regenerative and also uplift the community”. The jury deemed **Dalton Compound** an “integrated component” of its environment and “an inspiring architecture which cannot exist in the absence of the needs and livelihoods of the surrounding communities”.



**Richard Stretton** of **Koop Design Studio** in the centre holding the trophy, his wife **Angela Shaw** (right), and client representative and project manager **Barry Armitage** (left), bookended by **Afrisam Acting Chief Executive Officer Dr Stephan Olivier** at left and **SAIA President Al Stratford** at right. Photography: Lettie Ferreira

### Exhibitions at KZNIA

Two somewhat unusual exhibitions concluded the year at **KZNIA**. On 1st October, then **Vice-President Nina Saunders** opened the exhibition by **Sphere Design and Architecture** which practice covers retail, commercial and architectural design, and on 2nd December **Janina Masojada** opened that by **Koop Design Studio** which marked sixteen years of architectural and furniture design. Besides covering the walls with details and photographs of projects, both exhibitions included a display of artefacts.





## Book Review SWARMING TOME

Sound Space Design. The Architecture of Don Albert & Partners.  
Don Albert. Pythagoras, Cape Town, 2010.  
Available from leading book stores in hard and soft-cover.



WHENEVER WORK OF *cum laude* Natal graduate Don Albert was being presented, fellow students would swarm around his submissions, be they individual or group efforts, and little has changed. When in 2000 the entries for Durban's Millennium Tower competition went on display, it was the profession which swarmed around the entry by

himself and Alex Pienaar. This project launched his professional career and now, after only 15 years in practice, he has released a 312p tome, CD and poster with, as in his student days, Nic Coetzer, now UCT academic, as his collaborator, on the "genre breaking irreverence at the core" of the work.

Following a contextual essay by Coetzer, Albert begins with the chapter "Not Knowing", in which he attempts to intellectually reconcile his experiences in academia and in practice before illustrating the key decision-making processes of his conceptual designs. The projects both built and not, are then featured within a taxonomy classification of eight chapters. While too diverse to cohere, all speak of a seriousness of approach, and all swarming with energy. Besides the published projects, there are the submissions for Freedom Park, Durban's stadium, KwaZulu-Natal Legislature, urban design projects for Durban's Esplanade and beachfront and even a proposal for the retention and revalidation of Roelof Uytenbogaardt's Werdmuller Centre in Cape Town. The book end is given over to an interview conducted by Coetzer.

While Albert has tried to share his skills at design and presentation, I am reminded by the assertion by Bill Hillier et al \*who tell us "A complete account of the designer's operations during design would still not tell us where the solution came from." Coming from that scholar, I feel confident in concluding that more important than the dissection Albert has attempted, is the youthful enthusiasm exuded by the contents that is positively contagious. Anyone thinking about architecture as a career or seeking a tonic for practice should take this tome to hand.

Walter Peters, Editor

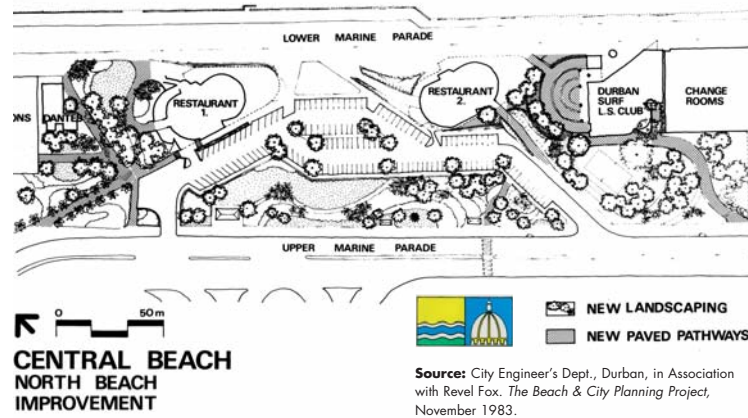
\*Hillier,B, Musgrove,J & O'Sullivan,P *Developments in Design Methodology*. Ed Nigel Cross (NY: John Wiley, 1984) p253.

## Editorial Durban's New Beachfront

The beachfront is one of the most important of the city's assets. Even in winter, Durban boasts highs of 23°C, a climate conducive to walking if not basking in the sun. However, as the most democratic of Durban's spaces, it requires regular overhaul and a major revamp was overdue.

The last time the beachfront received a significant upgrade now lies almost three decades back when the Durban City Council established a seven-member Beach and City Steering Committee, which in June 1982, engaged Revel Fox in a "part-time advisory capacity" to collaborate with the City Engineer's Department in the preparation of a development plan. Six areas were identified as being "in need of immediate attention", with at the top of the list, the "beachfront extending from the Point area to the Umgeni River mouth and including the beach and its immediate hinterland", a 7km stretch.

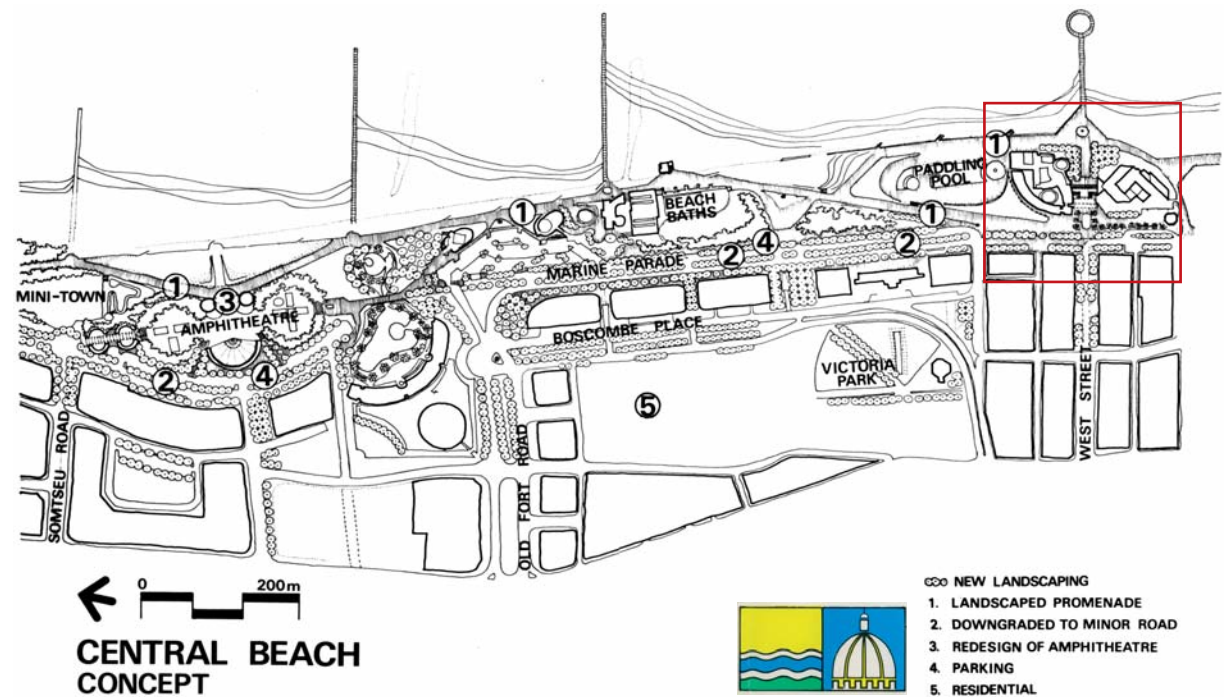
The Fox plan eliminated through traffic along Marine (now OR Tambo) Parade, downgraded it and then converted its seaward carriageway into a landscaped car park to accommodate the parking capacity of Lower Marine Parade, which was transformed into a pedestrian promenade. This Promenade was then paved to a distinctive artistic design, with a continuous low sea wall to the beach, with unobtrusive life-savers' towers and sand pumps as ziggurats (see *NPIA* 2/1986), and custom-designed signage and street lighting. In the process, the removal of obstructive buildings was commenced and the proliferation of commercial amusements halted.



North Beach Node. Hallen Theron & Partners, 1981.

While sand-pumping has proved successful, times have changed. Latterly, many of the facilities, grassy knolls and trees were thought to be security risks as they provided places for criminals to lurk, the lighting was deemed inadequate and the parking areas had become places where drunks hung out at night. Besides, unlike Fox's assertion then, beach goers now want to park as close to the beach as possible, much like the North Beach node by Hallen, Theron & Partners, 1981. With security and the 2010 Soccer World Cup in mind, in January 2009, eThekweni Municipality's Strategic Projects Unit announced proposals for a R250m upgrade of Durban's beaches.

A widened Promenade of 15–20m was needed to integrate and unify the entire area from uShaka Marine World at the Point right the way to Country Club beach with a link to Moses Mabhida stadium, allowing fans to move easily between beachfront and stadium on match days. After 2010 and when budgets allow, it is planned to extend the Promenade to the Mgeni River mouth. This would be a legacy project that will benefit the people of Durban, years after hosting the Cup.



The crux of the Revel Fox proposals, 1983.

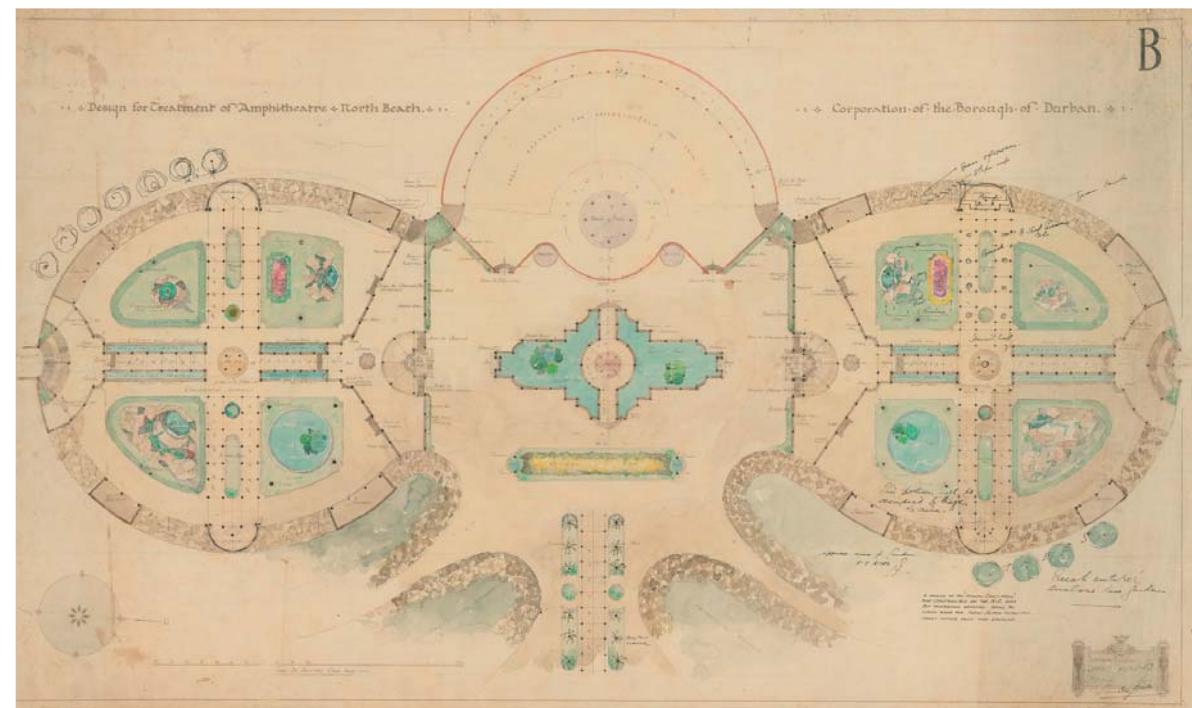


Of course there were delays, first the Environmental Impact Assessment delayed commencement, then the rains. The project should have been completed in March 2010 but with World Cup kicking off on 11th June, that was the real deadline. Fortunately the upgrade had a contagious effect and many buildings were given fresh coats of paint.

The beachfront will be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike as the safe and enjoyable recreation spot it has become provided it is adequately policed. However, unless it is maintained and carefully guarded, it will again be overtaken by inflicted decay, a littering of structures and become due for another overhaul. Let's hope maintenance remains on the agenda so that Durbanites don't have to await another World Cup for the next upgrade!

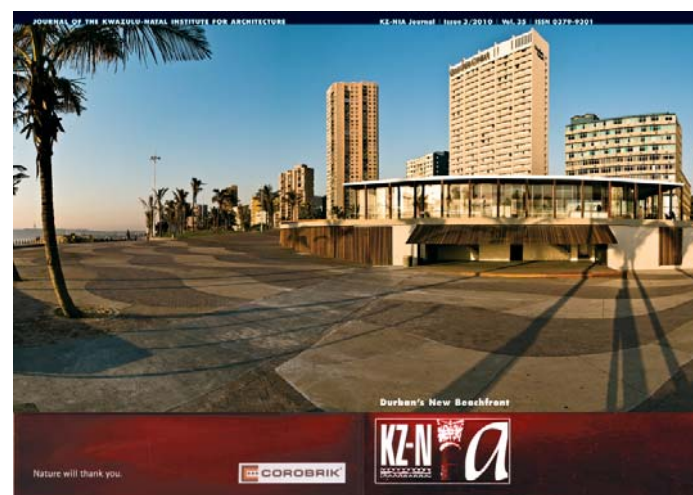
Walter Peters, Editor.

Aerial photo of junction of West (now Dr Pixely KaSeme) Street and the Promenade, c. 1988. [Fox,J (Ed) Revel Fox. *Reflections on the Making of Space*, 1998].



LEFT: Rendering of the Amphitheatre and Sunken Gardens designed and built under the supervision of William Murray-Jones, Chief Architect, City Engineers Department, 1932.

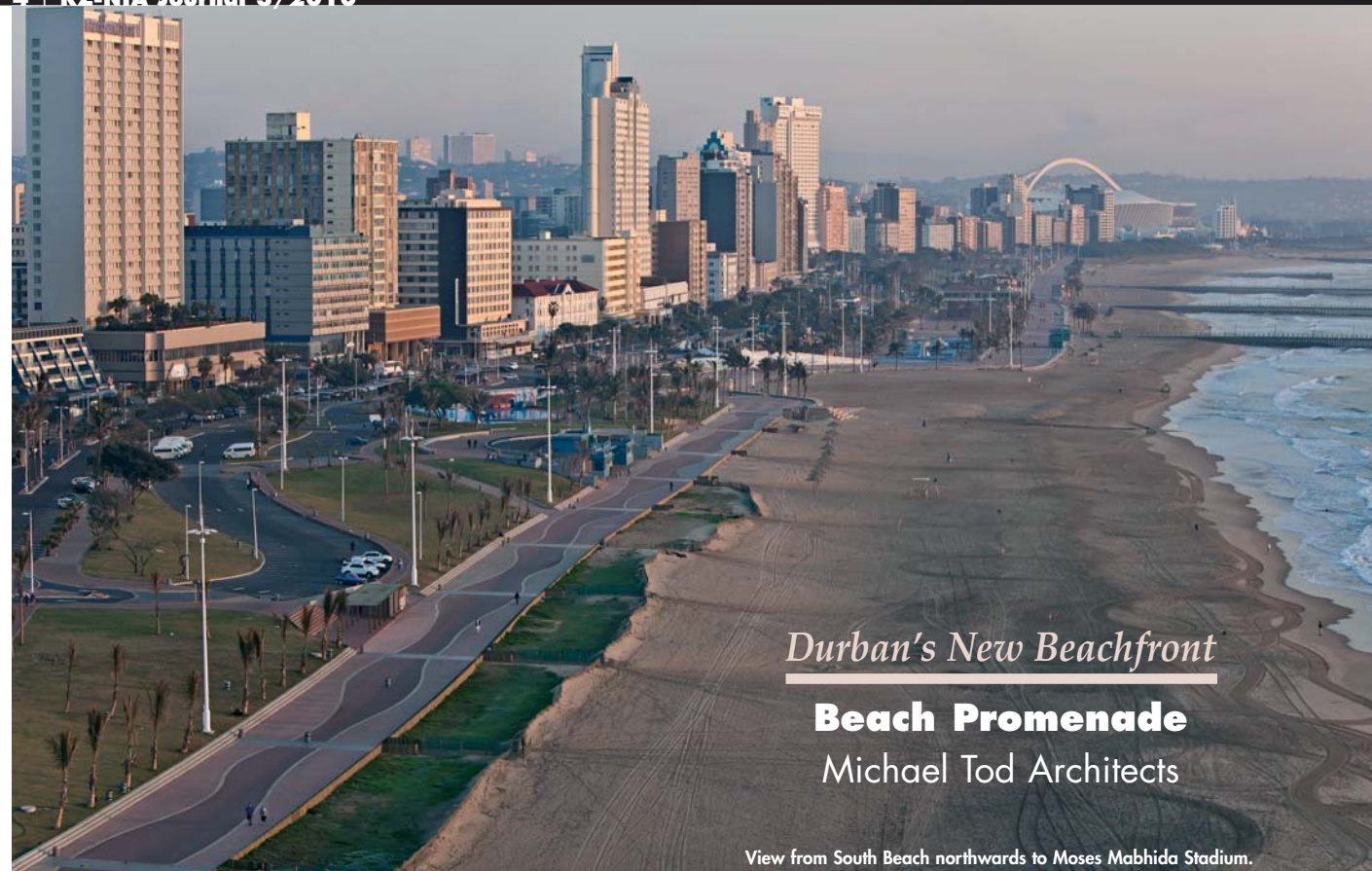
The Sunken Gardens were conserved as an asset with viable relevance, but the existing surrounding berms were reduced in height to allow for visual and physical access into and out of the refurbished Gardens, and the whole of the topography from Parade to Promenade was simplified into an essentially even slope. (See pp14–15)



COVER: New Beach pavilion facility by Jay + Nel Architects at right with the Promenade going off to left. In the foreground is the distinctive wave design of pigmented concrete pavers by Architects Collaborative CC, 2006.

Photo: Andrew Griffin Photography





## Durban's New Beachfront

### Beach Promenade Michael Tod Architects

View from South Beach northwards to Moses Mabhida Stadium.

After its initiation with the pedestrianisation of what was Lower Marine Parade in terms of the Revel Fox Proposals of 1983, the Promenade along what is known locally as the 'Golden Mile' is now over 5km long. Prompted by the 2010 World Cup event, the stretch between uShaka and Country Club beaches was widened to achieve an overall width ranging between 15 to 20m, and connects directly to Moses Mabhida Stadium and Kings Park Sport & Recreation precincts.

#### Development Objectives

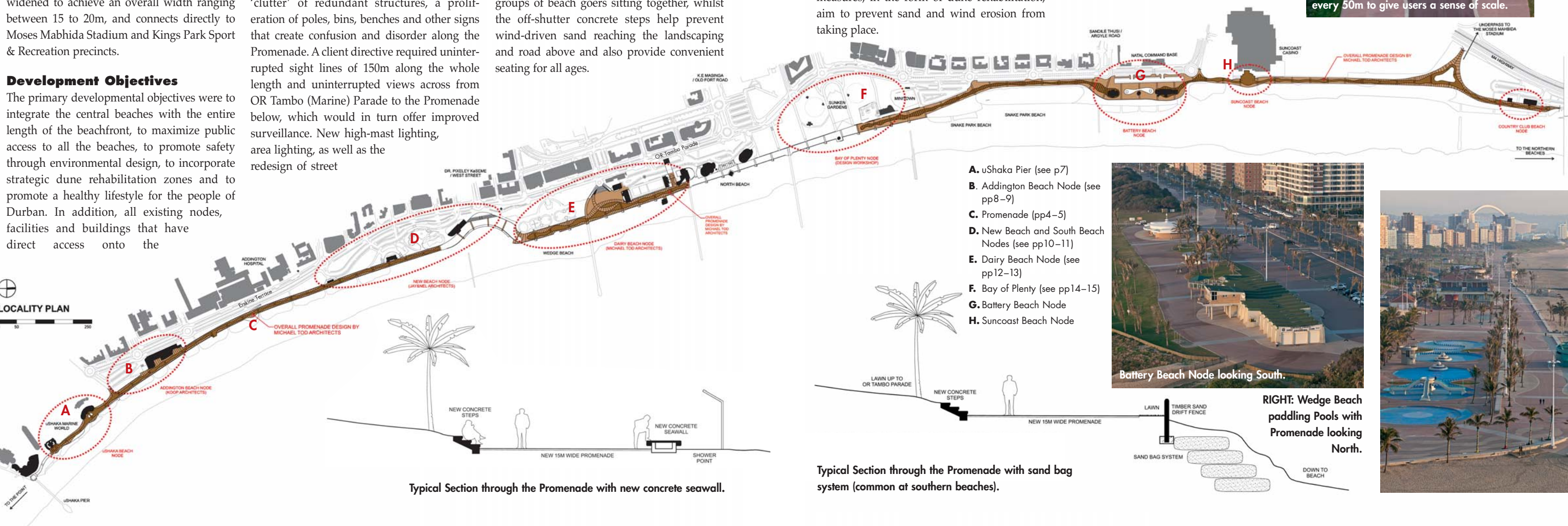
The primary developmental objectives were to integrate the central beaches with the entire length of the beachfront, to maximize public access to all the beaches, to promote safety through environmental design, to incorporate strategic dune rehabilitation zones and to promote a healthy lifestyle for the people of Durban. In addition, all existing nodes, facilities and buildings that have direct access onto the

Promenade, were to be upgraded and redeveloped to take advantage of their individual potentials. These nodes comprise Addington, South Beach-New Beach, Dairy Beach and Bay of Plenty (including Mini-Town and the Skate-Park).

A focus of the project was to reduce the 'clutter' of redundant structures, a proliferation of poles, bins, benches and other signs that create confusion and disorder along the Promenade. A client directive required uninterrupted sight lines of 150m along the whole length and uninterrupted views across from OR Tambo (Marine) Parade to the Promenade below, which would in turn offer improved surveillance. New high-mast lighting, area lighting, as well as the redesign of street

furniture and showers were incorporated.

The Promenade is architecturally defined on each edge, by the sea wall on the seaside and the concrete steps on the land side. The sea-wall, a defensive mechanism to protect the Promenade against storm surf, has wide polished concrete covers to accommodate groups of beach goers sitting together, whilst the off-shutter concrete steps help prevent wind-driven sand reaching the landscaping and road above and also provide convenient seating for all ages.



#### Connectivity

Links to the CBD have been strategically emphasised, one such link can be seen at New Beach node at the termination of Dr Pixely KaSeme (West) Street. Such east-west links are critical to pedestrian movement to and from the beachfront through the city itself.

Additional traffic-calming measures have been included in the form of traffic circles and speed tables along OR Tambo (Marine) Parade. This facilitates slowing down the vehicular movement along this arterial which allows the precinct to be more pedestrian-friendly. Furthermore, the inclusion of scoops along the entire stretch is intended to facilitate easy movement from West to East.

#### Sustainable Measures

The play between Corobrik pavers and tinted concrete along the new Promenade add different textures to an already diverse palette of materials. These materials were selected for their durability and hardness. As a legacy project, the beachfront upgrade hopes to carry Durban through the next few decades devoid of high maintenance costs and weathering issues.

Working in conjunction with the existing sand pumping scheme, additional subterranean reinforcement has been undertaken along all vulnerable sections of the Promenade. These include the building up of layers of massive sand-bags. Sustainable landscaping measures, in the form of dune rehabilitation, aim to prevent sand and wind erosion from taking place.

#### Green Goals

With the assistance of local indigenous plant expert, Elsa Pooley, the existing dune vegetation has been rehabilitated and extensive new dunes were established at both the southern and northern beaches. The long-term effects of this aims to increase flora and fauna bio-diversity, prevent wind and tidal erosion of the beach and visually soften this edge. General landscaping was limited to expanses of lawns that incorporate picnic and sports areas and coconut palms in clusters and along the edges in a regular rhythm to define the linearity.

#### Future Challenges

It is hoped eThekweni Municipality will soon embark on extending the Promenade northwards to Blue Lagoon which would give Durban an uninterrupted 7km Promenade as well as linking the Point Development to the northern suburbs by way of the M4 highway viaduct.

Client: *Strategic Projects Unit, eThekweni Municipality*  
Client representatives: *Julie-May Ellingson and Mike Andrews (for Promenade and all Nodes)*

Architects' team: *Mike Tod, Brandon Robertson, Lauren Haiden*

Structural Engineers: *BKS Group (Pty) Ltd*

Electrical Engineers: *JCF Engineering Services*

Environmental and Landscaping Advisers:

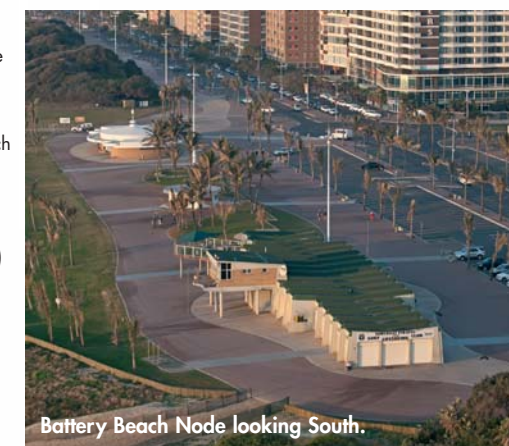
*Indigenous Landscaping (Elsa Pooley, Geoff Nichols)*

Contractor: *Afrocon*

Photographer: *Mike van Heerden*



Bands of polished concrete cut across at every 50m to give users a sense of scale.



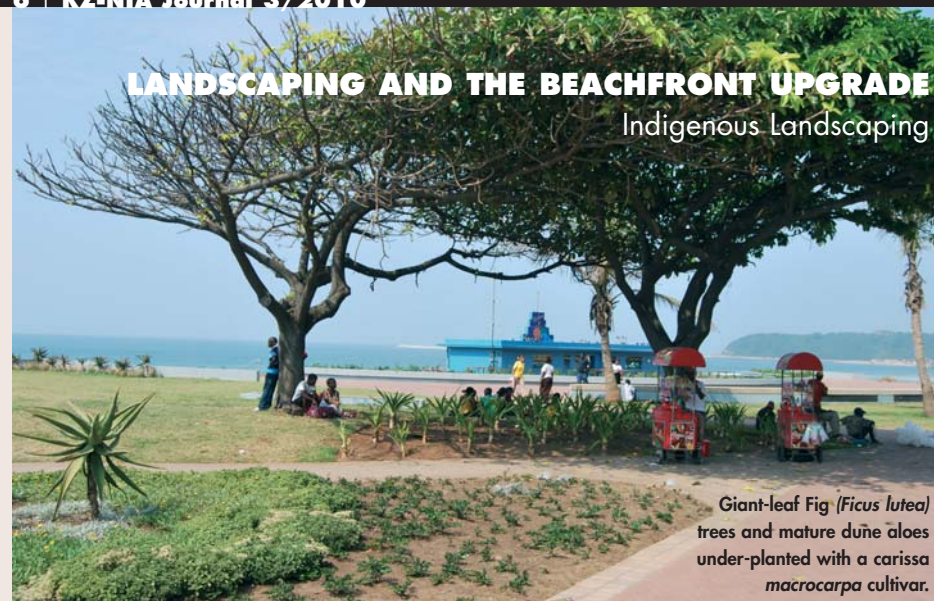
Battery Beach Node looking South.





## LANDSCAPING AND THE BEACHFRONT UPGRADE

Indigenous Landscaping



Giant-leaf Fig (*Ficus lutea*) trees and mature dune aloes under-planted with a carissa macrocarpa cultivar.

The vision for the landscaping aspects of the Durban Beachfront Upgrade was to keep the busy areas as open as possible, to define the Promenade with an avenue of coconut palms along the landward edge, to provide more lawns close to the main swimming beaches and to put plants back onto the dunes. Apart from the coconut palms, we used South African plants throughout and local indigenous plants for the dune rehabilitation.

All plants which could be successfully rescued from the construction areas were moved to a holding area next to the Jewish Club [corner KE Masinga (Old Fort) Road and Sylvester Ntuli (Brickhill) Road]. These included coconut palms, beach aloe (*Aloe thraskii*) and giant-leaf Fig (*Ficus lutea*). This was undertaken jointly by Palm Farm and Real Landscapes. Construction was supervised to ensure that important dune plants were protected wherever possible.

The landscaping looks deceptively simple. In fact, gardening at the beach is a challenge. Salt winds, wind-blown sand and sandy soils make it very inhospitable for most garden plants, including some of the well known coastal species such as the coastal red milkwood (*Mimusops caffra*) and white milkwood (*Sideroxylon inerme*). In reality, very few plants survive without the protection of a dune and, in the case of trees a substantial dune, to protect them from the wind and salt.

The other challenge was the timing – just under a year to complete a job that stretched over 5km. This meant that a lot of the work had to happen alongside the construction work or had to be done within very tight time restraints close to the June 10, 2010 deadline. This is normal for landscaping, but not ideal. It required close co-operation between landscapers, plant suppliers, planners and construction companies.

The Record of Decision by the Environmental Impact Assessment allowed the use of coconut palms and indigenous plants. The palms were used to good effect to line the Promenade. They were also used in clumps, to

provide shade in the new lawns. Coconut palms were also used to line newly constructed roads, and the road medians in places. Dairy Beach node was planned by Design Workshop Architects and their landscape proposals incorporated over 300 coconut palms planted to a grid over the whole area between Mini-Town and North Beach node.

### Promenade

Coconut palms line the western edge of the Promenade and line both sides where it leads down to the underpass to the Moses Mabhida Stadium. Dune plant gardens line the Promenade from Battery Beach to the underpass terminating with aloe and succulent gardens between Snell Parade and the underpass. Large specimens of beach aloes (rescued) were used to good effect against the concrete structure on the steep slope. Inside the underpass there are some large ceramic panels depicting (stylized) dune plants – a very nice touch (see KZ-NIA Journal 1/2010).

Street trees along Erskine Terrace and O R Tambo Parade were planted in places where there were gaps, using either coconut palms, giant-leaf fig (*Ficus lutea*) or hairy guarri – (*Euclea natalensis*) to match whatever trees had already been used nearby. Traffic islands were kept simple, using either giant-leaved figs



Tropical coconut palms at Addington beach.

and lawn or mature (rescued) dune aloes under-planted with a carissa macrocarpa cultivar “green carpet”.

### Beach rehabilitation

The plan was to recreate the primary and secondary dunes, rehabilitated with natural dune plants, to link up with the well established rehabilitation area in front of Suncoast Casino. This will protect the existing dune bush at Snake Park and manage sand drift, even after tidal surges, as shown at Suncoast. It will also provide an ecologically balanced, naturally landscaped area with greatly enhanced bio-diversity. Suitable access is provided with boardwalks and other paths. In the short term, rehabilitated areas must be fenced off to keep people out until the vegetation is fully established. This dune rehabilitation has already had a positive impact with windblown sand almost completely eliminated from the Promenade and roads next to the rehabilitated areas of the beachfront.

The extensive dune rehabilitation project, undertaken by Leitch Landscapes, includes work on the dunes from the uShaka pier to New Beach, from Snake Park to Laguna Beach, altogether over 3km of dune planting on the beach. Large new areas of lawn have been established wherever possible, close to swimming beaches (Leitch Landscapes).

All plants used in the rehabilitation were propagated from locally sourced material (using seed and cuttings) by the municipal Parks Department – a major operation in itself. Over 100 coastal red milkwoods (*Mimusops caffra*) were planted out and over 600 000 dune plants.

Beach clean-up methods were adjusted to keep heavy machinery away from the dune rehabilitation edge. Aerial photographs show the straight edge along Snake Park dune (and elsewhere) which allows no natural dune movement. Any natural extension of dune vegetation was cleared away (with the rubbish) on a regular basis. The beach maintenance management staff have instituted a more environmentally-friendly system of beach clean up to support the rehabilitation/landscaping plan.

Full maintenance contracts are in place for an initial period till mid 2011 to ensure long term success of all the plantings.

### Upgrading the nodes

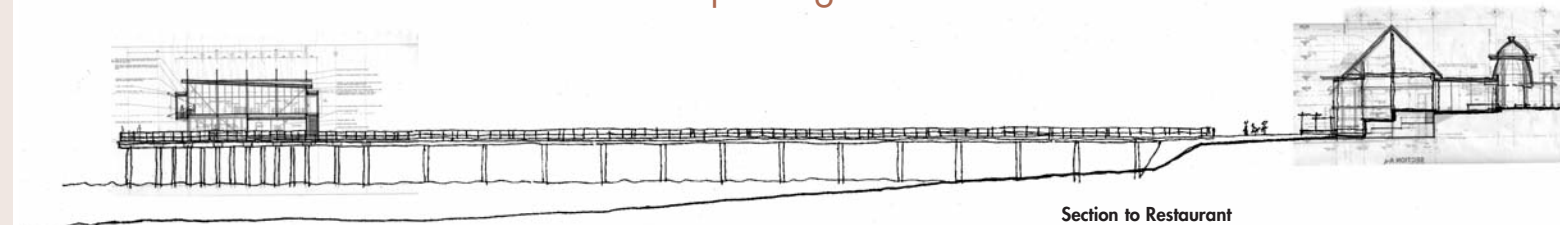
Each architectural practice handled its own landscaping, using a recommended list of locally indigenous plants and keeping to the simple design concept which also addressed safety issues.

Elsa Pooley D.Sc (h.c.) (UKZN)

## Durban's New Beachfront

### Moyo Restaurant on uShaka Pier

Koop Design Studio



Section to Restaurant

The site now occupied by Moyo restaurant in uShaka was two restaurants overlooking the pier. Both were accessed only from Piazza Level, a storey above the Promenade level. There was no experience of the beach or the Piazza. Early concepts resolved to activate the Piazza level by opening the west elevation, requiring the relocation of the kitchens. But the braver move was to turn the restaurant “back to front”, making the beach Promenade level the front and to break through the floor and terrace the internal restaurant space down to the Promenade level. The net result is that the area at the base of uShaka pier has become a vibrant hub, an activated space.



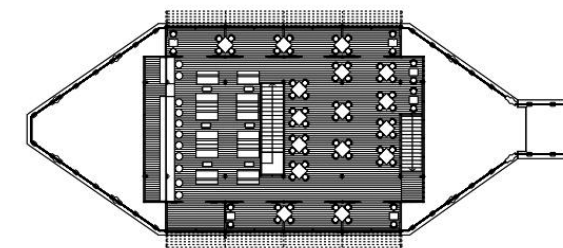
### Pier development

Planning permissions for the Pier building were always going to be complicated so although the entire development (restaurant and pier) was dealt with in 2006, the building of the pier only became a reality late in 2009 as the push for 2010 completion became urgent. The budget had suffered inflationary shrinkage and the design incurred annual revision (read “pruning”).

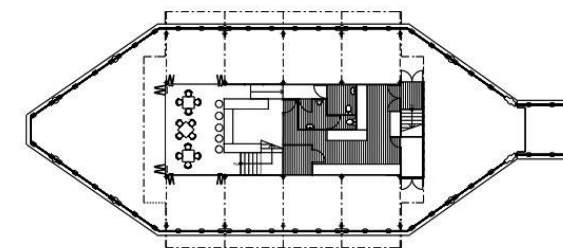
The site is extremely environmentally sensitive. Although not a pristine estuary, the pier is built as a structure to service the well-points, located below the end platform of the pier. Any contamination of the sea here would pass directly into the aquarium at uShaka and endanger life there. Strict environmental controls were enforced.

### Spatial construct

When visiting a pier you want to be at the end. It was decided that the entrance of the building should be from the end of the pier to avoid missing that experience. The space, therefore, offers its service end to the approaching visitor, a constriction before the release into the space at the end of the pier. The space around the



First floor



Ground floor

building on the pier is serviced by the tenant, but is open to the general public. Patrons are welcomed upstairs through a bar built on the ground floor.

The first floor is the other served space. Apart from the stair void the interior is completely open. It's an elevated platform 9m above the ocean that allows full 360° views of city, harbour, sea and sky. Simple opening sections on each side provide environmental control and access to balconies on the north-west and south-east of the building. The space can respond to environmental conditions.

The roof is resolved as a bent plane; it is level on three sides and radiused on the fourth (land facing). This induces the fall, but the form prohibited the use of steel sheeting. Each steel portal required a specifically radiused top beam. These generate the form. Evenly spaced rafters between the curved beams are the ribs of the structure, clad top and bottom with ply. The roof is malthoid sealed plywood that is constructed like a boat hull.

Richard Stretton

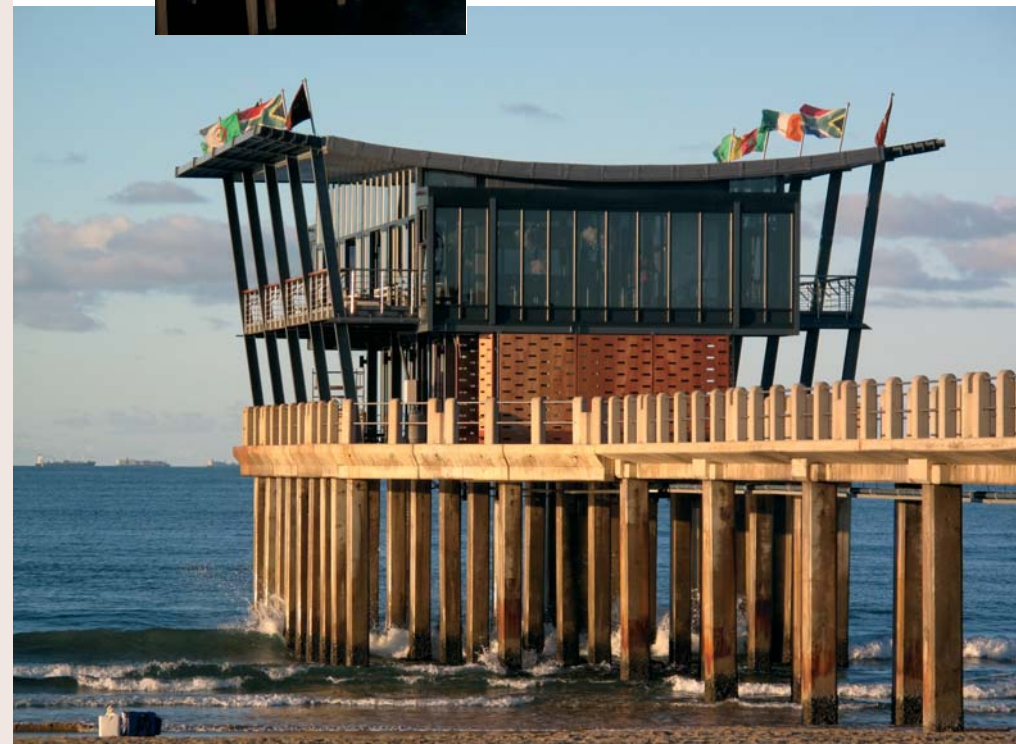
### Professional Team

Structural Engineers: ZAI, ARUP

Quantity Surveyor: Mike Royal

Project Manager: Profica

Contractor: Reed Simpson

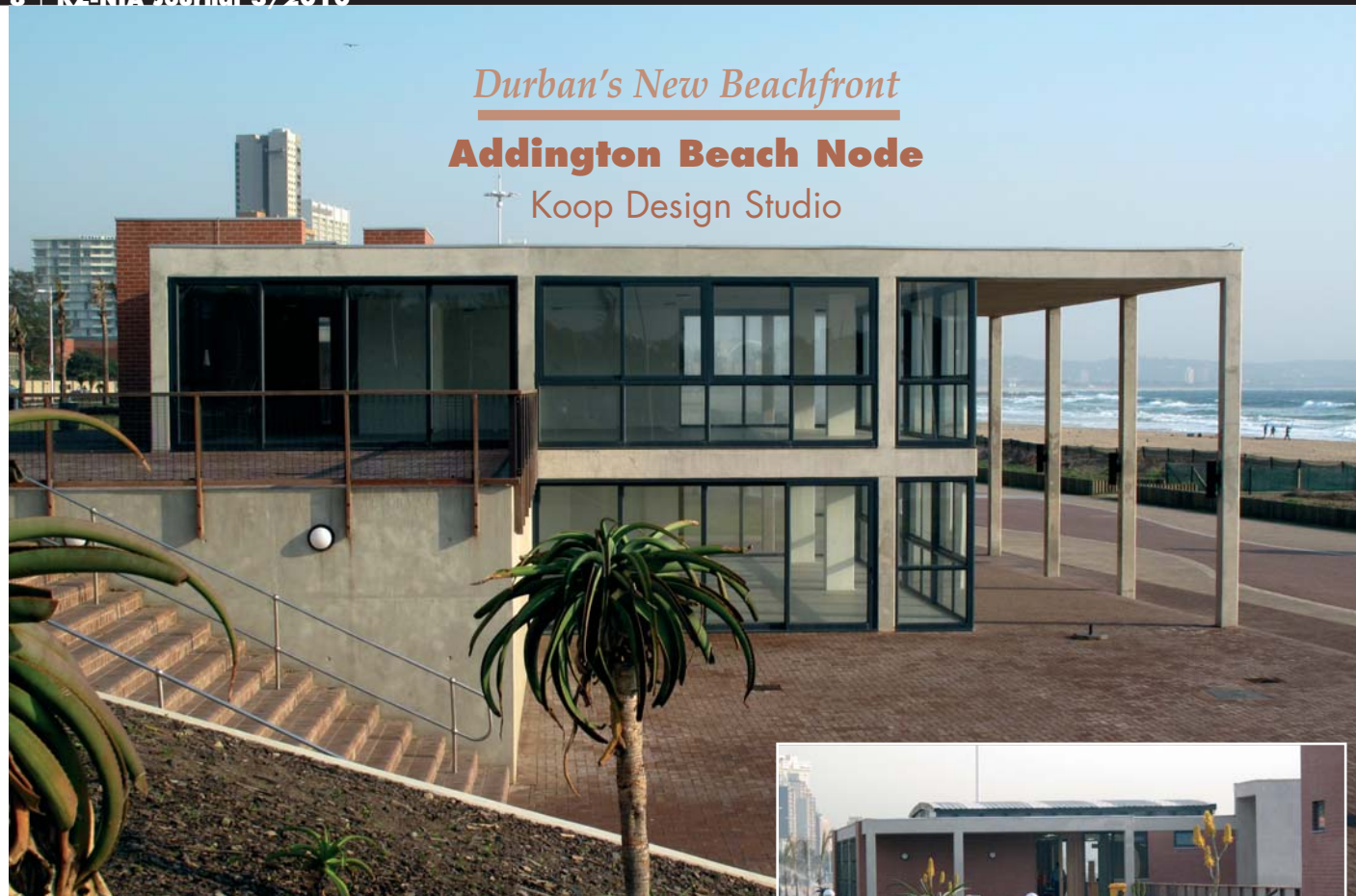




## Durban's New Beachfront

### Addington Beach Node

Koop Design Studio



This stretch of beachfront had been excluded from the general upgrades over the years and as a result was run down and unmanaged. It's hard to remember what it was like: casuarina trees dotted on scrappy grass slopes, the road far from the beach, relatively inaccessible and unsafe.

The brief provided by eThekweni Municipality was heavily influenced by the proposed realignment of Erskine Terrace, the need to consolidate a large portion of parking on the site, and the development of the 20m-wide Promenade along the beachfront.

An analysis of the precinct showed dense high-rise residential accommodation from

Bell Street to Rutherford Street with almost no public open space other than the beachfront. Lifeguards, paddlers, cleaning staff, surfers and visitors were interviewed. This is one of only four nipper beaches in the country considered calm and protected enough for their competitions. It was resolved that the development must support the user communities.

Thus the new development includes public ablutions, municipal lifeguard and beachfront management facilities, premises for the Marine Surf Lifesaving Club, and a new restaurant. Each of these elements has its own ablution facilities.

#### Concept

The creation of a functional public space was a primary design driver. To provide a reasonable distance from the uShaka Marine World, the development was located as far north as possible on the narrowing site. It was conceived as a landscape intervention that redefines an urban edge and its relationship to the beach while mediating the one-storey level change between Parade and Promenade.

The challenge was to distribute the accommodation along a spine that allowed the articulation of public space with a civic nature. The bulk of the accommodation is craft storage for duty boats and surf skis. This storage together with the extensive ablution facilities is located below ground and accessed by an underground roadway. This strategy enables the public facilities to provide the interface: ablutions open to the Promenade, clubhouse facilities enjoy elevated views over the beachfront and the restaurant presides over the southern portion. As the primary custodians of beach culture, the lifeguard tower and beach office are central and prominent.

Two courtyards articulate the building and provide relief from the line of the Promenade. They also frame the different functions of the building and help connect Parade and



Promenade levels. The duty courtyard relates to lifeguard functions, the cleaning and servicing of boats, quad bikes and rubber ducks. The recreational courtyard is given over to washing down surf skis and is the theatre for recreation events.

Landscaped lawns and dune planting roll over the underground accommodation linking north to south. In this way the building both defines and is defined by the landscape.

#### Conclusion

The building was delivered within a tight budget thanks to the intention to make the design appropriate to readily available technologies and skills.

We believe the building makes a solid contribution to the public realm, providing a new home and focus of identity for Addington Beach and its visitors.

Iain Sherman, Richard Stretton

#### LANDSCAPING

Koop Design Studio worked with landscaper Simon Clements on the design of their garden areas. As with the dune rehabilitation in the Addington area, they have had immense problems with feral pigeons eating and destroying all low growing soft plants such as Hottentot's fig – *Carpobrotus dimidiatus* and trailing gazania – *Gazania rigens*, essential, attractive ground covers for the beach conditions. The beach aloe and carissa have been used to good effect. A hammock shaped lawn has been created between the Promenade and car park providing a natural 'lounger' effect. They have also created a kick about area in the north.

Elsa Pooley

Installation: *Real Landscapes*.

Architects' project team: Richard Stretton, Iain Sherman, Bruce Clark (Contract Administration)

Structural Engineers: ARUP

Electrical Engineers: Urbanistics in association with Magnet

Quantity Surveyors: Mike Royal

Contractor: Armstrong Construction

Landscape consultant: Sky Garden, Simon Clements

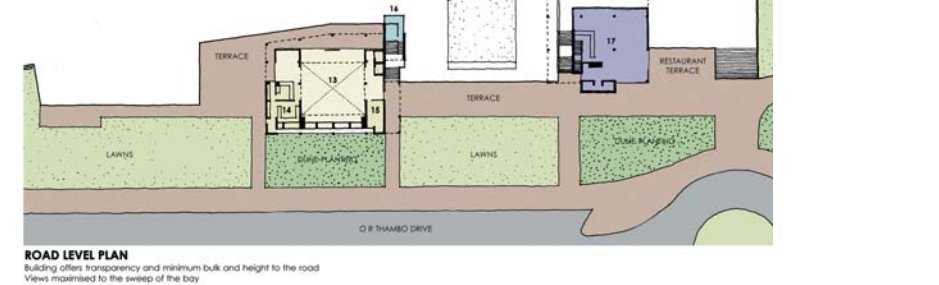
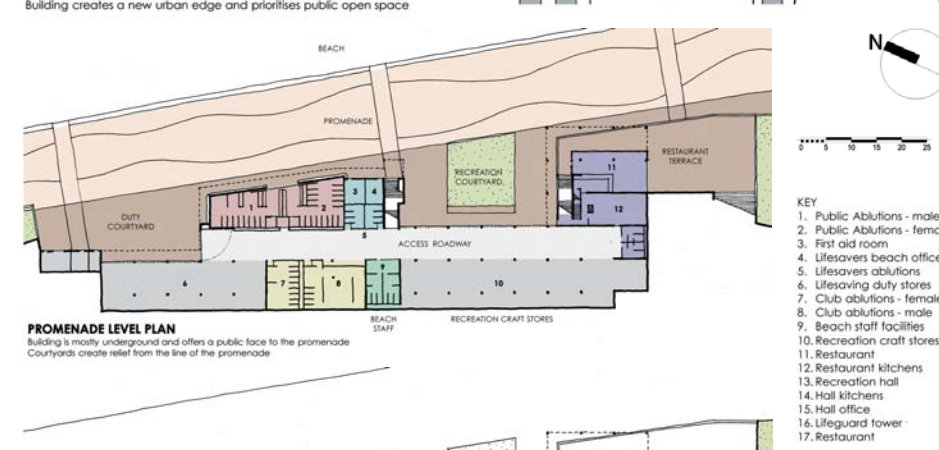
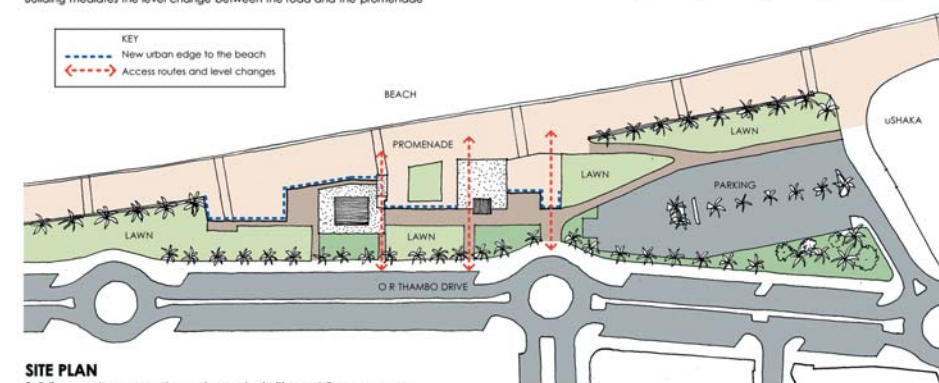
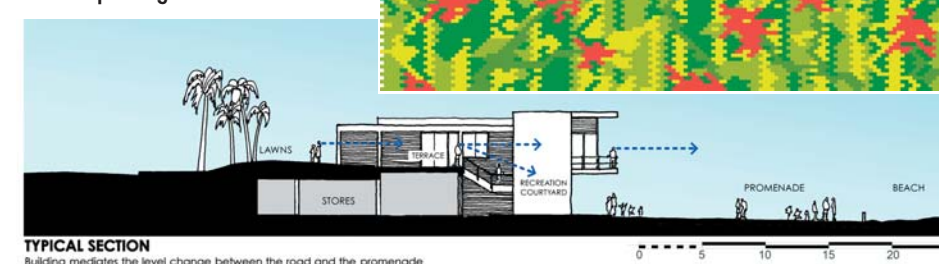
Artwork: Claire Clark

#### Glazed bricks

Realising the concept of using the brick unit as a 'pixel' to create an artwork integral with the facebrick panels of the building was an interesting process.

Angela Shaw of Koop Design Studio developed concepts for the artwork by abandoning sea-related colours and forms in favour of "warm" earth related colours, and an abstraction of the coral tree (*Erythrina caffra*) and foliage was adopted as the final graphic direction. Durban artist, Claire Clark, was commissioned to resolve the concepts into a powerful repeat motif that would enliven and give identity to the node.

The technical resolution of glazing the bricks was a process initiated with Corobrik and finally resolved after numerous experiments at the industrial top-hat kilns of Four Ways Glazing in Reservoir Hills. Consistency and density of colour were critical factors. The artwork was translated into 1:20 drawings of each brickwork panel detailing every single brick and colour. To carry out the installation the main contractor employed a master tiler whose sole job was to build the glazed brick walls. This was a painstaking process of methodically laying out each course according to the drawings. Charcoal tile-grout was used as pointing to accent the colours.







## Durban's New Beachfront

### New Beach and South Beach Nodes

Jay + Nel Architects

With the demolition of the Lido and the relocation of the aquarium complex to uShaka Marine World on the Point, in 2006 the beachfront at the termination of Dr Pixley KaSeme (West) Street was shaped to accommodate beach games and events within a concave-shaped and palm-lined promenade with a distinctive wave design of pigmented concrete, see *KZ-NIA Journal* 3/2006. This beach then referred to as West Street Node, forms the northern portion of South Beach and has since become known as New Beach.

While the Revel Fox plans of 1985 had proposed the removal of the Lido and substituted the bowling greens with children's pools, a recreation area and a play park (see photo below), with the landward relocation of OR Tambo (Marine) Parade and the widening of the Promenade along the beach, the opportunity presented itself for a review of all existing structures and a redesign of the sliver of land between the city and the beach.



As New Beach was designated the official FIFA Fan Park to cater for 25,000 spectators, a grandstand was built on the axis of Dr Pixley KaSeme Street, in the "crown" of the concave Promenade, as the setting for an open-air theatre. A building proximate to this space for accommodating a food outlet, public ablutions and change rooms for the sporting activities would enhance the objectives of New Beach, and to better provide for children, a new play park closer to the Promenade was proposed together with a reconfiguration of the existing paddling pools to bring the two activity spaces in closer contact.



Traders' Shelters

Due to its setting on the Promenade, continued use and architectural status, the surviving 1930s Lifesavers' tower and surrounding semi-circular Beach Services complex was deemed conservation worthy while permission was obtained for the demolition of the XL pavilion restaurant on the southern end which the Revel Fox proposals had already found under-utilised and inappropriate. The thatched stalls along the Parade, recent accretions, blocked the beach from sight and were replaced with a string of open

Traders' Shelters that facilitate better merchandising while giving protection from the weather.

#### Tabula rasa

With those decisions in place, the regained space was available for lawns and parking. As right-angled parking off two-way traffic is the most economical, this arrangement roughly follows the outline of the

retained facilities to become wavy on plan, with the lawns closest the beach as banks available for leisure. In that process, all possible indigenous trees were conserved, numerous palms added and high-level and unobtrusive artificial lighting integrated.

Great caution was taken in the design of the facility on New Beach that it in no way obstructed views of the beach from the Parade. For this challenge, the De Blas House southeast of



Madrid by architect Alberto Campo Baeza, built 2000, provided the conceptual primer. This consists of a glass box recessed from eight perimeter columns atop a solid concrete base punctured only by square window openings.

Similarly, the New Beach facility is designed on a solid longitudinal base and situated below the level of the Parade up against the southern "springing" of the concave Promenade, with the restaurant and ablutions directly accessible with access to the change rooms recessed from the supervisory spaces. Following the priority of minimal visibility, the kitchen is located in the depth of the building to serve patrons entering directly from the Promenade, or atop the base via stairs. A dumb waiter serves patrons when seated either in the glass pavilion over or on the adjacent open terrace.

The pavilion is conceived as an outdoor environmental area and the glazing, which is recessed from the columns, serves as a wind screen. It will be an open rather than an air-



conditioned indoor space. The orientation and overhang mitigate the amount of sun entering the covered space. As the pavilion is overlooked from the apartments lining the beachfront, the roof slab is punctuated with five curvilinear roof lights, which effect on the interior environment of the pavilion is mitigated by diffusers to limit the radiant light. Due to the exposed location, the principal building material is concrete, with glass for transparency and vertical timber slats where the building is rounded to accept a major pathway from the Parade and the parking areas.

Walter Peters, Dean Jay

#### KEY

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Bar/ Servery             | 12 Female toilets        |
| 2 Covered public seating   | 13 Multi-purpose room    |
| 3 Outdoor seating          | 14 Male changeroom       |
| 4 Refuse room              | 15 Female changeroom     |
| 5 Storage                  | 16 Management office     |
| 6 Electrical Substation    | 17 Security office       |
| 7 Kitchen                  | 18 Medical office        |
| 8 Servery & public seating | 19 Male public toilets   |
| 9 Deck                     | 20 Female public toilets |
| 10 Staff changeroom        | 21 Service duct          |
| 11 Male toilets            |                          |

#### LANDSCAPING

New and South Beach Node continues the open lawn, coconut palm and giant-leaved fig theme, using *Aloe ferox* as a safety barrier along the high wall above the semi-circular Beach Services complex. An open 'kick about' lawn area has been established using conveniently spaced palms as goal posts.

Elsa Pooley

Installation: Groundwork Landscapes

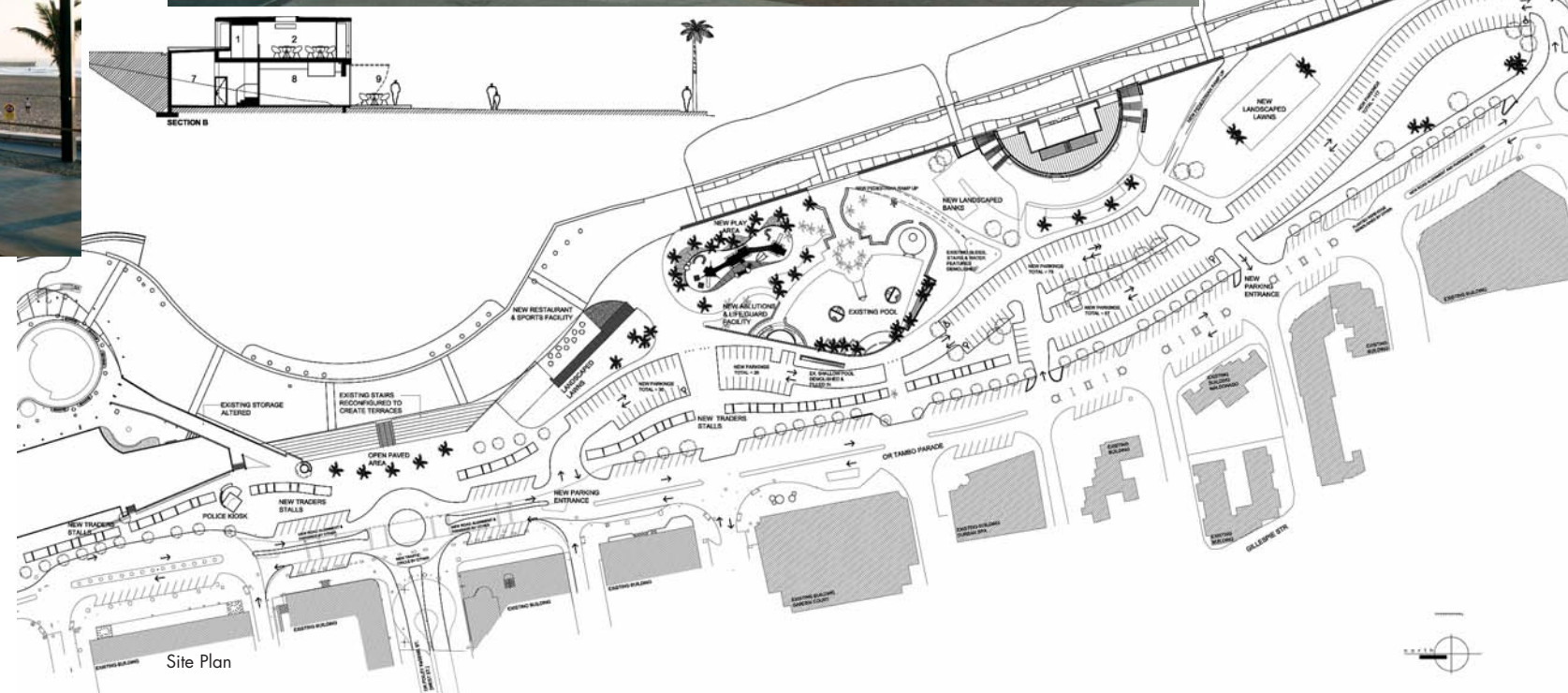
Structural Engineers: GOBA

Electrical Engineers: BFBA

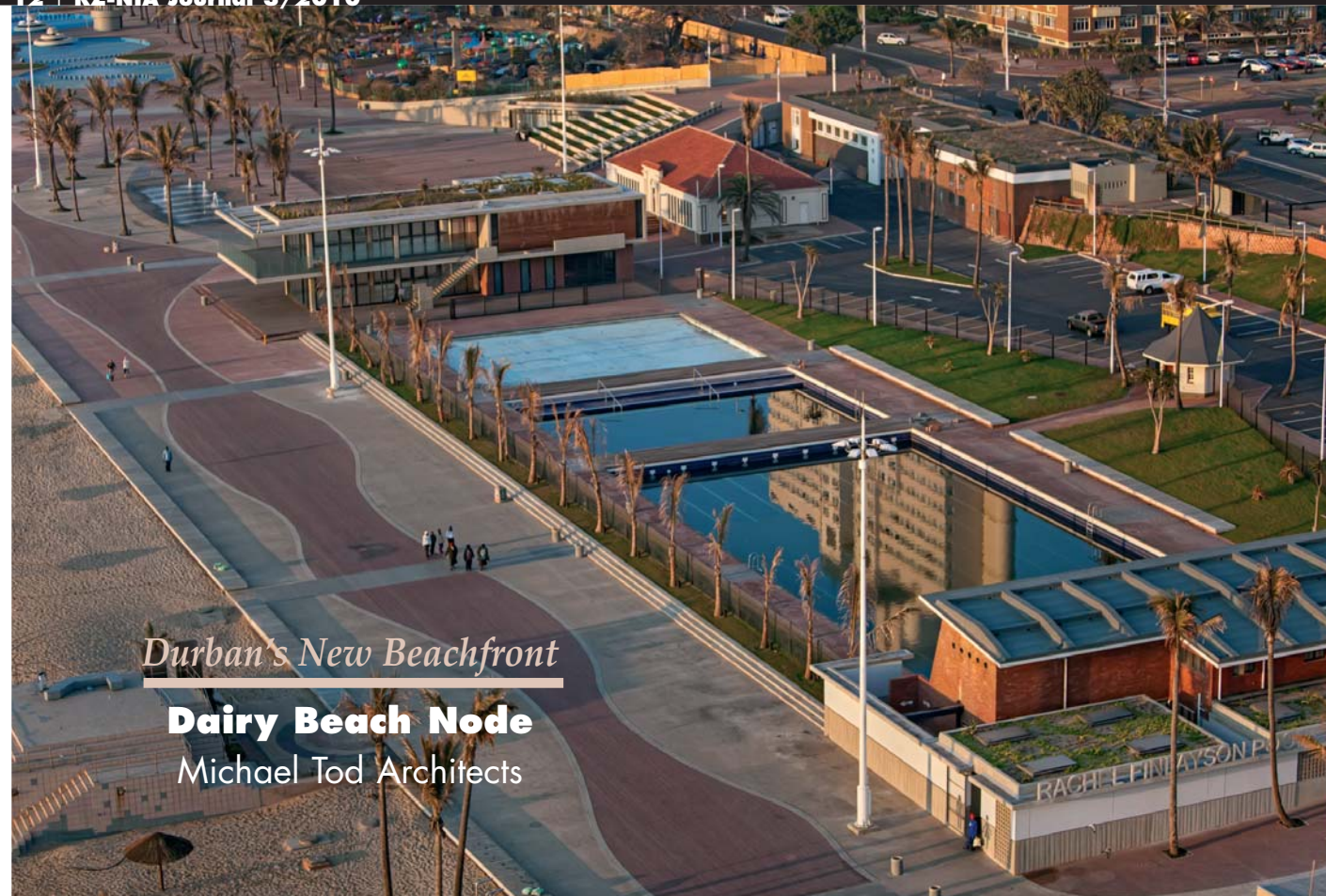
Quantity Surveyors: Edgcombe and Hayes-Hill

Main Contractor: G Liviero & Son

Photography: Andrew Griffin Photography







## Durban's New Beachfront

### Dairy Beach Node

Michael Tod Architects

This node stretches from the existing paddling pools in the south (by Stafford Associated Architects, 1985–7) to North Beach node (by Hallen Theron & Partners, 1981). At the heart lies the Rachel Finlayson Pool replete with grandstand and the lifesavers' pavilion of the 1940s. It was important to the City and the architects to create an accessible 'place' for all to enjoy.

Traders' Shelters now line the edge of the Parade to formalize pavement trading and include much needed storage and ablution facilities. An additional parking strip was inserted between Parade and Pool to extend the amenity of North Beach node. East-west pedestrian linkages between Parade and the Promenade were prioritized and occur on both ends of the Pool, the southern via a new Piazza conceptualized for the hosting of major beach events, while the northern was designed as a tree-lined promenade to provide easy access between the new parking lot and the beaches, as well as ultimately connecting the node back to the CBD. The new restaurant building called for in the brief, at the southern end to the Pool, opens to both the Pool and the Piazza.

#### Rachel Finlayson Pool

Previously the Pool was an island hidden behind walls, screens and other accommodation, resulting in a visual blockage between Parade and Promenade. The original 90m long pool has been re-tiled and divided into three separate pools with a 'kiddies' paddling pool, a constant 1.2m deep aerobics/learn-to-swim pool, and a 50m lap pool, with two 3m wide solid walkways separating each pool. The

pump and filtration system for the Pool was relocated from the original Spanish Revival deck chair storage building, by City Architect William Murray-Jones, c1930, to the newly renovated grandstand.

#### Restaurant and retail component

Conceptually the building springs from Le Corbusier's Maison Domino. It was conceived as an 'outdoor room' and designed to accommodate a coffee shop and retail outlet on ground level and a restaurant above, with a clear programme of served spaces to the front or seaside and service spaces to the rear. The main double volume entrance with its cantilevered slab jutting outwards is located off the main public piazza and forms a focal point to the square as a modern-day clock tower.

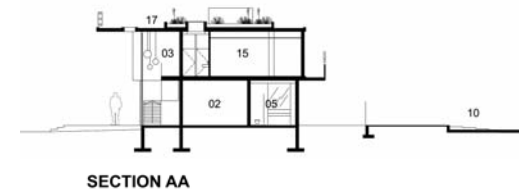
The position of the 'Domino' building was determined on several factors. It forms a 'book end' to and relates directly to the pool to the north as well as the Piazza on the south. It boasts a close relationship with the newly refurbished Spanish Revival Style pump house while maximising views straight to the sea beyond. Its oblong shape takes cognizance of the hotel and apartment blocks behind and their prized sea views, while offering restaurant patrons the benefits of north orientation. A series of circular skylights punctuate the roof slab to allow light to penetrate into the recesses of the building, whilst together with the indigenous green roof, provide the residents behind an interesting view. Wide covered decks and verandas are incorporated for external seating in Durban's glorious

weather. On the upper floor, 1600mm high clear-glass balustrades protect patrons from the wind while offering the best views.

The use of high-quality off-shutter concrete predisposed itself to 'bent-plate' architectonics. The bending and unfolding of a single plate can create an iconic structure from any vantage point. The off-shutter concrete floor slabs received a variety of indented 'tattoo' markings articulating and adding life to the flat surfaces which are evident on the underside of the slabs. Projecting brickwork patterns seen on three sides of the building invoke a Brazilian moderne language of many of the older Parade buildings.

#### Piazza

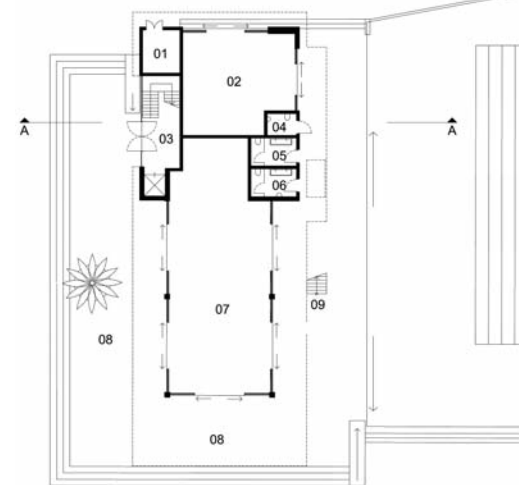
This 'event space' was created through the demolition of the former Ocean Sports Centre and the northernmost paddling pool. An interactive fountain surrounded by palms laid out in the form of an African shield provides a civic focus to the space as well as an animated entertainment opportunity for beach goers. This functional space has a direct relationship with the raised 'Domino' building to the north of the



SECTION AA



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



RESTAURANT GROUND FLOOR PLAN

#### LEGEND:

- 01 METER ROOM
- 02 SURF STORE
- 03 MAIN ENTRANCE / CIRCULATION CORE
- 04 PARAPLEGIC TOILET
- 05 FEMALE TOILET
- 06 MALE TOILET
- 07 COFFEE BAR WITH POLISHED CONCRETE FLOOR FINISH
- 08 TIMBER DECK
- 09 STAIR UP TO FIRST FLOOR
- 10 RACHEL FINLAYSON POOL (CHILDRENS POOL)
- 11 RESTAURANT WITH POLISHED CONCRETE FLOOR FINISH
- 12 COVERED TILED VERANDAH
- 13 OVERHEAD SKYLIGHTS
- 14 TOILETS
- 15 KITCHEN
- 16 STORAGE / STAFF TOILET
- 17 GREEN ROOF

LEFT: Drought-resistant *Pedunculatium crinum* (Australian star lily) planted in 15cm-shallow soil to help cooling within building and stormwater run-off.

square where patrons enjoy the *joie de vivre* of everyday life.

The western edge is defined by lawned terraced steps forming a pedestrian route which links the Piazza to the Parade whilst providing a place to sit, congregate and interact. Beneath these stairs are accommodated pay toilets, lockers and a new surfboard store.

#### Sustainable measures



the terraced steps, the existing paddling pool pump house and on the new elements added to the Pool grandstand. These encourage biodiversity, form an effective insulation component and provide a pleasant visual element for both the Promenade users as well as the high-rise residential blocks on OR Tambo (Marine) Parade. All new structures were given deep overhangs to reduce solar penetration, large sliding doors provide cross-ventilation, while high U-value glazing provides a last line of defence.

Material usage on the buildings was severely curtailed by the harsh beach environment, so most structures are of off-shutter

Of critical importance to the node was the incorporation of a large number of 'green roofs'. These are seen on the restaurant building, the ablutions beneath

concrete, aluminium and glass panels and a chemically stable face brick.

Brandon Robertson, Lauren Haiden

Architects' Project Team: Michael Tod, Brandon

Robertson, Lauren Haiden

Structural Engineers: GOBA

Hydraulic Engineers: GOBA

Electrical Engineers: Ugesi

Landscaping: Real Landscapes

Quantity Surveyor: D'Arcy Hedding

Contractor: Armstrong Construction

Photographer: Mike van Heerden

#### LANDSCAPING

Dairy Beach node required a great deal of work rescuing and then replanting coconut palms. The node has open lawns with beach aloes, some fine examples of tree aloes *Aloe barberiae*, as well as several green roof gardens on the restaurant and the Rachel Finlayson Pool change rooms and the filtration plant buildings which have utilised locally indigenous plants.

Elsa Pooley

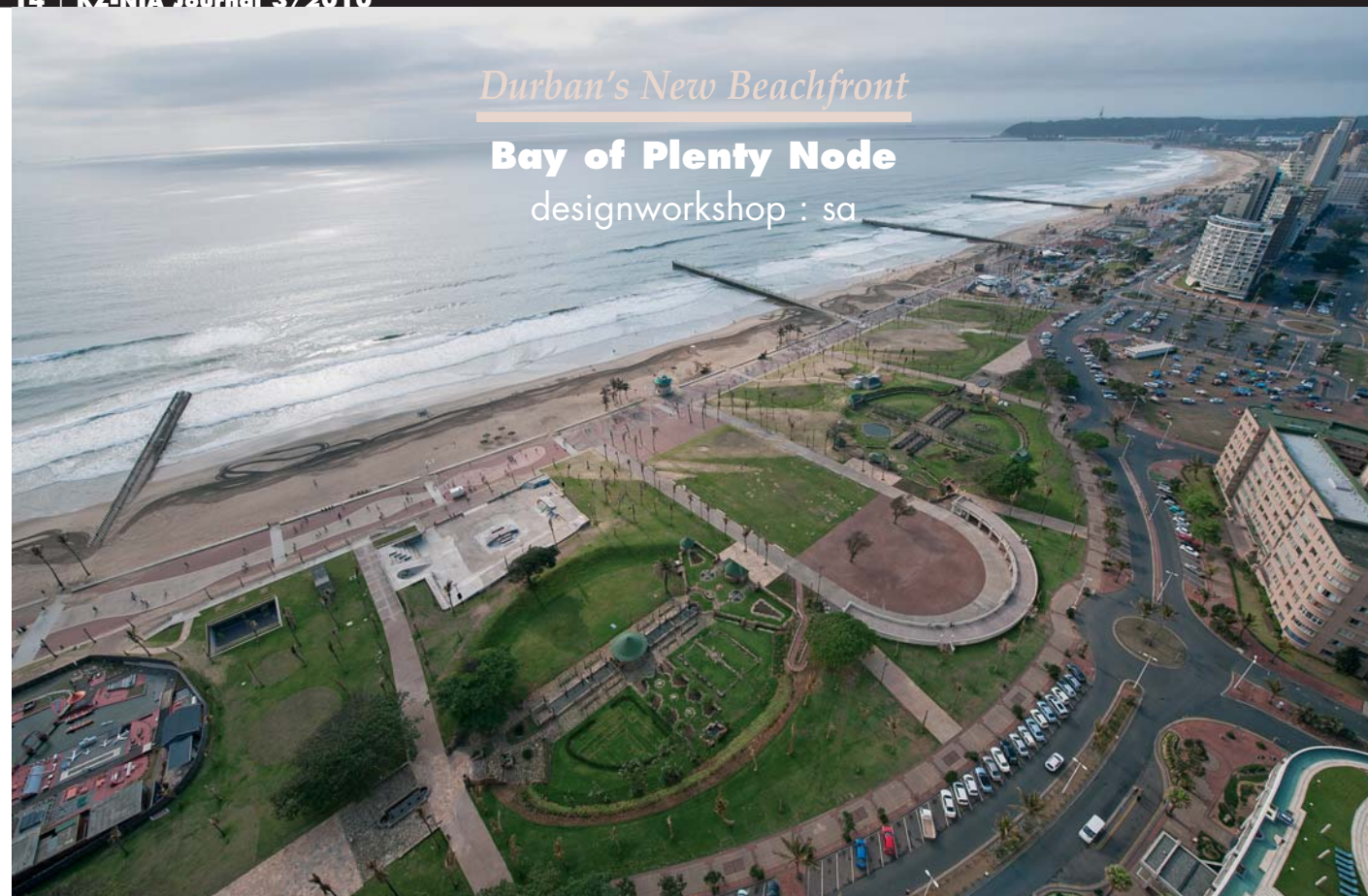
Installation: Real Landscapes



#### LEGEND:

- 01 NEW FUNWORLD TRADER STALLS
- 02 PROPOSED LANDSCAPING
- 03 NEW PUBLIC / PAID ABLUTIONS WITH REFURBISHED SURFBOARD STORAGE
- 04 LAWNED TERRACE SEATING OVERLOOKING PIAZZA
- 05 NEW PAVED PUBLIC PIAZZA
- 06 NEW INTERACTIVE FOUNTAIN WITHIN PUBLIC PIAZZA
- 07 NEW RESTAURANT / CAFE BUILDING WITH GREEN ROOF
- 08 REFURBISHED 'PUMPHOUSE' GREEN ROOF ON EXISTING SAND FILTER PUMPHOUSE
- 09 NEW PROMENADE
- 10 DAIRY BEACH
- 12 REFURBISHED CHILDRENS POOL
- 13 REFURBISHED AEROBICS POOL
- 14 REFURBISHED 50m LAP POOL
- 15 REFURBISHED GRANDSTAND BUILDING (GREEN ROOF ABOVE) WITH NEW PUBLIC ABLUTIONS AND RELOCATED POOL FILTRATION SYSTEM
- 16 REFURBISHED LIFE GUARD PAVILION
- 17 NEW PARKING AREA FOR NODE
- 18 NEW TRADER STALLS
- 19 NEW ACCESS POINT TO PARKING
- 20 GRAND STAIRCASE AND LINK THROUGH FROM SUB PROMENADE LINK TO O.R TAMBO PARADE
- 21 LINK TO JOE COOLS PARKING
- 22 EXISTING SAPS / DURBAN SURF BUILDING
- 23 NEW PIER WITH NEW COLUMN LIGHTING
- 24 O.R TAMBO (FORMERLY MARINE) PARADE





## Durban's New Beachfront

### Bay of Plenty Node

designworkshop : sa

To promote linkages between Parade and Promenade, hardened pedestrian connections cut across the site at right angles at about 75m intervals. A visually permeable, but not transparent, dry packed-stone wall replaced the pre-cast wall around the condensed Mini-Town, and new open Traders' Shelters line the Parade at the parking lot replacing visually obstructive thatched structures. Like bubbles floating in water, flat circular discs were overlaid onto the slope in the expansive open space southward to North Beach node to provide defined, wind protected spaces at the scale of a family, while two larger circular lawned spaces of different diameter were set in the centre available for community functions.

#### Primary intervention

As the beachfront is often windy even when it is an otherwise beautiful sunny day, we thought that a shady wind-protected and safe restaurant courtyard just off the beach would be an attractive amenity for families with young children. In addition we recognised that the spatial and visual strength of the 'wall' of hotels and apartments lining the Parade would retain its most dramatic impact if this new building lay low rather than offering any formal competition when experienced from the Promenade.

We used the slope of the site to tuck the building under the new ground level so that it only has an elevation to the Promenade, which slightly wraps around its southern end to address the Skate Park. The building has almost no formal presence from the east other than the light gestures in the balustrades to

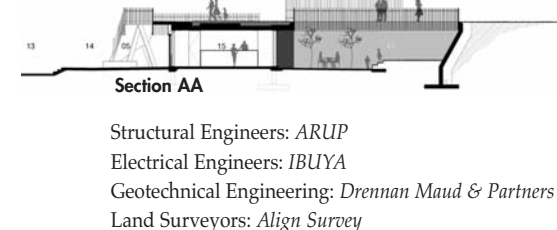
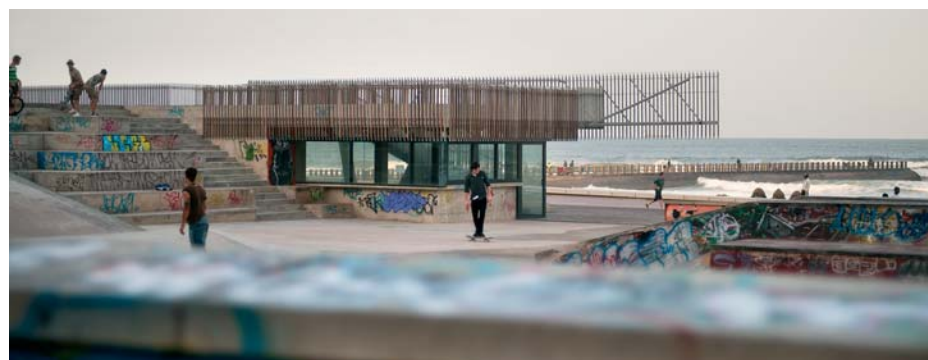
edges of level changes. Apart from a service courtyard at the rear, all functions are lined up along the length of the Promenade so that its entire length is active and there are no blank walls where people interface with the building's edges. The slightly raised primary restaurant space opens through fully glazed sides, east onto the Promenade and west into a tree shaded and wind protected courtyard. The restaurant is transparent, from shady green on the land side courtyard to burning bright blue on the seaside.

#### Skate park

After a hard search around the world we were able to locate Geth Noble, an American skater, park designer and builder who happened to be in South Africa at just the right time. He writes:

"The skate park re-design increases the skate-ability of the park by increasing velocity and opening previously blocked speed lines. Tall steep quarter-pipes to the north and south provide increased speed for the central pyramid. A pump bump amplifies the speed lines for both the pyramid and the new over-vert pocket. The south west stairs are now enhanced by a wheelchair ramp and a Barcelona wall ride, allowing skaters to approach the south west pyramid hip with plenty of speed. What was once a dead end next to the stairs is now a one-metre-radius tranny for whippety slash-grinds. Between the skate shop and the over-vert pocket is a mellow driveway bank which allows skaters of all levels to enter the skate park with healthy momentum."

Andrew Makin, Carina Strauss



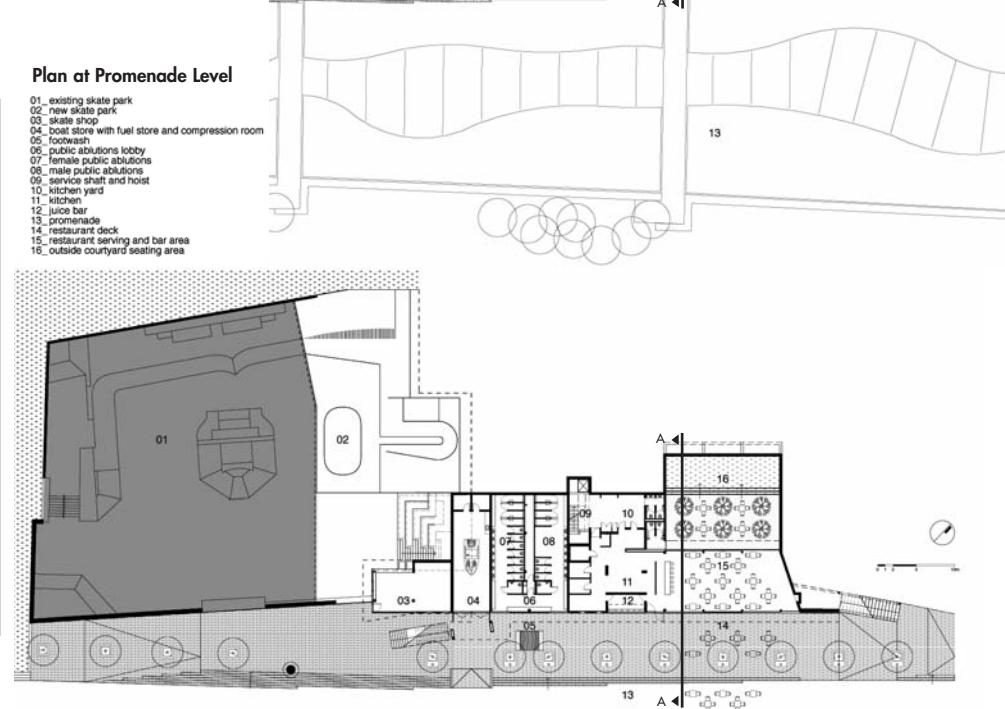
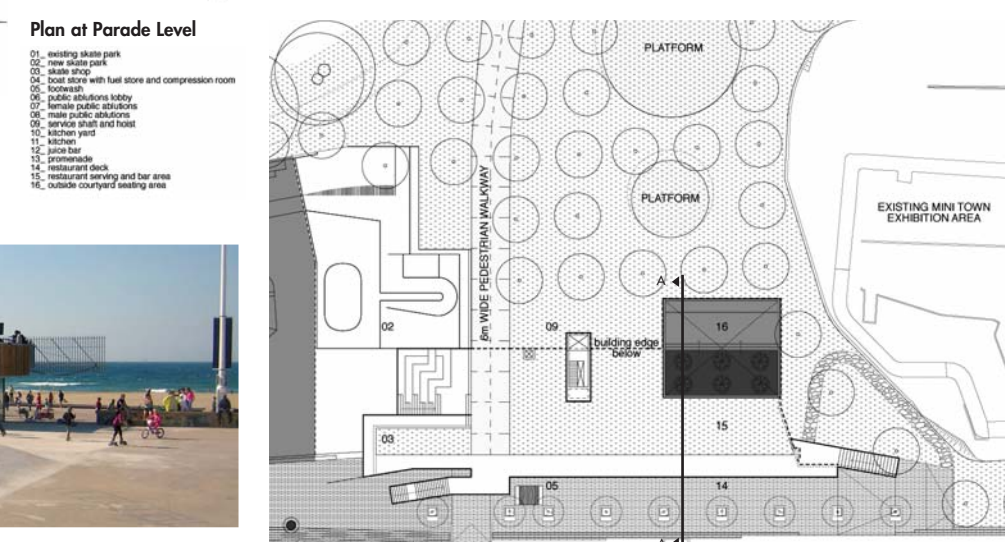
Quantity Surveyors: Mike Royal  
Main Contractor: G. Liveiro & Son  
Photography: Roger Jardine

#### LANDSCAPING

Bay of Plenty node, by Design Workshop, used the coconut palm grid over the whole area, with different sized lawn circles where two species of lawn grass subtly enhance the design. They also worked on the Sunken Gardens which date back to the Depression era (1932). The Gardens had fallen into a state of disrepair and required careful rehabilitation and replanting. Fences have been removed and the eastern banks lowered which make the Sunken Gardens more visible and accessible to the general public.

Elsa Pooley

Installation: Life Landscapes





## Chile...South American Jaguar

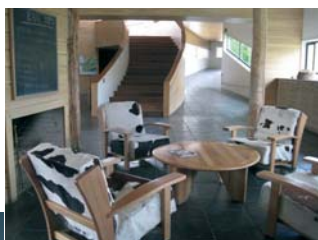
Mountains, deserts, forests, lakes, seaside, food, wine and incredible architecture. I have had Chile on my travel agenda since geography classes at high school. My first visit to Chile was a year ago with a client who was in charge of a joint venture casino development south of Santiago. I was introduced to local architects and Mauricio Mandler (Archiplan Architects) and I have communicated since then.

My second trip, this last Christmas break was to research the Explora Hotel groups' three hotels and other architectural projects in unique and sensitive environments.

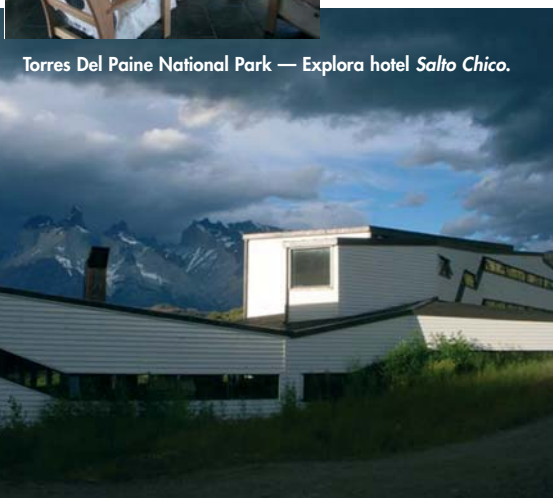
"Explora, art of travel...is a way of travelling to remote places in South America, based on in-depth exploration of the environment with the luxury of the essential"

The hotel group's resorts are about an in-depth exploration, as each of the journeys are thought of as an exploration that enables knowledge and experience. The aim is for travellers to satisfy their curiosity, interact with the environment and learn from nature and from people. In other words they are part of, rather than detached from, each situation which they encounter, engaging not only with

their logic but also with their senses and emotions.



Torres Del Paine National Park — Explora hotel Salto Chico.



Torres Del Paine National Park



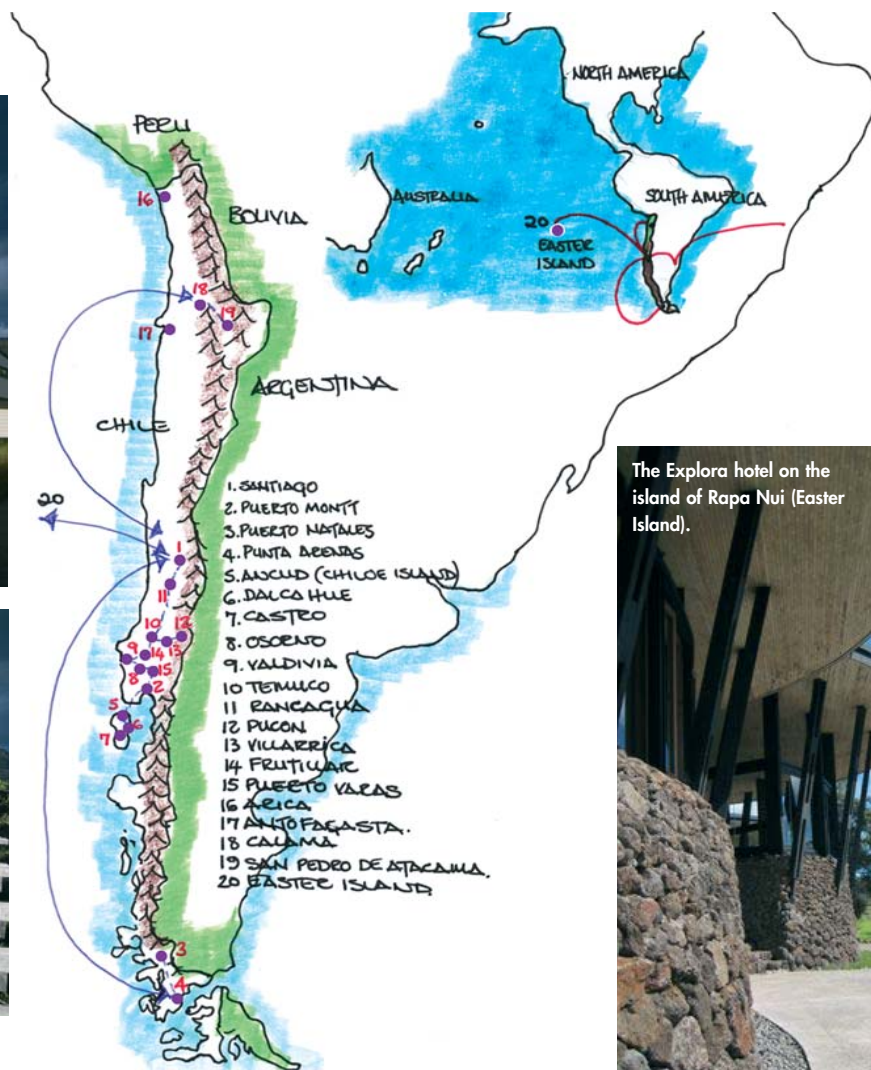
The hotels have been designed by collaboration over the years between Chilean architects Germa'n del Sol and Jose Ovalle who split up during the period of the development of the first two hotels. A fourth hotel, designed by the latter is scheduled for completion in two year's time in Machu Picchu, Peru.

Hanlie, my wife, and I arrived in mid-December and flew down to Punta Arenas "the most southern tip of the world" and got a bus across the windswept Patagonian flats to the Torres Del Paine National Park and the oldest

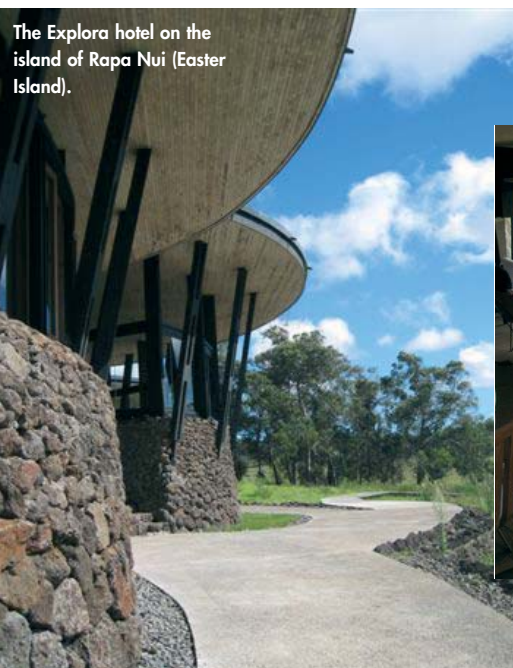
Explora hotel Salto Chico (1993) with 44 rooms. Built of clapboard with timber interiors It is very much an interior architecture where the volumes flow into each other with roof lighting, double-volume spaces, changes in levels via stairs and ramps, and curved forms. Holes are punched into the exterior envelope to give extraordinary vistas of the granite peaks, lakes, waterfall and wild veld. The interior is decorated in washed and painted timber, local slate, rock plant and cultural artefacts plus animal skins and woven materials from the local livestock and wild life. Trips from the hotel include treks to the southern high glaciers in the peaks of the Andes, horse riding across the pampas, game viewing treks to see condor, groups of lama and puma and boat trips across the variety of blue coloured lakes to the foot of the glaciers.



Explora Atacama Hotel



The Explora hotel on the island of Rapa Nui (Easter Island).



## Northern Chile

We returned to Santiago and flew to the northern extremity of Chile 17000 kms from our first hotel to experience the unique environment of the hot dry Altiplano of San Pedro de Atacama (2500 metres above sea level) the driest desert in the world. The first humans arrived in this area 10000 years ago and centred around the oasis. This area is full of the unexpected with salt lakes (Salar Da Atacama), geysers, canyons with fresh streams from the Andean peaks, volcanoes, moon-like landscapes, sparse plains with wild life specially adapted to one of the world's harshest climates. Here was Hotel De Larache (1998), the second Explora hotel built on the site of an ancient Atacamenien community where the original farm allotments with adobe walls and water furrows have been kept intact. The hotel is based on a hacienda and has a series of swimming pools built in the lucerne allotments. Also special here is a Pueblo de Estralles observation centre where a telescope allows one to see the stars and planets in the clear high altitude skies.

And so back to Santiago and the hospitality typical of Chileans. We were invited to Christmas lunch at Mauricio and Andrea's home in Santiago, with *empanadas* (meat and seafood) and barbecued meat with local wine and great friendship. We were taken to the new museum with glass roof built below the public square in front of the government buildings, to a timeless catholic church whose architect's life ambition was to design and build the church and then go into the ministry full time, to Mestizo, a new contemporary designed restaurant (Smiljan Radic) in a park in the outer suburbs.

## Easter Island

We left Santiago for a five hour flight to the Chilean controlled island Rapa Nui (Easter Island) to the third Explora hotel. The hotel is described as "speaks for itself through bodies (physical forms) that unfold to form circular



spaces while the native stone walls subtly sink and rise giving life to a new way of perceiving proximity and distance". The sub-tropical climate meant that the spaces were designed as a reverberation of arcs encompassing enclosed, semi enclosed, covered, partially covered and fully exposed spaces within a "game of heights" played out by the floating roofs. There is a wonderful sense of an endless ocean horizon across the rolling green slopes to the rocky beaches and a cooling sea breeze in all parts of the hotel. The interiors are again tastefully decorated in natural materials and fabrics with timeless furniture pieces. The many sites of the huge sculptured heads, volcano quarries, the seaside cave and stone dwellings and the museums and diving sites on the island can all be explored by foot or bicycle.

## Southern Chile

Back to Santiago and into the hired car to travel the R5 pan American highway and by-ways to the towns and cities of Rancagua, Chillan, Temuco, Valdivia, Niebla, Puerto Octay, Llanquihue, Osorno, Frutillar, Pucón, Villarrica, Puerto Varas, Licam Ray, Puerto Montt, together with the towns of Ancud, Castro and Dalcahue on the island of Chiloe. The Island of Chiloe has some of the most beautiful farmland scenery with the ocean and the southern Andes in the background across the ocean gulf. Here multi-coloured old timber clap-board churches and houses can still be found. This was a wonderful two weeks of spontaneous stops and findings of the



agricultural intensive central valley, lake district, seaside towns, forests and islands of Chile south of Santiago. We saw contemporary cellars and tasted wonderful wines around Rancagua and the fresh fruit vegetables and grains of this area made for wonderful meals and stays set against the snow capped Andes. Further south one moves into the pine and deciduous forests with deep

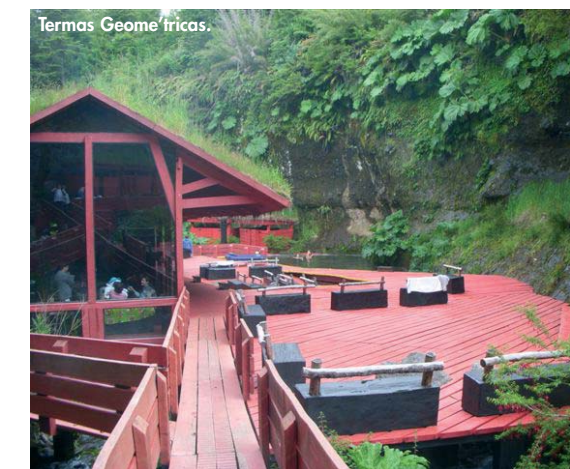
blue lakes, snow capped volcanoes and high mountains, an absolutely fantastic adventure playground and the second Mecca of the Chileans for holidays. Here five star hotels and designer second homes of the wealthy mix with the rural traditional timber architecture of the farming community. This area could be

confused with a piece of alpine Europe with its scenery, German names, food and traditional architecture all thanks to immigration many years ago. It was here that we came upon two very special pieces of architecture.

Hotel Antumalal was the dream and creation of a young Czechoslovakian couple who fled their country during the second world war and who, together with Chilean architect Jorge Elton, hand built a Bauhaus style 14 room hotel on a rocky outcrop overlooking lake Villarrica where they had developed beautiful lush gardens and Chilean country style decoration. The hotel has been visited by royalty and many famous stars and politicians because of the special setting and atmosphere. It was, maybe, the highlight of our trip – this wonderfully friendly and beautiful family run hotel where one is made to feel so cared for and relaxed.

While at the hotel booking out, the owner noticed we were architects (taking pictures of all sorts of details and very atypical tourists) and her friend visiting her was Germa'n del Sol's wife who insisted we go to see a thermal baths resort about two hours away (on a very windy and rocky road).

Well, it turned out to be very special...a timber and slate construction of waterways, pools, change rooms, open showers, decks and a small restaurant set in a deep ravine with vivid green acanthus plants and a bush with red flowers. Black slate roofs covered with plants, bright red painted timber and an amazing sense of geometric forms intertwining with the natural setting. A very good piece of architecture ... Termas Geome'tricas (Germa'n del Sol) 2003.



We returned to Santiago, the modern sophisticated and highly organized, clean, modern capital city for a final goodbye supper with the Mandler's at a restaurant in an eccentrically restored old building in the greyer side of town. It was a thoroughly enjoyable four week trip to a country I would recommend to anyone interested in contemporary architecture, adventure travel, good scenery and culinary delights.

Kevin Lloyd