

Vol 48 | 2023 | ISSN 0379-9301

# 2023

# SAIA-KZN

Journal of the KwaZulu-Natal Region of the South African Institute of Architects



SAIA-KZN Journal sponsored by Corobrik

## SAIA-KZN 2023 AWARDS FOR ARCHITECTURE

# SAIA-KZN JOURNAL NEWS

**SAIA-KZN 2023 Awards for Architecture**  
**Journal of the KwaZulu-Natal Region of the**  
**South African Institute of Architects**  
**Vol 48 · 2023 · ISSN 0379-9301**

This journal, now in its 48th year of publication, has from inception been sponsored by **Corobrik**.



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**Published by:** SAIA-KZN, KwaZulu-Natal Region of the South African Institute of Architects, 160 Bulwer Road, Durban 4001.

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The 2023 SAIA-KZN Awards jury from left: Rodney Harber, Eric Appelgren, Don Albert, Skura Mtembu, Chantal Pieterse and Adheema Davis

## EDITOR'S NOTES AND SAIA-KZN 2023 AWARDS

THIS IS A TRANSFORMATION of the regular tri-annual Journal, now an occasional electronic journal or e-journal, thanks to *Corobrik*, our continuous sponsors since 1976. This inaugural issue is dedicated to the buildings that were honoured with SAIA-KZN 2023 Awards for Architecture or Special Mentions, contributions to the built environment of KwaZulu-Natal worthy of featuring and celebrating.

This year's Awards programme was open for buildings constructed during 2021-22 and attracted 12 entries. With the Covid-19 epidemic over, thanks to *Corobrik* all entries could be inspected in loco, but for one being outside South Africa, which as per prescript was subjected to a virtual inspection.

The KZN regional committee appointed the following persons to the jury, the composition of which is set out by the South African Institute of Architects (SAIA). Don Albert of Cape Town filled the role of 'architect from another region'; 'layperson' was Eric Appelgren, Head of Department, International & Governance Relations, eThekweni Municipality; and Adheema Davis served as 'architect with an academic involvement'. The three SAIA-KZN members were Rodney Harber, Chantal Pieterse and Skura Mtembu whom the jury elected as its chair. Convenor, for the 15th time, was Wally Peters.

Following a virtual briefing of the jury, the entries were distributed for studying in advance of the tour of inspection on 19th and 20th July. The tour in and around Durban went inland to Richmond and Nottingham Road, and on the next day up the North Coast. After much debate the jury agreed to recommend to the regional committee the conferment of four Awards and three Special Mentions.

This issue upholds KZNIA tradition and features all winning buildings with drawings and photographs so that readers and particularly students can clearly understand the intricacies of the designs. Congratulations to all architects who had the courage to participate in the peer-review process, and especially the winners, their clients and collaborators.

*Walter Peters, Editor.*



KZNSA Gallery, 166 Bulwer Rd, Durban, being readied for the SAIA-KZN Presidential inauguration and Awards ceremony on 5th October.

The Gallery resulted from an architectural competition held in 1995 open to graduates of Natal (UKZN). It was won by Cindy Walters and Michal Cohen of London, and remains the Institute's meeting place of choice.

### SAIA-KZN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

ON THURSDAY, 5th October, the KwaZulu-Natal region of the SA Institute of Architects inaugurated Sikhumbuzo (Skura) Mtembu as its President for a second term.

**COVER:** Cruise ship docked alongside the Nelson Mandela Cruise Terminal.



SAIA-KZN Presidential Inauguration & SAIA-KZN 2023 Awards for Architecture at KNSA Gallery on 5th October.



A confident-looking Skura Mtembu on being inaugurated as SAIA-KZN President for a second term.



As 'emcee' of the event, a Vice-President of SAIA-KZN, Adheema Davis, was in control, engaging and effective.



Nick Booth, Chief Executive Officer of *Corobrik*, sponsors of the Awards event, eloquently and motivationally addressed the gathering.



Guest speaker, Mphethi Morojele, of MMA Design Studios, Johannesburg, spoke on 'changing landscapes in practice and pedagogy.'

Photography by DreamWorkMedia



Chantal Pieterse and SAIA-KZN Assistant Executive Officer, Kiara Mohanlal, pleased about the good turn-out.



Lawrence Ogunsanya, Academic leader of the Discipline of Architecture, UKZN; President Skura, and Ambrose Adebayo.



Pauline Hayward, Monique Gilliespie, a Vice-President of SAIA-KZN, and guest speaker Mphethi Morojele.



Patrick Smith, immediate past SAIA-KZN President, Nick Booth, and Somers Govender.



**SAIA-KZN 2023 Scrolls of Honour**

At the Awards event, Scrolls of Honour were presented to two attendees "with respect, and in recognition of their dedicated services over many years" to the built environment or the profession in KwaZulu-Natal.

The Scroll for Paul Mikula reads: A strong individual character with infectious energy, who is innovative with the use of discarded building elements and recycled materials, and the involvement of local artists to create an architecture that marks an intriguing counterpoint to conventional practice.

As he was overseas, the Scroll for Kevin Bingham will be presented to him at the next

suitable occasion. It reads "KZN President, 2013-14; SAIA President, 2017-18; and Councillor of the International Union of Architects (UIA), 2017-20; a principled leader, noted marathon runner and yachtsman who always portrays a spirit of true sportsmanship."

The Scroll presented to Rose Molokoane, veteran grassroots activist in matters of land tenure and housing and national co-ordinator of the South African Federation of the Urban Poor who also serves on the Management Committee of Slum Dwellers International, was "in recognition of her impact in making land and houses available to the poor."

Paul Mikula.



Rose Molokoane.



Emeldah Majola.



**SAIA-KZN Long Service Award**

In recognition of her dedicated service to the profession and SAIA-KZN over three decades, a Long Service Award was conferred on Emeldah Majola, "a loyal staffer with a kind heart and gentle spirit, completely trustworthy and who is always willing to help," as the citation reads.



At the end of the Awards event, Walter Peters, convener of 15 Awards programmes since 1993, was surprised with the conferment of the President's Appreciation Award by SAIA-KZN President, Skura Mtembu and Trish Emmett.

Photography by DreamWorkMedia

**2023 SAIA-KZN AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURE**

**CRUISE TERMINAL**



Entrance forecourt with heritage buildings on Mahatma Gandhi (Point) Road in the background.

Photography: Karl Beahy, Maxine Elphick.

**Nelson Mandela Cruise Terminal**

65 Mahatma Gandhi Rd, Point, Durban

Architects: Elphick Proome Architecture

Stefano Vigoriti, Senior Projects Manager, MSC Cruises; Skura Mtembu, SAIA-KZN President; Vanessa Govender and Greg Gordge of Elphick Proome Architecture.

*The jury acknowledged the landmark value of the building, the technological advances of structure and cladding within the extreme exposure to sea air, and the generosity of interior and exterior spaces within the tightly defined wharf site.*

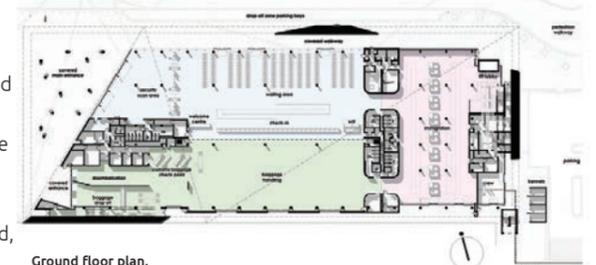


**T**HIS FORMALLY evocative building with crustaceous exterior is actually a shed for accommodating passengers of cruise ships, who characteristically embark or disembark in masses, and overlook the roof, which therefore warranted artistic attention. Besides, as this passenger traffic is seasonal, the large interior volumes had to be flexible to accommodate functions for large attendances.

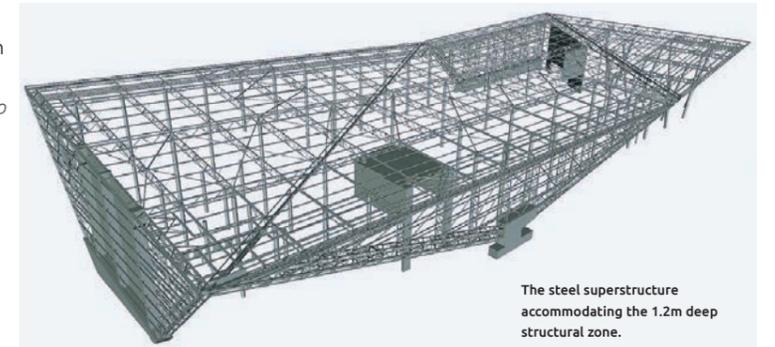
The sculptural response to the site involved the design of a ventilated façade, folded and cantilevered, to shield the large expanses of glazing both for daylighting the interior and for visual contact with the surrounds.

Readers are also referred to SAIA-KZN Journal 3/2022.

Project architects:  
George Elphick, Greg Gordge  
Client & Developer:  
KwaZulu-Natal Cruise Terminal (Pty) Ltd  
Main contractor:  
Stefanutti Stocks Coastal



Ground floor plan.



The steel superstructure accommodating the 1.2m deep structural zone.



## Esse Academy

Sharrow Farm Estate, Richmond  
Architects: Koop Design

*The jury found that the building absorbed the setting, was well integrated in the landscape, literally touched the earth lightly, and that with commendable detailing a sublime piece of architecture had resulted.*

**T**HIS IS A TRAINING and visitors' centre, sited to set a benchmark for future expansion. Because the building would be erected by the company itself, construction was conditioned by the skills available, and resulted in an assembly of prefabricated components in timber, consistent with a zero-carbon ethos.

The approach to the rectangular building beneath a planar roof is down an irregular cascade of stairs to the northern veranda, aside which lies a garden marked with benches for seating, while sliding timber and glass screens within the skeletal timber frame enclose the building and sub-divide the interiors,

The building integrates with the energy and water systems of the context, augmented by solar, while for ventilation fresh air from inside the forest is drawn into the building.

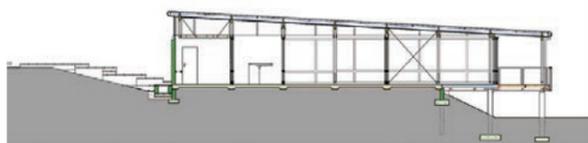
Projects architects:  
Richard Stretton, Radhia Khan  
Client:  
Esse Skincare  
Contractor:  
Client  
Photography:  
Roger Jardine



Embraced and delighted: Radhia Kahn and Richard Stretton, Koop Design with SAIA-KZN President Skura Mtembu.



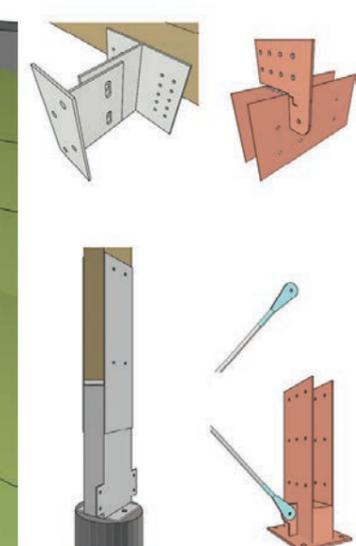
Plan.



Section.



Principles of assembly.



Custom-designed ironmongery.

THE FOLLY



Studio opening to the terrace.



The Folly

42 The Glades, Dunkirk Estate, Salt Rock

Architects: Common Architecture

The jury deemed the circular path for ascent appropriate; it delighted in the design creativity and 'unseen elegance' displayed by The Folly, which in no way challenges the existing house and agree on the aptness of the venue for otium\* and creativity.

THE DESIGN of an artist's ceramic studio with wine and whisky cellar, which was also to serve as a party venue and annex to a distinctive modern house, saw the remaining portion of the steep site come into consideration.

The multi-functional brief was reinterpreted as a retreat in off-shutter concrete, and literally merged with the hilltop of the steep natural landscape, for which light was brought in by cylindrical skylights, that when the gum-pole shuttering was prised off was sculpturally resonant internally. Herein the spaces, terraced into the site, open on to an outdoor area from which to enjoy distant views to the ocean.

\*Leisure time; in which a person can enjoy eating, playing, resting, contemplation; the term used by the architect.

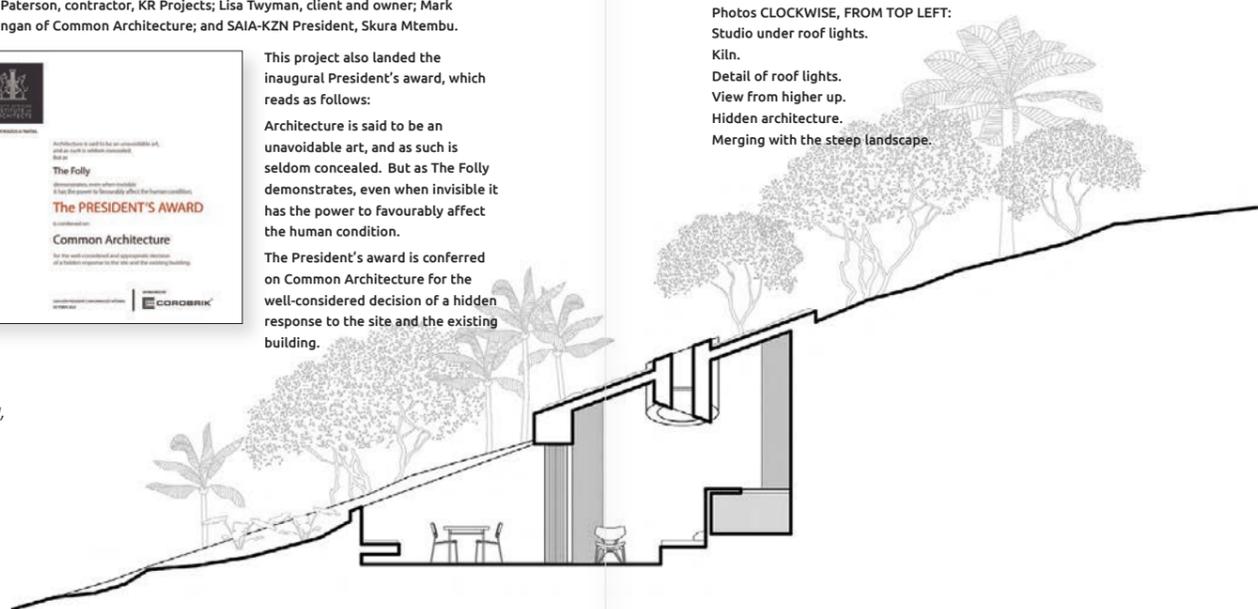
Project architects:  
Mark Bellingan, Leigh Bellingan, Miriam Seidenfuss, Marc Oswell  
Clients: Will Haynes & Lisa Twyman  
Contractor: KR Projects  
Photography: Stephanie Veldman



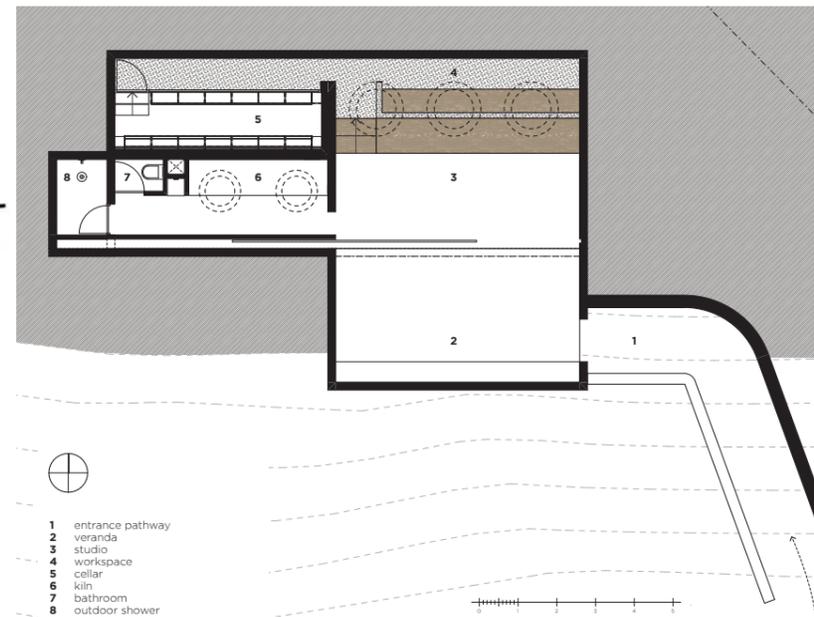
Rob Paterson, contractor, KR Projects; Lisa Twyman, client and owner; Mark Bellingan of Common Architecture; and SAIA-KZN President, Skura Mtembu.



This project also landed the inaugural President's award, which reads as follows:  
Architecture is said to be an unavoidable art, and as such is seldom concealed. But as The Folly demonstrates, even when invisible it has the power to favourably affect the human condition.  
The President's award is conferred on Common Architecture for the well-considered decision of a hidden response to the site and the existing building.



Photos CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT:  
Studio under roof lights.  
Kiln.  
Detail of roof lights.  
View from higher up.  
Hidden architecture.  
Merging with the steep landscape.





Patio.

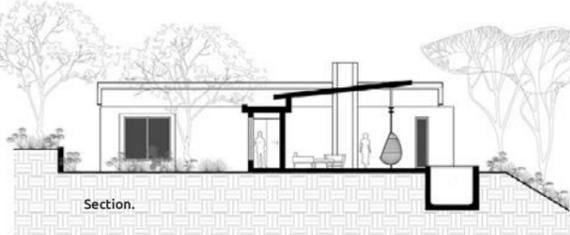
## Forest Hideaway

Mount Richmore Estate, Salt Rock  
 Architects: Urbis Architects (Pty) LTD

*The jury concluded that the achievement was understated. The house represented considerably more than the challenge, and that the carefully considered functional requirements and the thoroughly detailed steel structure, the landscaping and furnishing were coessential to the success of the design.*

THE BRIEF was to design a family home as a sanctuary, comfortable for habitation, that would establish a rapport between building and the green belt of the gated estate. This resulted in a public and a private pavilion for living and bedroom spaces respectively, each carefully orientated and technically and aesthetically resolved, creatively furnished, and in close and varied contact with the exterior landscape.

Project architect: Jacques Grobler  
 Engineer: Bischoff Ramphal (Jannie Bischoff)  
 Contractor: Indlovu Construction (Graham & Cary Mockridge)  
 Interior design: Interior Edge (Ilsa van Niekerk)  
 Landscape architecture: Uys & White (Lucas Uys)



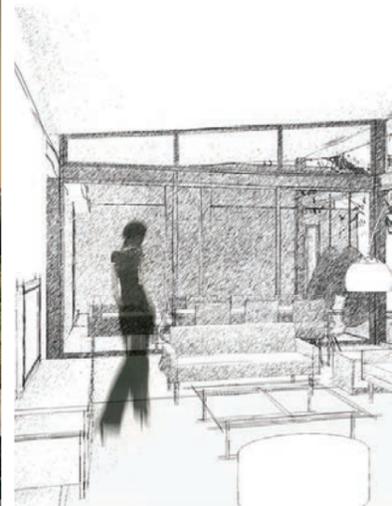
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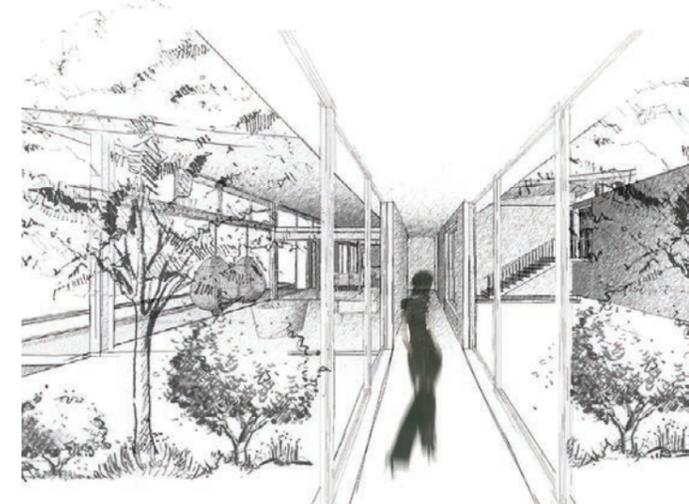
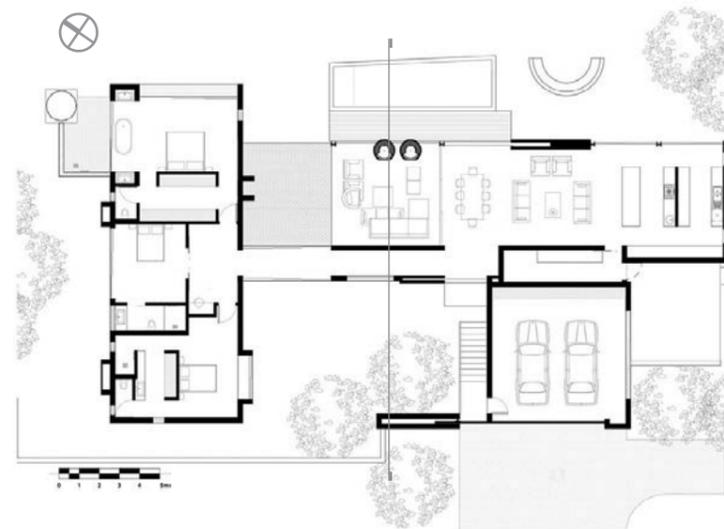
Architect Jacques of Urbis Architects receiving the Award certificate from SAIA-KZN President, Skura.Mtembu.



Drone view from east.



Top: View northwards. Above: View from courtyard to linking passage.

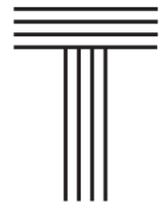


## Green Houses Office Park –Phase 1

44 and 46 Lena Ahrens Rd, Glenwood, Durban

Architects: Artek 4 Architects (KZN) cc

Architect-owner Somers Govender and contractor Yugen Naidu of Shospec Light Steel Frame Builders.



THE REPURPOSING of an historic villa for the accommodation of an architects' practice is a pursuit to be encouraged, but few domestic spaces can be satisfactorily recycled for professional use let alone a general drafting office.

The architects thus embarked on an intervention that bridged the heritage building and the back street in a contemporary manner, which positively lifted the character of the streetscape, while creatively recycling spaces and details in the villa with touches both technical and artistic.

Readers are also referred to SAIA-KZN Journal 3/2019.

Project architect:  
Somakanthen Govender  
Client:  
Phezulu Creations (Pty) Ltd  
Contractor:  
Shospec Light Steel Frame Builders



## 197 High Ridge Road

Athlone, Durban

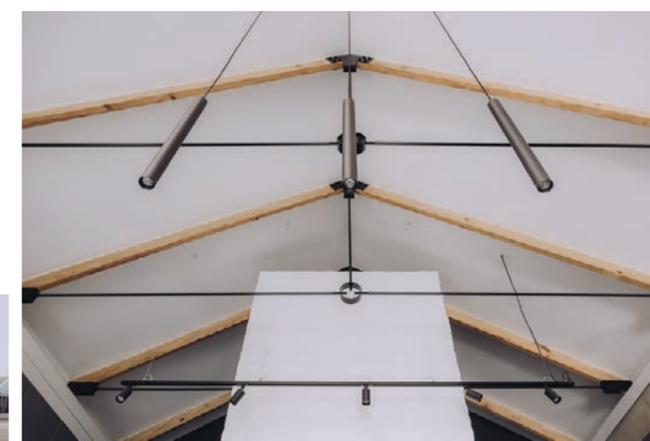
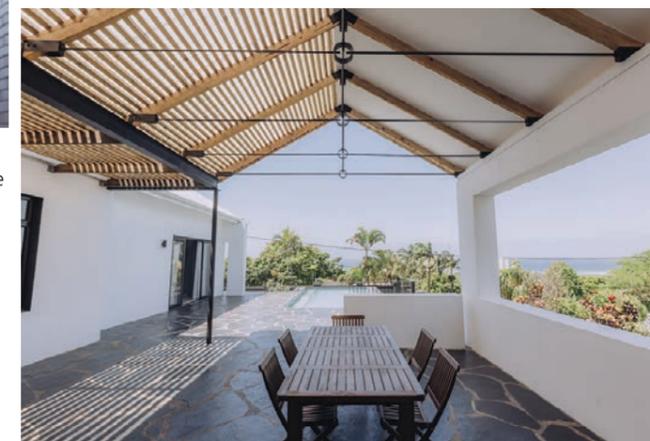
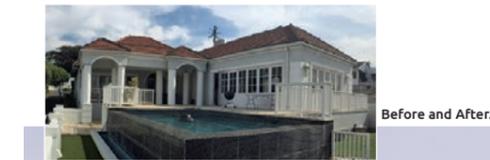
Architects: Engine Architecture



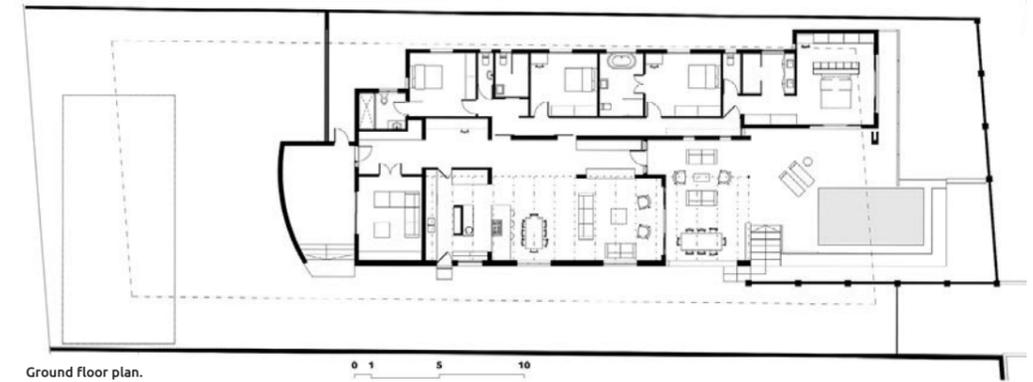
AFTER A NUMBER OF remodellings, the interior of the old building had become entangled and dark, and it was time to rethink the conceptual basis of the house.

The jury was taken by the intervention comprising the north-facing bedroom wing running parallel and proud of the living wing, which in an open spatial sequence terminates in the exterior entertainment area and distant views over Durban.

Project architects: Cameron Finne, Leon Conradie  
Clients: Jared & Shelley McLean  
Contractor: Frizelle Construction



FROM TOP: Interior.  
Entertainment area.  
Roof details.



## LI2 Gold Coast Estate

100 Heleza Boulevard, Sibaya,  
North Coast

Architects: Craft of Architecture (Pty) LTD



Owners Sarah and Leon Klopper,  
architect Byron Tennant.

**B**UILDING IN A GATED community invariably requires adhering to a set of design guides, but in given circumstances obliges architects to seek a balance between the overall objectives and those of an individual unit.

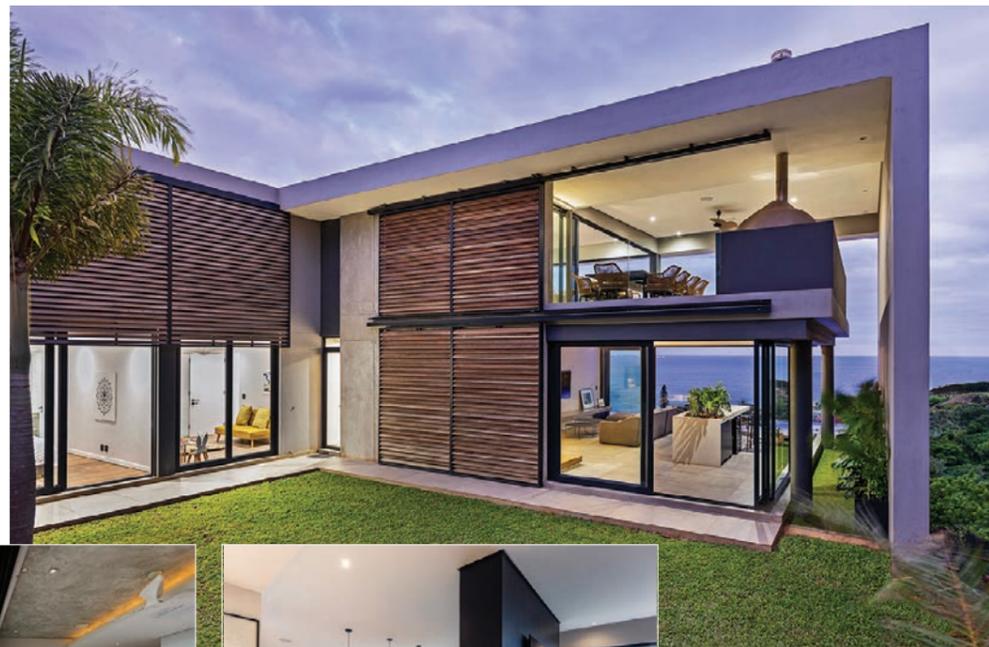
This unit cleverly links the recreational and entertainment spaces of both the living and bedroom floors to enjoy the views to the ocean as well as the favourable north sun. Louvred sliding doors on the courtyard side opposite allow full penetration of the sun.

Project architects:  
John van Wyk, Byron Tennant  
Clients: Leon & Sarah Klopper  
Contractor: Sygnatur Projects  
Photography: Grant Pitcher



First floor.

Ground floor.



ABOVE:  
View from west.

FROM LEFT:  
Lap pool on bedroom level.  
Living spaces on First floor.

### NEWS CONTINUED FROM INSIDE FRONT COVER

#### MEMBERS HONOURED

##### SAIA Gold Medal for Architecture

At a ceremony held in Johannesburg on 26 April, the SAIA Gold Medal for Architecture was awarded posthumously to the KZN member **Rodney Ralph Choromanski** (1961-2018).

The only previous KZN recipients of this, the highest award of SAIA, are Sonny Tomkin in 1965, Hans Hallen in 1980 and Brian Johnson in 2000.

##### D.Arch (*hon causa*) (UKZN)

At the graduation ceremony of UKZN held on 10th May, the degree D.Arch (*hon causa*) was conferred on **Paul Mikula**, deemed an “exceptional architect who is also a renowned arts activist in his own right.”

In accepting this degree, Dr Mikula has joined the following honorary graduates of Architecture of UKZN: Alan Lipman, 2003; Ron Lewcock, 1998; Revel Fox, 1993; James Walton, 1987; and William Holford, 1957.



Dr Mikula making his acceptance speech.

#### OBITUARIES:

##### MAURICE DIBB (1933- 2023)



On Friday, 9th June, Maurice Dobb, SAIA-KZN President 1986-87, died two months short of his 90th birthday. He was a product of DHS and in 1955 a graduate of Natal University.

Little did Maurice know as a junior student that when he assisted Hans Hallen to

complete his design thesis, he would a decade later be approached by Hallen about a professional collaboration. Of this emerged the legendary partnership of Durban's 1960s, Hallen & Dobb, in which organisational skills and project management fell to Maurice.

Notable were the white apartment blocks on the Berea, Stellenberg, Drostdy, Musgrave Mews and Riebeeck, and the residences in reinforced concrete on Howard College campus of UKZN, John Bews and Mabel Palmer with Scully Hall. Houses Shaw and Hall to name only two, St Olav's church, Winburg monument and extensions to Entabeni and Wentworth hospitals reflect an oeuvre unchallenged.

Subsequently practising as Maurice Dobb & Associates, he recycled a pair of semi-detached houses in Helen Joseph (Davenport) Rd as his office and continued applying his skills particularly in hospitals and office buildings. Maurice was a consummate professional, always friendly and approachable. Our thoughts are particularly with his son, Colin, our colleague in Perth. *Editor*

##### FRANK EMMETT (1946-2023)

Following a period of ill-health, on the morning of 14th June, Frank Emmett died in Durban aged almost 77. With him, SAIA-KZN has lost a member of long-standing, its Vice-



President of 1989-91, and the architect for the adaptation of 160 Bulwer Rd as the Institute's base.

On graduating from Natal, Frank joined the practice Hallen Theron & Partners where he rose to become a partner. It was during this time, in 1974, that he met and then married Patricia (Trish) Barker, still a student, and subsequently their children Shannon, Caitlin, Chloe and Alexander were born.

Before the dissolution of HTP, Frank and Trish commenced practice as Emmett: Emmett Architects in

#### BOOK REVIEW

Harber, R (2023) *Shepstone at half a century. Reflecting on 50 years of transition and change.*



Environment & Development Studies.

TO THE UNINITIATED, Shepstone is the name of the megabuilding that terraces down the steep western slope of what is today known as the Howard College campus of UKZN, and the cover photograph clearly demonstrates the concept with two concourses between three rows of academic accommodation. Leslie Croft was its architect, simultaneously head of the Department of Architecture, which on the opening of the building, 50 years ago, was accommodated in the southern end, together with the Allied Disciplines of the Faculty of Architecture, namely Quantity Surveying, Town Planning and Building, more recently restructured as the School of the Built Environment & Development Studies. Croft opted to monumentalise the organising idea of the building, a structure for accommodating flexible floors, and as the building was put together by precast concrete elements, he accentuated joints and connections, some of which are now in need of attention. The exposed concrete structure with some facebrick panels, wall-to-wall brown carpets, cream painted steel windows and door frames with walls in what students soon termed 'Croft cream', did not provide for a particularly inspiring environment; neither did the skylit concrete pyramidal roofs of the studios, nor the use of fibreglass and asbestos and the general lack of detailing. But that hardy approach made the building tough and kickable, and despite the many changes, the concept has survived to express a timelessness and thereby set an example for academic architecture.

In this publication to mark the half century, Rodney Harber, literally a part of its inventory, assembled a set of the original drawings and images under construction, superb recent photographs mainly by Viloshin Govender with some showing elements today in De Stijl colours, and events or activities staged within the building as well as coverage of a few graduates, which makes for an altogether good read of the life and times of Shepstone.

Copies are available from SAIA-KZN. *-Editor*

1991. They soon gained peer recognition for heritage architecture with awards for Quarters, Stratford Sheds, Plaisir du Jardin, Sweeney Law Library on UKZN campus, Dock point Row Houses and Bond Square.

Frank was a sportsman, paddling surf skis, the Dusi and Umkomaas Canoe Marathons and running marathons, and his enthusiasm in these pursuits triggered the family in following his example. Similarly, Frank the architect, a team player, modest and self-effacing, and respected for his decency.

Appropriately, the memorial service was held at Kingfisher Canoe Club, 9 Stiebel Place, a building designed by Frank over forty years ago. *Editor*