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1.618 Awards 2017

12 IZITULO

Design
Challenge



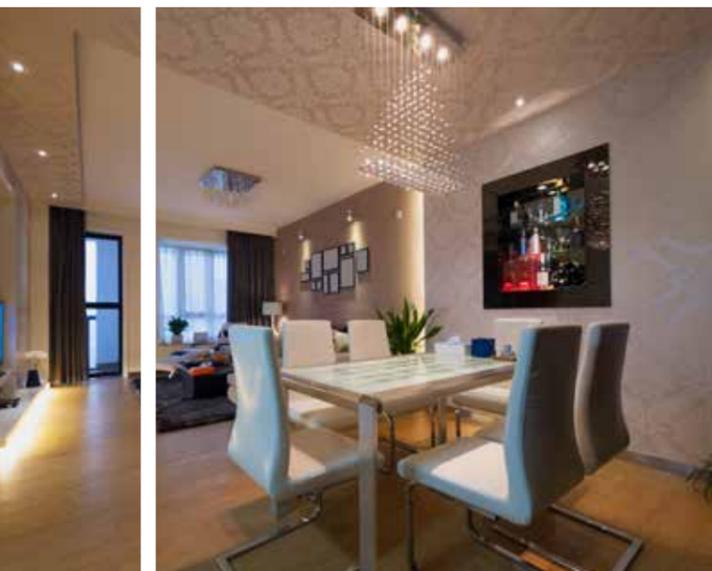


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dw DESIGNING WAYS
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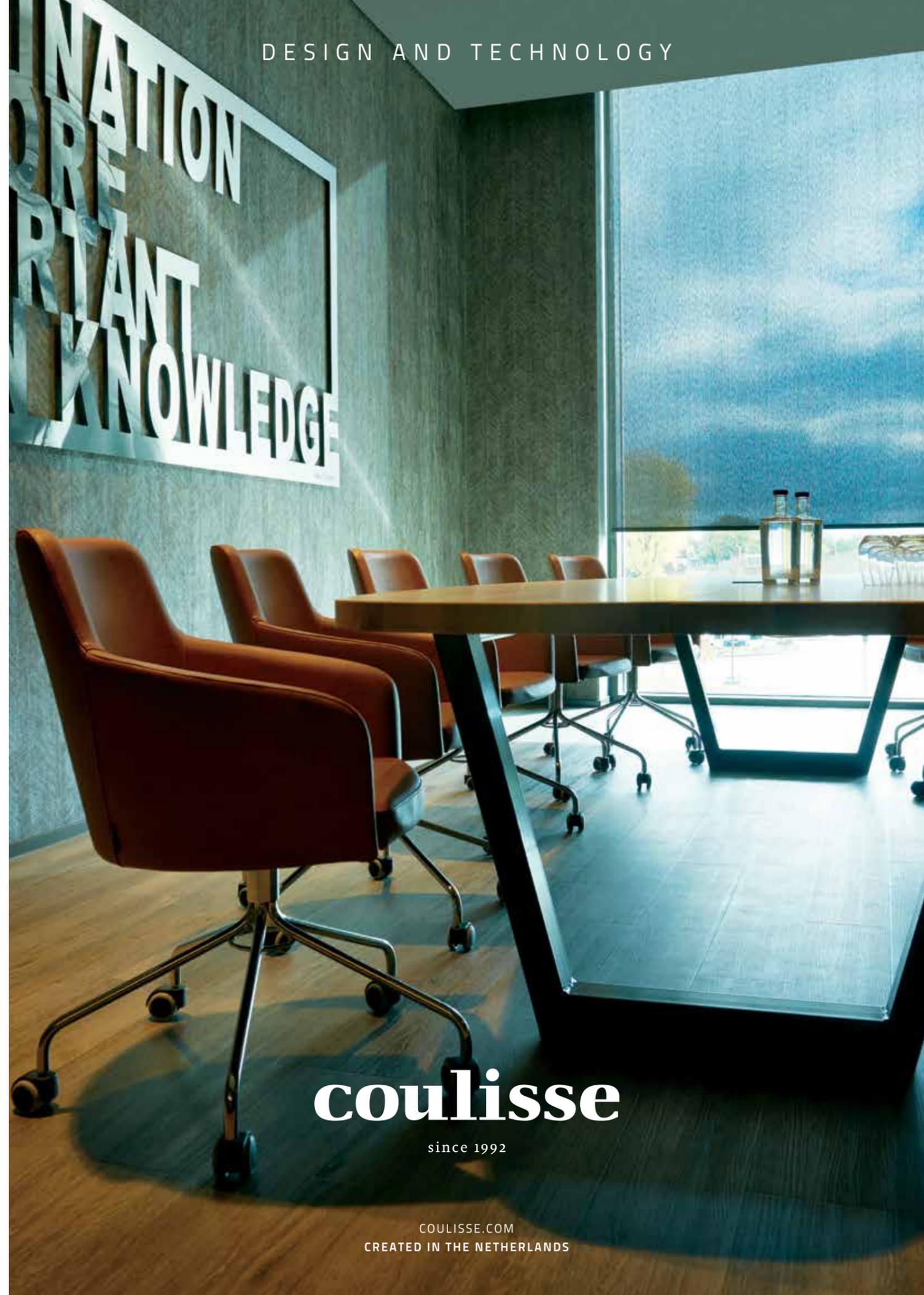
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Warping Time

Publishing, much like piecing together an intricate building project, is governed by timelines, budget constraints and a need to 'get the job done' correctly. Every book and magazine starts at the same point – with an idea and blank pieces of paper – similar to an architect and builder starting with a vacant piece of land when it's a new build.

On monthly publications, one can so easily get caught on a treadmill where there's too little time and one can end up skimming the surface and not fully engaging with what was involved in the underlying creative processes.

When I think back to my early days of writing magazine articles, I'm actually amazed at how bad I was at it. I'd spend hours writing an article and then when I went back to read it a day or so later, I'd realise that what I had written was actually rubbish. Fortunately, there's been a vast improvement over time, with lots

of experience gained across a variety of titles.

I have learnt, even in the face of screaming deadlines, that sometimes the best thing is to step away from the task at hand. Go off and do something completely unrelated, and preferably something mindless and practical. Sometimes, it helps if I 'sleep on it'. The next morning I'll wake up and there it is – the whole story just flows.

Of course, one of the best ways to get a good story with depth is through collaboration and I particularly enjoyed visiting the de Langes to hear about the makeover of their kitchen this month – and Andre's description of the many hours that he spent sitting in his garage (he's a smoker), thinking about colours, finishes and kitchen configurations. That's his creative space. Those quiet times, coupled with brainstorming with Tania, his wife, and collaboration with industry



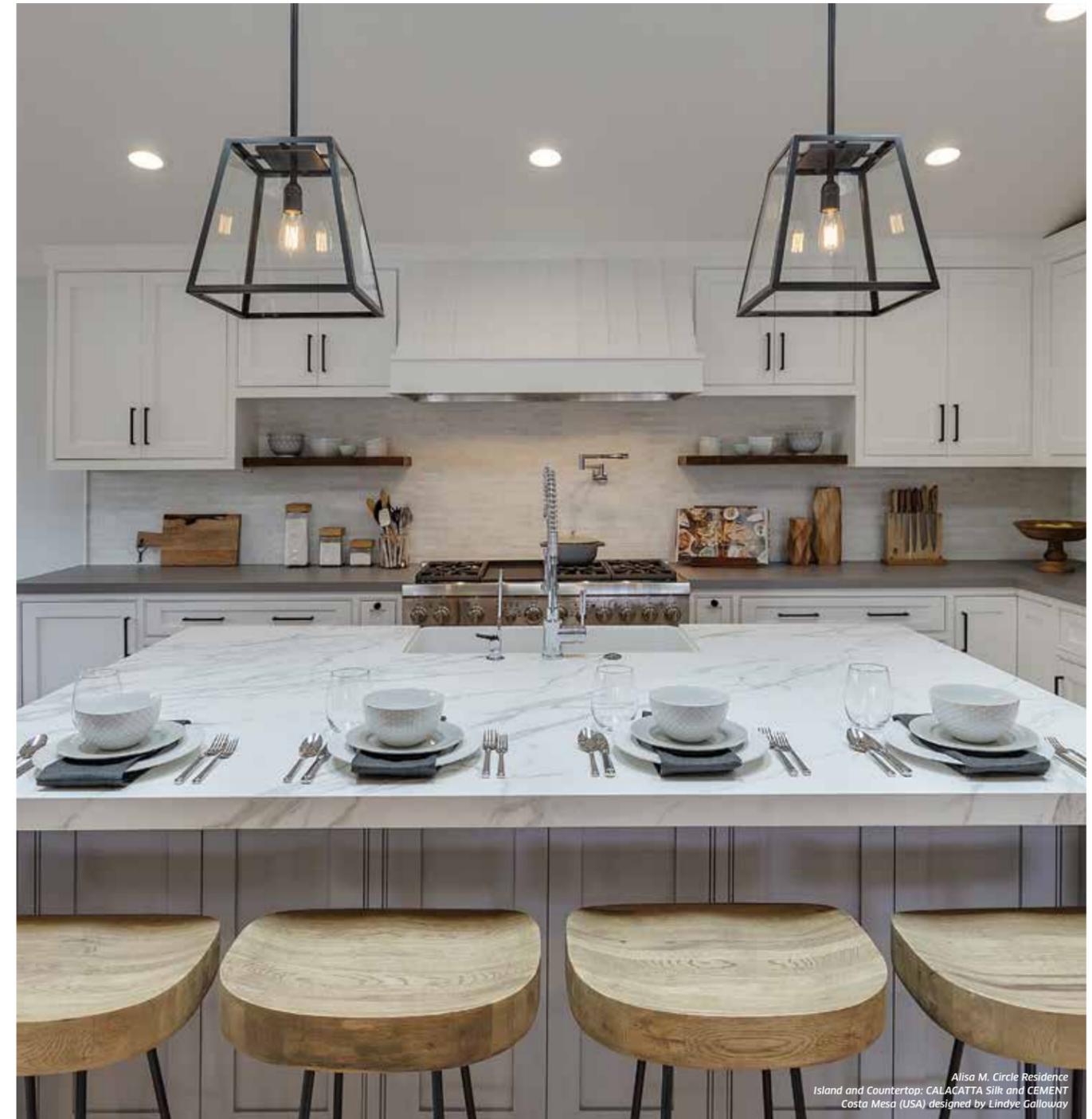
Andre and Tania de Lange in their brand new kitchen.

specialists produced much more than they expected and, more importantly, results that work.

Visiting the de Langes and chatting face-to-face with the specialists who were involved in their kitchen makeover was an excellent way of warping time, for me, (I find it's quicker to write from first-hand experience), while getting much more depth to the story at the same time.

I'm certainly looking forward to doing a lot more of that in 2018!

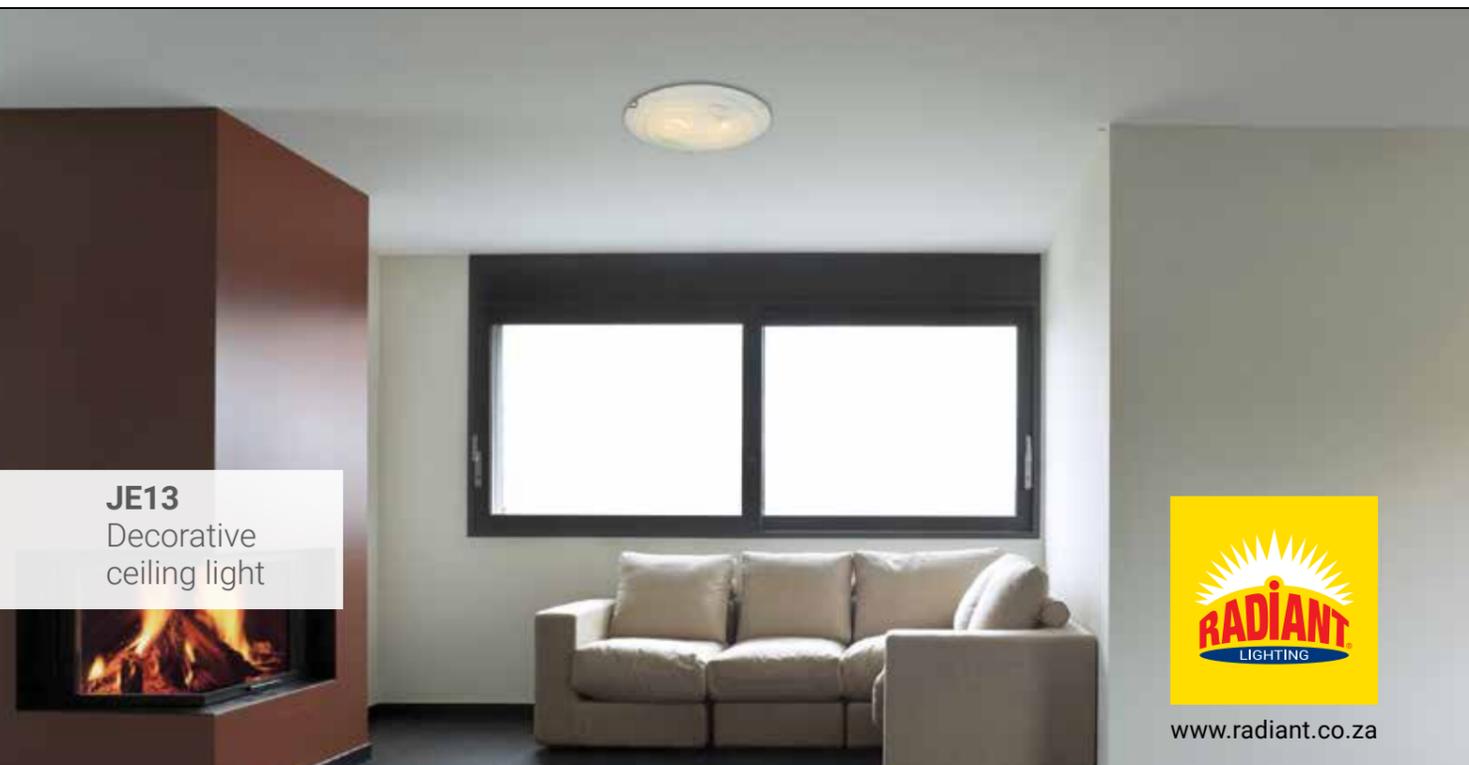
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DESIGNER PROFILES

12 IZITULO Design Challenge winners – pages 48 & 49



WINNER:

Kriska Liebenberg is a Btech Interior Design student from Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). The inspiration for her designs is most commonly drawn from nature, her surroundings and any awe-inspiring designs she stumbles across in her research. Kriska is planning a gap year after her studies as

she wants to travel in Europe and Asia in the hope of finding more innovative and breath-taking design inspiration that will inspire her future interior design and, hopefully, furniture design career.



SECOND PLACE:

Brigitte Bielovich is a 24 year old design student who submitted a whole collection of seats called Intambo, meaning rope in Zulu. There are actually 3 designs to make up the collection of stools/ottomans and the one that was made up for the judging is called Umhlaba (meaning ground). Brigitte is from Kwa-

Zulu Natal but studies at Design Time School of Interior Design in Cape Town. Her design idols include Laduma Ngxokolo of Maxhosa for his love of pattern and enviable colour palettes, as well as the edgy and modern work of Tristan du Plessis from Studio A.



THIRD PLACE:

Lezandi Fourie comes from Durbanville in the Cape and is in her third year of studying Industrial Design at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). At school she won several awards for her design work including Best Ceramic Student Award and Best Engineering

Drawing and Design Student... so she is clearly no stranger to being a winning young designer. She strives to implement creative problem-solving through design.

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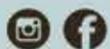
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THE BUZZ

Creative Business Cup: South African creative start-up to compete in Denmark

Creative Business Cup recognises entrepreneurs in the arts, and it champions and empowers creative business people. By participating in the Creative Business Cup competition, artists, designers, performers, musicians, crafters, authors and the like get high profile publicity, exposure to market opportunities, access to funding and a valuable business network. And respect.

One will even compete against the top creative start-ups from over 60 countries, in Denmark this November.

This year, the auspicious competition was held in collaboration with Small Business Expo. The two-day intensive business skills boot camp was honoured with presentations by a line-up of over 20 experts in business, entrepreneurship and the arts.



Sanmari Vivier of Smir Designs, winner of 2017 Creative Business Cup SA competition flanked by organisers Mvuyo Ngqulana and Rick Ed

The 'pitch' camp day also provided the nine anxious contestants with expert training in pitching in pursuit of the national crown. Judging was no less stressful for the adjudicators, but finally Smir Design emerged as the South African winner who will compete against the world's best in Copenhagen.

The 2017 contestants were: Brainbow Conscious Creatives, BrownChild, Ciamsomi Promotional Products Solutions, Creative L'amour, EmagAlex Parks, Hustlenomics, Modular Innobox, Smir Design, and South Revolution. Short clips of the pitches can be watched at www.creativebusinesscup.co.za

Thanks go to Reed Exhibitions - the whole event would not have been possible without their extraordinary generosity. 

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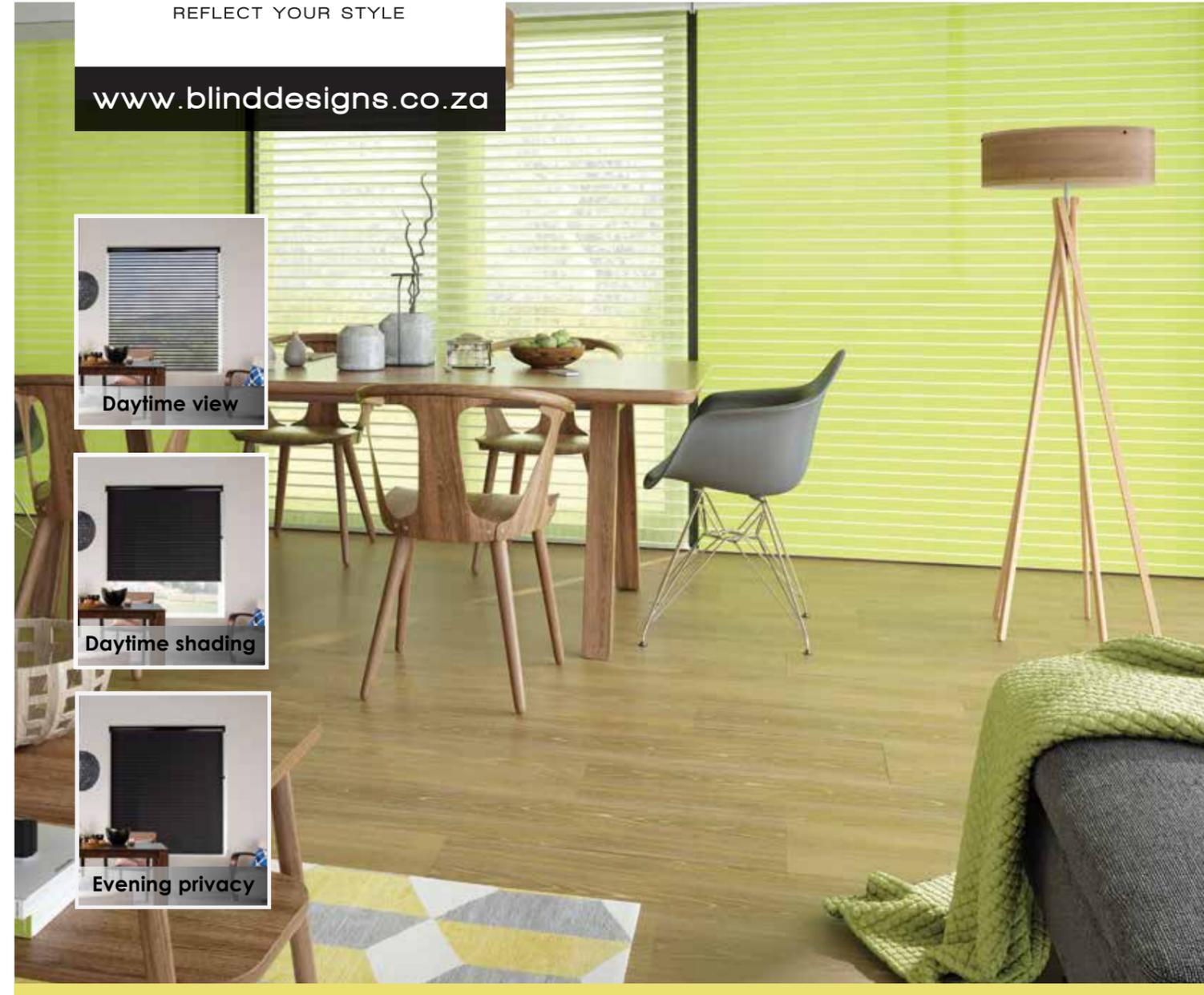
Daytime view



Daytime shading

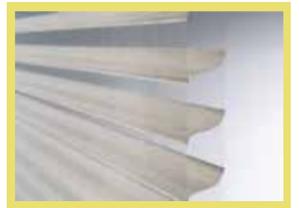


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98 new designs in 2017!

LIGNE ROSET has been the trendsetter in contemporary interior design for many, many years. There is hardly another company with so many novelties every year – and this year, their '98 new designs' was shown at the Furniture Fairs in Cologne and Paris. LIGNE ROSET offers consumers an entire lifestyle in which they can immerse

themselves and live boldly and beautifully via their furniture collections and complementary decorative accessories, lighting, rugs, textiles and occasional items.

Creativity is a key value of the LIGNE ROSET brand: if a new product demands new materials or production methods, the company will simply acquire them. The idea precedes and the technique follows.



Above - BERLIN LOFT by Müller Wulff: Müller Wulff define the settee as trendy and casual and maybe complemented with JUNGLE, a new range of fabric from LIGNE ROSET

A distinguishing point of difference for LIGNE ROSET, setting the brand apart from other manufacturers, is their tradition of investing in dynamic and artful collaboration, with both established and up-and-coming talent in contemporary design.

The designers Müller Wulff started their collaboration with LIGNE ROSET in 2013 and show this year the BERLIN LOFT bed-settee – the very expression of casual elegance. It is perfect for modern interiors and is, by turns, the place to sit, sleep, rest or simply do nothing.

In 2016, the Intramuros magazine named LUCIDIPEVERE as one of the 60 most influential designers of the year.

For 2017/2018, they designed an outdoor armchair and settee for LIGNE ROSET:

- A piece of remarkable lightness thanks to its aluminium structure.

- At the top of the back, the cushion rolls over on itself and is held in place by a strap which is evocative of the kind of backpack used by the explorers of yesteryear.

- Although LIGNE ROSET would like to open the outdoor season in South Africa with this astonishing new design, they say it would be a shame to confine its original look and excellent comfort to the outdoors.

You will find more inspiration for both indoors and the outdoors at the LIGNE ROSET furniture showroom in Kramerville, Sandton.

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Below - BACKPACK by LucidiPevere: The designers love marriages of materials and enjoy playing with contrasts

Above - RUCHE bed by Inga Sempé : Red Dot Design Award in 2010 for a design never seen before.

Left - PLOUM by Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec: a year of research in material and technology

Inga Sempé – has won several design prizes and almost every year she is the star at the Furniture Fairs with designs never seen before. For example, her out-of-the-ordinary RUCHE collection brings elegant solutions to everyday life; it's a very refined and sleek design, yet it remains soft and welcoming - a little island of comfort and recreation.

The PLOUM sofa by the Bouroullec brothers, a noble expression of modernity, is the result of a year of extensive research in materials and technology to achieve this level of quality and comfort. The aspiration was to create unique and elegant objects that appeal to one's senses through the shape of the design, whilst still being durable and adaptable in function.



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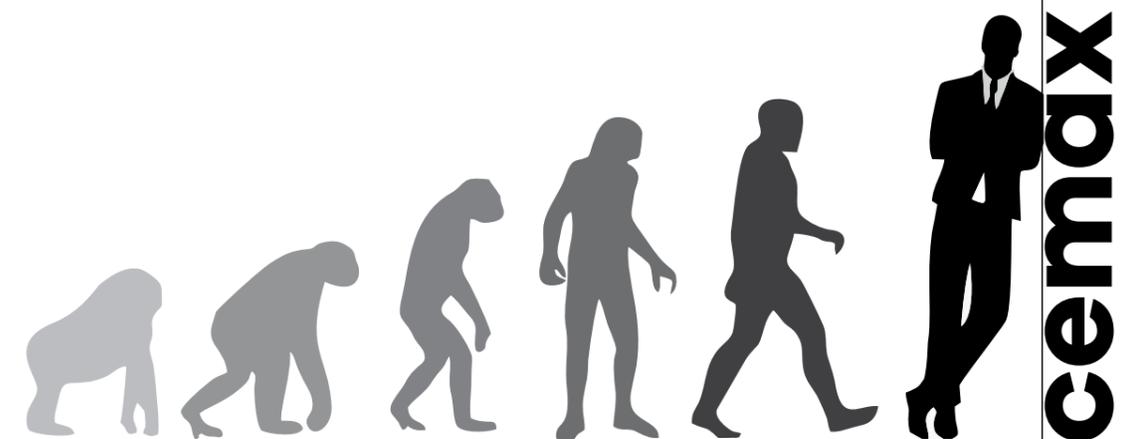
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Tsogo Sun featured at New London Architecture Exhibition

Designed by London-based architectural firm, Dexter Moren Associates (DMA), Tsogo Sun's latest hotel complex that was opened in September in Cape Town will feature in this year's New London Architecture (NLA) exhibition in London, United Kingdom, for their Africa showcase.

The 'London: Design Capital' exhibition forms a key part of NLA's expanding International Dialogues programme which includes a year-round schedule of international conferences, visits and debates to share best practice and foster cross-city dialogue. The exhibition features 220 projects in 65 countries around the world to showcase the global reach of London's built environment profession.

The Tsogo Sun development is one of 21 projects from Africa that are being showcased.

DMA were selected as the architects for the hotel by Green Willow Properties, owners of the hotel site, after participating in a design competition in 2014. South African born and London based Dexter Moren, founding director of the firm and architect for the project says: "The design of the hotel is a merger of the best in global architectural trends with a quintessential African feel."



It was important to DMA that the design respected Cape Town's rich heritage. The historically important Tothill's building on the site was, therefore, retained and renovated into retail space with its Victorian canopy and balconies reinstated. The bulk of the development was new build, creating a landmark tower which subtly differentiates the two hotel

brands that it houses – the 200-bedroom SunSquare hotel and the 300-bedroom StayEasy hotel - in its distinctive multi-layered profile with ceramic clad elevations.

"The site is a prime location in the city bowl and posed some interesting heritage design challenges," Moren continues. "The top of the hotel has a distinctive profile which works with the taller scale of surrounding buildings on Strand Street. The middle reflects the rhythm and proportions of the typical Bree and Buitengracht Street buildings, while the base has been designed for the pedestrian, with canopies, active frontages and street block diversity."

Dexter Moren adds: "We are proud to be featured in the NLA London Design Capital exhibition to celebrate the Capital's creative minds and breadth of expertise. It showcases a variety of interesting and amazing global projects that are, hopefully, an inspiration to many in the built environment."

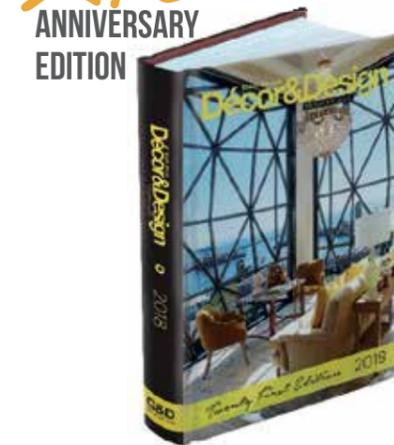
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Mindspace exclusively specified KBAC flooring for new Assupol head office

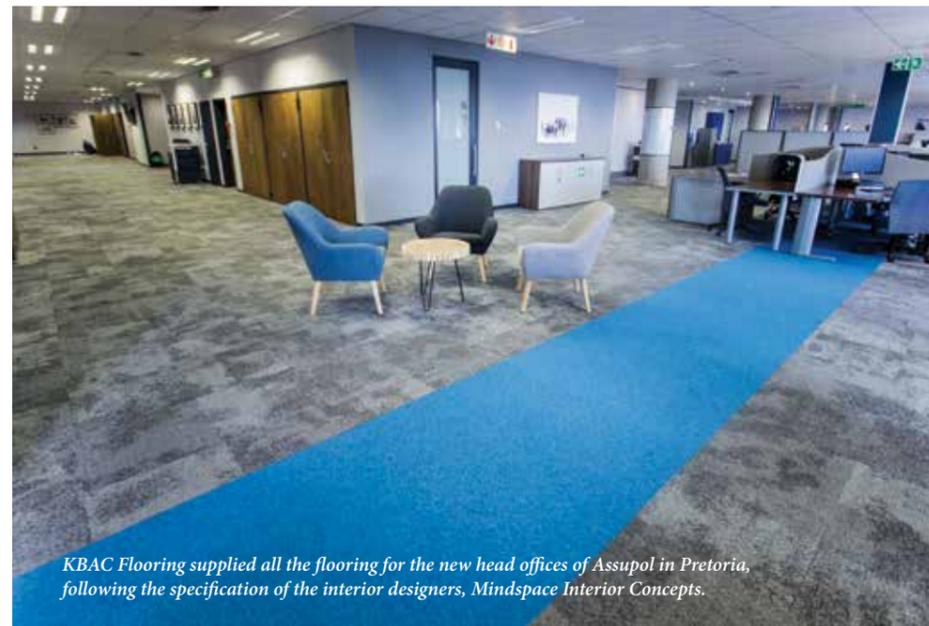
Leading Johannesburg-based interior designers, Mindspace Interior Concepts, closely collaborated with KBAC Flooring and specified only the company's products for the flooring of the new head offices of Assupol Life in Pretoria.

The Assupol headquarters are in the new multi-building Summit Place office park on the intersection of Garsfontein Road and the N1.

Mindspace Interior Concepts - owned by Lorelei Wilson - is widely experienced in commercial and residential design, and well versed with Assupol's requirements through a long-standing association with the financial services provider.

The major component of the Mindspace specification for the new offices was KBAC's Interface Composure carpet tiles, used in combination with other Interface ranges to provide colour highlights. Interface Composure flooring covers about 5 000m² of office floors.

Mindspace designer, Kim Luyt-Rosenberg, regarded flooring as an extremely important element in the overall interior design and felt Interface Composure flooring was ideal to create tranquil contemporary interiors. Widely installed by KBAC in many new



KBAC Flooring supplied all the flooring for the new head offices of Assupol in Pretoria, following the specification of the interior designers, Mindspace Interior Concepts.

commercial properties, the Composure range mimics the subtle variations found in rock and stone formations to create adaptable, non-directional surfaces perfect for large areas of flooring.

Interface Composure's 21 neutral colours allow for blending darker shades of carpet tiles with lighter tones to

naturally enhance office spaces.

KBAC Flooring also supplied Wineo Purline stone vinyl tiles for the Assupol offices' executive area. Purline, imported from Germany, are realistic-looking and durable vinyl tiles made from renewable raw materials and natural fillers and have exceptional acoustical qualities. "Wineo Purline stone vinyl tiles were chosen for the executive area because the product's seamless natural stone looks opulent - but still natural. The acoustical value was also important," Kim explained.

She specified KBAC's Vanguard Woodlands LVTs for the fifth floor as a highlight strip to create a walkway around the Assupol Call Centre. "The LVTs framed the area beautifully and can also cope with heavy foot traffic," she added.

Mindspace owner, Lorelei Wilson, said Mindspace wanted to ensure that the Assupol flooring would still be relevant - and sustainable - a decade later. "KBAC Business Development Manager, Dave Keefer, and his team's input was invaluable in helping us select the correct flooring," she added. 

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1.618 AWARDS 2017

The 2017 PG Bison 1.618 Awards were held at the MESH Club in Rosebank's Keyes Art Mile. Guests arrived at the stylish cocktail function to support the Top Ten finalists who had been selected during judging in August.

The fictional brief for 2017 tasked students with transforming an ailing building within one of Johannesburg's key parks, into a vibrant gastronomic restaurant.



From the left: **Camrin Plaatjes** from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (3rd Prize Winner), **Stephanus Diedericks** from the University of the Free State (Winner), **Margaux Loubser** from the University of the Free State (2nd Prize Winner), **Gerhard Victor** (CEO PG Bison)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNING STUDENTS:

- 1st** **Stephanus Diedericks** from the University of the Free State won a trip of a lifetime for himself and his lecturer to the 2018 Furniture Fair in Milan, Italy.
- 2nd** **Margaux Loubser**, also from the University of the Free State won a trip to the 2018 Design Indaba in Cape Town, plus R3, 000 in cash.
- 3rd** **Camrin Plaatjes** from the University of KwaZulu-Natal won a R10, 000 cash prize.

All remaining finalists will receive a R2, 000 cash prize.



From the left: **Lungelani Lindelani Myeni** from Durban University of Technology, **Savannah Hoogervorst** from Greenside Design Center, **Willem Freysen** from Nelson Mandela University, **Nhlazeko Mbatha** from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, **Lwazi Ncanana** from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, **Camrin Plaatjes** from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (3rd Prize Winner), **Stephanus Diedericks** from the University of the Free State (Winner), **Margaux Loubser** from the University of the Free State (2nd Prize Winner), **Oriel Harmer** from Design Time School of Interior Design and **Dehan Kassimatis** from the University of the Free State.

MD of Surface Innovations, Philip Roux emphasized that "we want to create an opportunity for our up and coming designers to showcase their talents. We love seeing these young designers coming up through the educational system, and this competition creates an incredible opportunity and stepping stone for their careers."

We're excited to bring you our fresh new digital magazine, On Trend, launching in October. It's loaded with practical and inspiring news and the latest trends that'll help you create the kind of working and living spaces you've always imagined. To subscribe just visit pgbison.co.za

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Applying Design Thinking to all aspects of your business

By Dave Nemeth

FUTURE PROOF

The past couple of years have seen an increased awareness of design thinking methodology, with many large companies investing in educating staff and management in this process. It is important to understand that design thinking is not at all limited to product design but rather applicable to all aspects of business, social issues and even day-to-day living. A design thinking mindset is not problem-focused, it's solution-focused and action-oriented towards creating a preferred future. Although design thinking has recently been popularised due to the continual articles on the topic in publications such as the Harvard Review and Forbes, it has actually been around since the '60s. Some of the world's leading brands, such as Apple, Google, Samsung and General

Electric, have rapidly adopted the design thinking approach, and design thinking is being taught at leading universities around the world, including Stanford school, Harvard, and MIT.

There are five main stages to design thinking with empathy being at the core of the methodology.

1. Empathise

This first step of design thinking is to empathetically understand the problem you are trying to solve. This can be anything from a business process to designing something according to a client brief. It is vital to have a deep understanding of the people you are actually designing for and this is where the term human-centred design is derived from. In order to create a great result, it is vital to gain insights

into what people need, what they want, how they behave, feel, and think, and why they demonstrate such behaviours, feelings, and thoughts when interacting with products and services in a real-world setting. It is important during this process to adopt a beginner's attitude, free from conceptions which often stand in the way of a successful result.

2. Define the problem

During this stage, you begin to formulate all the information you have created and gathered during the 'empathise stage'. For best results, the design thinking process should always be handled as a team, not as an individual - it is the culmination of thoughts that often result in innovative solutions. In the 'define stage', your goal is to define a meaningful and actionable

problem statement, which you and your team can focus on solving. Ultimately, the 'define stage' is about understanding the meaningful challenge you should address and the insights that you can and should leverage in your solution strategy. A precise definition of your problem statement will guide you and your team's work and kick-start the ideation process in the right direction.

3. Ideate

Ideation is often the most exciting stage in a design thinking project because,

during ideation, the aim is to generate a lot of ideas that the team can then filter and cut down into the best, most practical or most innovative ones in order to inspire new and better design solutions, products and services. It is best to have these brainstorm sessions with a mixed group of individuals across the various areas of the business, and involve both junior and senior members, including those whose job does not normally entail complex problem-solving. It is important to understand and to communicate with the team that there is no such thing as a

bad idea. This will make the group feel more relaxed and there will be far more interaction. These sessions need to be fun and should not be handled like a board meeting or a review.

Ideation will help you:

- Ask the right questions and innovate with a strong focus on your users, their needs, and your insights about them.
- Step beyond the obvious solutions and therefore increase the innovation potential of your solution.
- Bring together the perspectives and strengths of your team members.



DESIGN THINKING PROCESS



- Uncover unexpected areas of innovation.
- Create volume and variety in your innovation options.
- Get obvious solutions out of your heads, and drive your team beyond them.

Often used in complete isolation, I believe that paradoxical thinking can play a very important role in the ideation phase. It is often easier to explain what a paradox is by giving examples. A paradox is used to challenge the mind and make you think about the statement in a new way. A paradox is often used to intrigue and question common thoughts. Take the statement "Less is more." This statement uses two opposite words that contradict one another. How can less be more? The concept behind this statement is that what is less complicated is often more appreciated.

Applying the opposite of what is normally done or commonly done can

often assist in breaking boundaries resulting in members of the team coming up with new and unique solutions.

4. Prototype

This is an experimental phase, and the aim is to identify the best possible solution for each of the problems identified during the first three stages. Prototyping is done in order to fail quickly and cheaply so that less time and money is invested in an idea that turns out to be a bad one. Tim Brown, CEO of the international design and innovation firm IDEO, said it best:

"They slow us down to speed us up. By taking the time to prototype our ideas, we avoid costly mistakes such as becoming too complex too early and sticking with a weak idea for too long."

Prototyping is not by any means limited to a product; it is just as applicable to services and processes. Put your ideas into play as soon as you can, even if you don't feel you have a final solution.

5. Test

This is the final stage of the 5-stage model, but in an iterative process, the results generated during the testing phase are often used to redefine one or more problems and inform the understanding of the users, the conditions of use, how people think, behave, and feel, and to empathise. Even during this phase, alterations and refinements are made in order to rule out problem solutions and derive as deep an understanding of the product and its users as possible.

Companies that are run according to the design thinking methodology will find they are continually changing and evolving as well as coming up with innovative ideas and solutions. This will have a positive effect on the overall company culture and you will end up getting the very best out of all your employees. 

Big Chair Studio

Big Chair Studio was founded in 2017 by Rofhiwa Nyambeni who is an Autodesk 3ds Max certified professional user. He wanted to provide quick, reliable and affordable renderings – so in true entrepreneurial spirit he founded his own 3D visualisation company.

The company specialises in 3D architectural and interior design visualisation, product animation and rendering to bring every benefit and feature of a client's idea, project and product to their target customer, all within budget and requested time frame.

Big Chair Studio offers a number of services such as 3D design, architectural rendering, interior design rendering, 360 VR rendering, product rendering and product animation. In the near future, the studio will also be offering architectural animations and walkthroughs which will help clients further engage with their customers and easily sell ideas.

“We have worked with a number of architectural and interior design firms



in South Africa such as NAPD holdings, STL Projects, KIDS interiors, KABU Architects, Inkspired Architects, Indalo Architects, and many more. We've helped promote over 100 projects countrywide bringing our knowledge, experience and passion to every project. Operating remotely allows Big Chair Studio to render for anyone around the globe," Rofhiwa comments.

“We start by completing a preliminary draft 3D rendering for review and then

make adjustments, if required, according to your comments. We aim to deliver quality results in three to five business days.”

Rofhiwa ensures that there's frequent communication, providing regular updates and asking for more details where necessary. He says this prevents misconceptions and shortens the turnaround time. 

www.rofhiwa.myportfolio.com



The Science behind Shop Fittings

In retail, it's understood that visual elements heavily impact consumer behavior and creating a beautifully displayed retail environment for the products you sell is, therefore, vital for retail success.

CREATING A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE

Your storefront is an invitation for prospective customers to enter, and as such it should be alluring, enticing and visually appealing in order to create an emotive response. Once inside, shop fittings need to speak to both practicality and intricacy to create an intense and memorable sensory experience. Time and effort must be invested to ensure that your store encapsulates the desired mood. This also involves lighting, which is essential in establishing an ambiance.

The layout of the store and materials used should encourage movement and



take consumers on a journey, leading them in a predetermined, purposeful flow to your main attractions. Therefore, shop fittings need to be laid out with a very clear strategy in mind. Every element of the shopper's journey through the store determines whether or not they have a great customer experience. This is a precision-oriented endeavour, and attention to detail is key. There is a very delicate balance between showcasing unique concepts and the latest trends and emulating a classic aesthetic that will stand the test of time.

SIMPLICITY SPEAKS VOLUMES

A case in point is the Asics store in Mall of Africa. A clean, bright shop front with a clear view of the products inside entices consumers to come in and explore further. Asics' primary selling items, their versatile range of shoes, are found at the back of the store, forcing consumers to navigate the shop in order to reach them.

Hero products are illuminated to draw attention. Simplicity is key in this store's fittings; all display elements are clean, minimal and non-invasive so as to not distract from the products, allowing them to speak for themselves.

"Your offering needs to stand out from the crowd," says Adam Dembovsky, Managing Director of Innovation Factory, a specialist in manufacturing shop fittings. "Perfect shop fittings are at the juncture of where art and the science of creating a dream store meet. Form should follow function in the most aesthetically pleasing way to create a lasting impression. Take time to carefully consider the layout, lighting and finishes of your store and you will reap the rewards of retaining loyal and inspired customers."

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MAKE IT WONDERFUL

The changing face of the kitchen as appliances evolve

By Dave Nemeth



The kitchen area houses more appliances than any other room in the home and kitchen design constantly evolves in order to accommodate these items and try to integrate them into the overall design aesthetic. For many years little thought was given to the design of these items as the focus was primarily on function and durability and in the early days, appliances such as washing machines, fridges and dishwashers were only available in white. With innovation affecting every industry, and every product for that matter, we are seeing a complete rethink of the appliances that are primarily housed in the kitchen space.

Consumers have become far more design-conscious and are now looking for appliances that fit seamlessly into the design of the space instead of being noticeable and an overall eyesore. Some years back SMEG (in 1997 to be precise), the Italian company founded in 1948 by Vittorio Bertazzoni, changed the face of appliances with their brightly coloured '50s retro-inspired fridges. Consumers fell in love with them and although they have premium prices, they remain a firm favourite with discerning homeowners. The brand extended their range whilst staying in line with the design aesthetic that popularised them and has gone on to add small appliances into their range

including toasters, kettles and even espresso machines.

The race is now on with leading appliance brands giving a lot of focus on the overall design aesthetic of their products. It is all about being sleek and unobtrusive, whilst retaining maximum functionality as well as ease of use. Manufacturers such as Siemens, a market leader in Europe for design and style, are now recognised internationally through awards such as the IDA Awards, Siemens Home Appliances Design Awards and the iF Design Awards. Siemens has snared its fair share of awards thanks to the design that blends the art of engineering with inspiration, environment and potential.



One of these was the coveted reddot award in 2016 for the built-in iQ 700 appliance series. The jury found the design to be distinctive and homogenous, seamlessly blending into the environment while adding distinctive elements that stand out and engage.

People are growing increasingly aware of green issues, too, and are looking for ways to protect the environment. This has extended to purchasing appliances that are energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly. Combining these elements with the overall design of appliances can be complicated but the leading brands are innovating and creating appliances that are some of the best displays of great functional design that takes a host of factors into consideration. When it comes to energy, Bosch Home Appliances has paid attention to market demand. Its intelligent inverter technology uses sensors to monitor internal and external temperatures to ensure that fridge compressors adjust performance to match. This ensures that their cooling products are among the most efficient energy performers in the industry. Their fridge range also includes LED lighting, which uses less power than conventional lighting, and SuperFreezing technology which freezes food faster to use less energy.

With water being a sparse resource in many regions in South Africa, having a dishwasher is a common debate with people as they are perceived to use far more water than simply hand washing the dishes. Bosch Home Appliances did a study comparing dishwashing by machine and washing by hand where it was found that washing by hand can use an average of 40 litres of water, 2,60kWh of power, and requires approximately 60 minutes to complete per wash. However, washing with the new Bosch Dishwasher will see customers

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using only 6,5 litres of water and 0,67 kWh of energy. What is more, it only takes an average of 15 minutes to load and unload the dishes. This means, that when using a dishwasher, households could save up to 45 minutes per load giving families an extra 210 hours of quality time or 23 vacation days a year. Households can also save an estimated 9,200 litres of water per year. So, it is generally recognised

that adoption of water-saving technology can have a significant impact on water consumption and, in most cases, result in reductions in water use.

It is clear that leading brands are under constant pressure to design innovative products that not only look good but also tick all the boxes with regards to environmental issues as well as water and energy saving. I believe we are only

in the early stages of the rise of exciting and great-looking appliances and we can expect some game-changing products over the next few years. There will be a knock-on effect with regards to kitchen design as a whole and I expect the space will transform dramatically in the future, both in functionality as well as overall aesthetics. 



ZENCELO is a Full-Flat switch designed as much for being admired as being used. Available in Silver Bronze (SZ) and White (WE).

www.schneider-electric.co.za

Life Is On



Kitchens that Flow

By Bev Hermanson



Have you ever wondered why cooking shows need so many edits? Apart from the time factor of making something that normally takes two hours to perfect come out in two minutes, it's because the kitchen on the set doesn't flow. It wasn't until a few weeks back that I discovered that there's such a thing as a right-handed and left-handed kitchen.

KD Designs recently completed a kitchen in an upmarket cluster home in Van Riebeeck Park, Gauteng, and, to help them with the configuration of the kitchen layout, they consulted Tyron Sykes, SA Blum DYNAMIC SPACE specialist at Eclipse. Eclipse are the sole agents of Blum in South Africa.

At Blum, they believe in thorough research using various methods. Kitchen observations are one of the important methods whereby Blum films home owners around the world (including SA)

preparing meals in their actual kitchens. This footage is then analysed, right down to the steps taken between kitchen zones, and any awkward actions and workflows are identified. It's from this extensive research that DYNAMIC SPACE was born.

DYNAMIC SPACE ideas facilitate designers in the planning of a practical kitchen to achieve good workflows, adequate storage space and top quality motion.

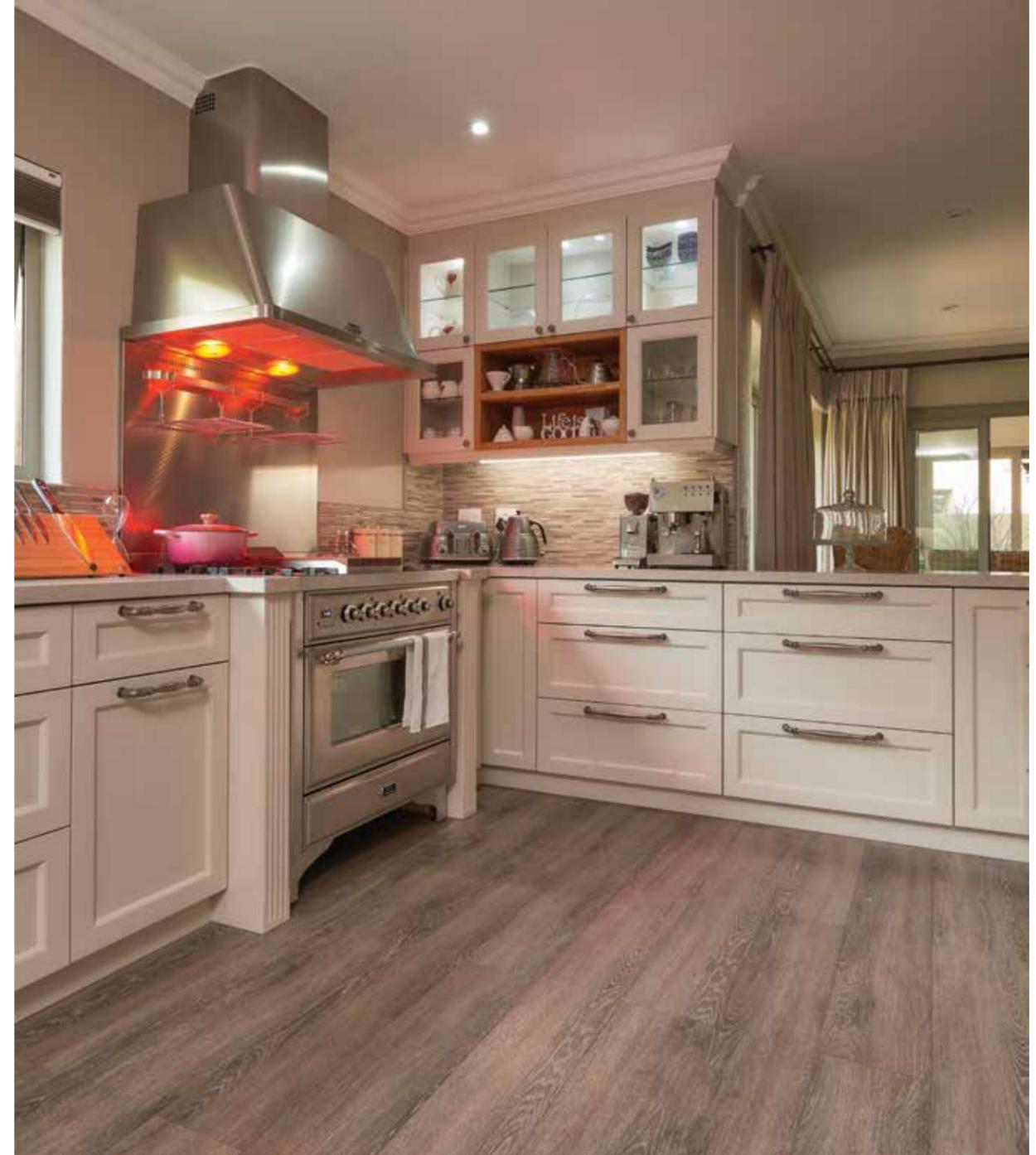
Gareth and Annamarie Roberts, Directors of KD Designs explain: "Using kitchen design software, you can design a kitchen relatively quickly, but even a 3D rendering doesn't give you enough information about the flow in a kitchen. There's a lot of research that has to go into getting each client's kitchen to be efficient and properly functional and still look amazing."

Home owners, André and Tania de

Lange are over the moon about the end result. "We are very appreciative of the advice that was given to us," Tania says. "As a consumer, you often don't know what you really want. That's why we relied on the professionals to point us in the right direction."

André adds: "In the beginning, we were just going to replace the cupboard doors and then, because the kitchen becomes very cold in winter due to the proximity of our house to the river, we also decided to change the windows to double-glazed aluminium windows. We have since changed the entire bottom level of our house."

As a structural engineer, André works with all levels of construction and design specialists, but he didn't want to be landed with project managing the renovation. "I wanted a firm that could provide a full service and this is what KD Designs does. They are essentially a one-stop-shop."



"What was great about KD Designs is that Annamarie and Gareth were always open to accommodate our requests and didn't mind that the project became a lot bigger as we went along," André continues. "They offered a full turnkey service and even though what started out as a one month kitchen renovation evolved into a three month job, they didn't mind that at all."

The de Langes ended up having the entire kitchen gutted, which may have seemed excessive, but they understood the need to re-position plug points and plumbing in order to ensure optimal

workflow and practicality. "There may be a cost involved in re-positioning the plumbing and electrical points, but what you gain in efficiency is priceless," Tyron advises.

KD Designs also used Blum's new online Zone Planner to understand the de Lange's storage requirements for each zone in the kitchen. This helped to determine the best cabinet configurations and even the space needed for each zone according to the family's personal requirements.

"In using DYNAMIC SPACE we ask many important questions that will make all the difference to achieving a practical

KITCHENS

kitchen, for example: your shopping, cooking and eating habits. If you do bulk grocery shopping, it will change the space needed for your pantry units. If you enjoy cooking, you will probably need more space for spices, oils, pots, pans and utensils etc. A very simple question that is often not asked is whether you are left or right handed. This can make a massive difference in the usability and workflows of your kitchen,” Gareth adds.

Another question that the home owner should ask is: “What is the lifespan of the hardware being used?” Blum’s plants in Austria have robots that open and close cupboards and drawers all day long to determine and ensure the longevity of the mechanisms. Although research has revealed that, on average, the lifespan of a kitchen design is about seven years, the Blum hardware, as installed in this kitchen, is guaranteed to last between fifteen and twenty years.

As the de Lange’s kitchen is highly visible and very much a part of the living and dining areas, the colour scheme, floor and wall finishes were also important. “While I was doing my research, I went to quite a few flooring suppliers and asked for samples but most of them turned me away,” Andre continues. “But Belgotex were brilliant. I went to their showroom in Houghton and they gave me a whole book of samples to bring home. I was lucky with the walls, too. I walked into Italtile and saw exactly what I wanted for the splashbacks. We chose Caesarstone for the counter tops, because, although there are cheaper products available, Caesarstone takes the lead when it comes



Blum SPACE TOWER pantry unit



Blum plate holders

to colours and quality. And we ended up painting everything with Earthcote paint because their colours are so on-trend.”

“Andre likes an earthy feel to the rooms but I like something a bit more modern. Luckily, we managed to achieve a happy compromise,” Tania adds. “We ditched the original hand-painted country effect on the old kitchen units and we now have a contemporary-country duco on the new units – which Gareth assures us is a much stronger coating with much better colour stability.”

“The most satisfying quality for me, is the soft-closing function of the kitchen

units all thanks to Blumotion,” Andre concludes. “It reduces the noise in the kitchen when you’re cooking up a storm!”

Photography by Neil Kirby

www.kddesigns.co.za
www.eclipsegroup.co.za

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At KD Designs, the company philosophy unequivocally revolves around understanding and meeting the needs of each and every client.

Proudly registered with the NHBRC (National Home Builders Registration Council), the company handles complete building and alteration services from start to finish.

They offer a full range of skills which includes:

- All carpentry and joinery
- Custom shop fitting
- Kitchens
- Built-in cupboards
- Vanities
- Bars
- Studies
- Interior design
- New builds and building alterations.

“We started out designing, manufacturing and installing kitchens, but we soon realised that most clients were looking for a one-stop-shop. This led us to offering a full turnkey project solution,” says Gareth Roberts, Managing Director of KD Designs. “We want to shoulder all the headaches for the clients, so we’ll handle anything from fixing the smallest plug to a full building and alteration service both inside and outside.”

While Gareth handles the project management and the manufacturing side of the business, his wife, Annamarie Roberts comes up with the concepts and the designs. “We know that for a full renovation, the clients are going to invest a lot of money, so we are very willing to put in the time and effort to make their dreams come true,” Annamarie adds. “We manufacture everything in-house, so if the client wants something special, or if the measurements are non-standard and awkward, we will customise the units to suit their needs.”

In addition to doing residential work, KD Designs also handles corporate and retail projects.

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WOMAG introduces Phoenix Stone's new colourways

WOMAG has introduced five brand new colourways to its Phoenix Stone collection of superior quartz surfaces. According to Oren Sachs, WOMAG managing director, Phoenix Stone now offers a staggering array of colours, veins, movement and edging choices, ensuring countless aesthetic options at an astonishing price.

He also points out that Phoenix Stone is in many ways a more practical choice for kitchen surfaces than natural stone such as marble. While marble is porous and scratches and stains easily, quartz is one of nature's toughest minerals, which makes it easier to take care of than natural stone. It is shock- and crack-resistant, as well as being resistant to heat, stains and scratching. In addition, Phoenix Stone does not require a sealant or special cleaning solutions.

Phoenix Stone's superior quartz surfaces are made from 93% quartz combined with high grade resins and pigments to create sleek and smooth interior surfaces.



"Phoenix Stone's quartz surfaces offer unlimited application possibilities and the ultimate in design freedom," says Sachs. "One of the new colourways even has a marble-look surface, which offers the appearance of natural stone with none of its limitations."

The new colourways from Phoenix Stone include:

- **Black Marquina:** A polished black surface with white veining, mimicking the effect of marble. Suitable for all interior applications. Size Available: 20mm
- **Bianco Extreme:** A polished pure white surface with a consistent, uniform finish. Suitable for all interior applications. Size Available: 20mm
- **Black Star:** A polished black surface embedded with shimmering flakes of glass for a star-lit night sky effect. Suitable for all interior applications. Size Available: 20mm
- **Silver Brilliance:** A polished light grey surface consistently speckled with small brown, grey, white and silver flakes. Suitable for all interior applications. Sizes Available: 12mm or 20mm
- **Snow White:** A polished white surface consistently speckled with small cream flakes of colour. Suitable for all interior applications. Sizes Available: 12mm, 20mm or 30mm

www.womag.co.za

The Nesting Chair

Designed by Kriska Liebenberg

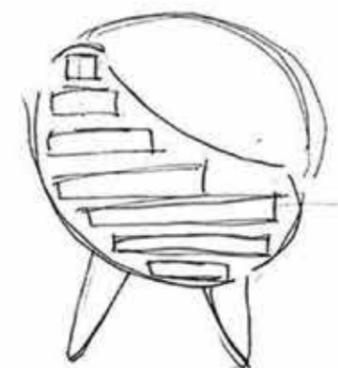
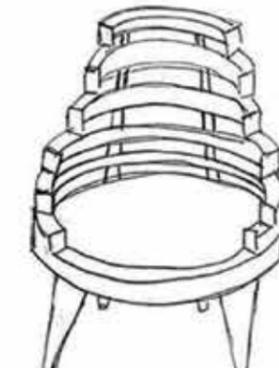
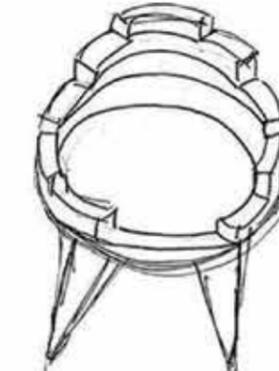
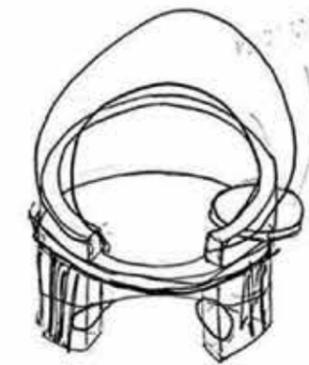
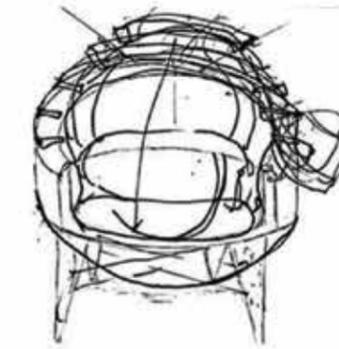
The Nesting Chair is inspired by the safe and comforting allure of a nest. The timber frame draws inspiration from the firm and reassuring wooden structure of a nest, whereas the soft upholstery is suggestive of the warmth and cosiness that a bird feels within its home.

The chair pictured here is covered in St Leger & Viney Paradise. 

www.leonat219.com



Photo credit: Henrique Wilding



12 IZITULO Design Challenge



Lezandi Fourie (3rd), Kriska Liebenberg (WINNER) and Brigitte Bielovich (2nd)

Following the success of their 12 Rooms Exhibition, Leon at CCXIX teamed up with St Leger & Viney to launch the 12 IZITULO Design Challenge at the beginning of 2017. The concept was to discover and encourage young and emerging design talent and the competition challenged students and emerging designers to come up with an original chair design... anything from easy chairs and barstools to dining and occasional seating.

From more than 140 entries received from every corner of the country, including Potchefstroom, Durban and Tshwane, twenty designs were chosen by an esteemed panel of judges and, following an interview process, twelve finalists were chosen. These finalists saw their designs come to life and be part of an exhibition at the Leon at CCXIX showroom in Woodstock.



Brigitte Bielovich (2nd) with the Umhlaba Ottoman



Kriska Liebenberg (WINNER) with her Nesting Chair

The winners were then chosen by the public following a 3-week social media campaign and voting at the Leon at CCXIX showroom in Woodstock. Voting took place on Facebook with over 1600 people liking and sharing their favourites, whilst voting in the Leon at CCXIX showroom yielded over 500 votes.

The panel of judges included Leon at CCXIX Creative Directors Pim Verdoorn and Ilaria Guidi, St Leger & Viney Marketing and Product Manager Peter Gordon, SA Décor and Design's Marcia Margolius and interior designer Donald Nxumalo.

Kriska Liebenberg's 'The Nesting Chair' was chosen as the overall winner, with Brigitte Bielovich and her 'Umhlaba Ottoman' in second, whilst Lezandi Fourie with her 'Lock & Lace' chair taking third place.

"I am ecstatic to have been chosen as the winner of the competition", said Kriska Liebenberg, who is studying interior design at CPUT (Cape Peninsula of Technology), adding, "What an amazing opportunity to be a part of this whole process and to see our designs come to life in this way."

'Girl power' was clearly the order of

the day with all the winners being young female designers.

The winner received a 12-month design contract with Leon at CCXIX, including a share of the sales of her design plus a R10 000 fabric voucher from St Leger & Viney. The second and third placed winners also received fabric vouchers from St Leger & Viney plus the opportunity to profit from sales of their designs.

www.leonat219.com

Photo credit: Henrique Wilding



Lezandi Fourie (3rd) with her Lock and Lace Chair

Erky Wood on Harnessing Urban Sprawl



Erky Wood, a director and founding member of GAPP Architects and Urban Designers has been honoured by the Urban Design Institute of South Africa (UDISA) for his lifetime commitment and contribution to urban design.

Paying tribute to the practice of urban design, Wood presented the third Roelof S. Uytendogaardt UDISA Memorial Lecture at the Planetarium to more than 200 industry specialists, colleagues and students. The lecture, named Urban

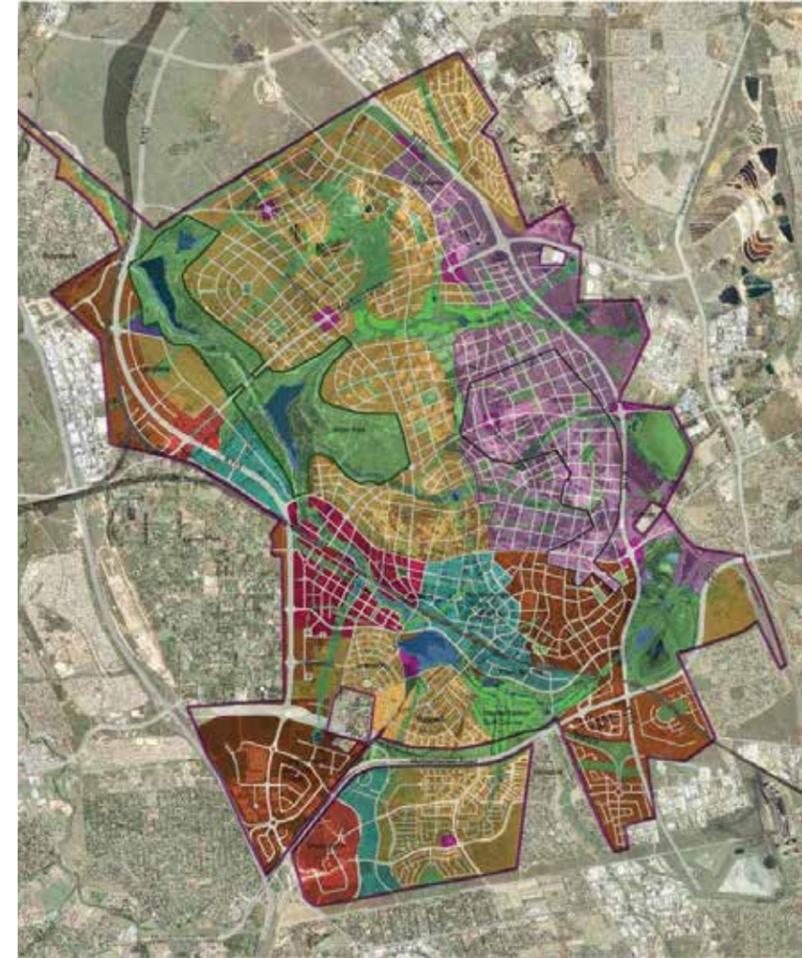


Above: Over the years at GAPP, Wood was a member of the original urban design team for Sandton Square (now Mandela Square) and the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront project in Cape Town. He was also the team leader of urban design for the FNB BankCity headquarters in Johannesburg.

Left: Over the years Wood has been involved in a number of high-profile projects. He was the urban designer in charge of Tongaat Hulett Developments' La Lucia Ridge Office Estate, including its architectural design controls, which has been described as South Africa's premier office park, as well as the Umhlanga Ridge New Town Centre, north of Durban.

Praxis: Making Sense of Nonsense for the Post-Apartheid City, is particularly apt for a society where, despite being 23 years into democracy, the spatial legacy of apartheid and the exclusion of many from the urban system is still with us.

Wood covered many of the issues



Left: In 1992, Wood was responsible for documenting the Johannesburg Metropolitan Interim Strategic Framework for a post-apartheid urban future. For 18 years he was involved with AECI's 4 200 ha Modderfontein landholding in Johannesburg, taking land that had become surplus to requirements for the chemicals and explosives industry and weaving it into an unfolding urban area.

Wood wasn't always in love with cities. "In my mother-earth days, which are still at the core of my value system, I thought of cities as a global cancer that would grow exponentially and strangle the world. I then, on enquiry, found that they're probably humanity's greatest source of hope."

Wood believes we live at scale and density the way we do, not because we necessarily like each other, and not only because that was how people historically found defence and shelter from marauding hordes. Rather, no matter how placeless we become technologically, we are still, as humans, incredibly place-bound because we are, above all, consumers.

The need to consume brings with it the discipline of overcoming distance. "Living in cities is how we consume efficiently and, in the process, reduce our land footprint relative to the size of population that now inhabits the globe."

Wood says the size of that population, while still growing too quickly, is nevertheless slowing relative to what we were projecting in the 1970s. This is not only because of birth control, and certainly not because of pestilence, famine, plague and war but, notably, because of the process of urbanisation. Whereas traditional rural economies are 'bottom up', meaning the factor of production is people and you breed a lot of them to support the system (younger people supporting older people), the urban economy is 'top down' where the factor of production is knowledge and parents provide educational resource to fewer below them. They therefore breed fewer offspring.

"Against this backdrop I have come to see the value of cities and, without realising it, what I thought to be an initial innocent romance has become a full-blown and life-long affair in which I have realised that cities are in fact our greatest cause for optimism."

In spite of his passion for urban design,

Uytendogaardt himself raised in taking on the inequities of apartheid city-building, assessing why change has been so limited and reflecting on and pointing to the prospects for urban success.

In Wood's view, there is a profound need to rethink and restructure our cities to make them sustainable. He says one must never forget that cities generate 'the wealth of nations'. He points to Gauteng by way of illustration. Its population of 12,5 million is largely urbanised. The problem, however, is it's incredibly sprawled. Even though this population, on the face of it, takes up just 27% of the province's area, the actual extent is vast and, in urban terms, extremely baggy, inefficient and unsustainable.

"In trying to meet the challenge of a MegaCity growing to around 30 million people over the next 40 years or so, the approach must not be how to increase the footprint but rather how to consolidate that footprint to avoid more people becoming disempowered and disenfranchised from the very city which is meant to support them."

In spite of his passion for urban design,



Events

22 – 24 November 2017
IIF - India International Furniture Fair
 Mumbai, India
 Furniture and interior design show
www.iifurniturefair.com

29 – 30 November 2017,
IIDEXCanada
 Toronto, Canada
 Canada's National Design + Architecture
 Exposition and Conference
www.iidexcanada.com

15 – 21 January 2018,
imm cologne
 Koelnmesse, Cologne, Germany
 Lighting, Furniture, Interior Design
www.imm-cologne.de

19 – 23 January 2018
Maison & Objet
 Paris, France
 Home Decoration, Giftware and Tableware
 Trade Exhibition
www.maison-objet.com

21 – 24 January 2018
January Furniture Show
 Birmingham, United Kingdom
 International Furniture Exhibition
www.januaryfurnitureshow.com

28 – 30 January 2018
Heimtex Suisse
 Bern, Switzerland
 Trade Fair for Interior Design
www.heimtexsuisse.ch

9 – 13 February 2018
Ambiente
 Frankfurt, Germany
 Consumer Goods, Lighting, Gifts, Crafts,
 Household Goods, Furniture, Interior Design
www.ambiente.messefrankfurt.com

8 – 11 March 2018
MIFF - Malaysian Int'l Furniture Fair
 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 International Furniture Fair
www.miff.com.my

14 – 17 March 2018
Design Shanghai
 Shanghai, China
 International Design Event
www.designshanghai.com

18 – 23 March 2018
Light + Building
 Frankfurt, Germany
 Lighting, Electronics, Furniture, Interior Design
www.light-building.messefrankfurt.com

21 – 25 March 2018
Decorex Durban
 Durban, KwaZulu Natal
 Interior Decoration, Kitchens and Bathrooms
www.thebreed.co.za/decorex

AMBIENTE

Ambiente Trends for 2018

What does the future hold? Where does the search for meaning lead and how is well-being attained?

In an atmosphere of global change, Ambiente Trends 2018 traces the most important developments for the consumer goods industry. Feel and know-how are evident in the way apparent opposites are reconciled and impressive perspectives develop in today's design.

"Trends 2018" is curated by Stilbüro bora.herke.palmisano. From the play with tradition to futuristic innovation – there's plenty to inspire you in these multi-layered trends.



Modest regenerations

MODEST REGENERATIONS

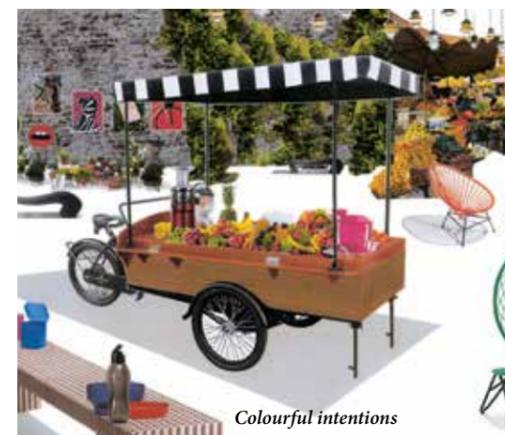
A clear, modern living room concept is the willed antithesis of constantly accelerating change: in a simple and relaxed manner, the tried-and-tested meets the new; and industrial charm and craftsmanship have a workshop character. The influence of the country house is pervasive – timeless in a manner in keeping with the times.

Enduring and indestructible, **Modest Regenerations** features items that gain beauty over time: wood, stone, concrete, tiles, ceramics, bamboo, rattan, aluminium, bronze, cast iron, steel, linen and wool – with natural colouring, glazed or enamelled.

COLOURFUL INTENTIONS

Bold colours and patterns exude dynamism and vitality. But, behind these, there is more: ethical considerations determine the mix of materials and their processing, with daring re- and up-cycling yielding products as sustainable as they are efficient.

Braided, quilted and heavily patterned – checks, stripes and edging decorate recycled plastic, metal, wood and textiles. Solid colours, varnish, fluorescent details and ethnographic ornamentation turn ordinary utensils into attractive objects.



Colourful intentions

TECHNOLOGICAL EMOTIONS

An approach as sensitive as it is visionary, **Technological Emotions** directs its regard inwards and experiments with new technologies to augment well-being. The emotionally appealing designs are based on unusual material amalgams and sophisticated effects.

The emphasis is on amalgams of paper and linen, wood and metal, metal and glass. Also wafer-thin foils, soft textile structures and innovative optical accents with iridescent colours and gradients artfully appeal to the senses.

OPULENT NARRATIONS

Opulent Narrations are audaciously eccentric, rich in allusions, decorated, dramatic in their presentation.

The historic and oriental undergo a contemporary metamorphosis in a delicate colour palette. Opulent materials and magnificent details round off this highly individual, picturesque look.

Lavish materials, techniques, patterns and decorative elements characterise this ambience. Precious stones and artistically decorated porcelain, unusual leather work



Technological emotions

and assemblages go well with these, as do modern tapestries, brocades, embroidery and relief carvings.

Look out for these trends and visit the Ambiente Academy to glean practical information on current market developments and opportunities.

Ambiente will be staged from 9 to 13 February, 2018 at the Messe Frankfurt exhibition grounds in Frankfurt, Germany.

ambiente.messefrankfurt.com



Opulent narrations

The Spirit of Autotelic Art

Colourful, eclectic, a modern day Renaissance man. Many descriptions have been attributed to Troy Smith, the man and his work. However, like every piece in his creative collections, Canadian artist and designer Troy Smith is one-of-a-kind. The work of the self-taught visionary is bold, unique and edgy, drawing inspiration from his own life experiences and surroundings to create timeless statement pieces that feature new design concepts, materials, techniques and structures.

Following in his father's footsteps, when Troy Smith finished college, he got involved in home-building in British Columbia. After honing his skills as a carpenter with several construction companies, he moved to Toronto and started his own contractor business. But the construction industry could not contain the creative juices of this artist/designer, who soon ventured into new territory.



Troy Smith - Designer, Maker and Colourful Guy!



Crown Screen / Room Divider



Constellation Floor Lamp



Flute Sofa



Ra Coffee Table

REBAR COLLECTION

Driven by a desire to create new products, Smith turned to his construction background to explore a long-held belief that rebar, traditionally used for concrete reinforcement, would be a great material with which to build things. He married the material with his vision of timeless, one-of-a-kind furniture designs. Production soon began and Troy Smith's 7-piece Rebar Collection was born.

In his signature Rebar collection, the rebar is heated with acetylene torches and red-hot furnaces, skilfully sculpted with pneumatic machines, then powder coated or electroplated. During assemblage the rebar is integrated with other high-end design elements, such as marble, exotic woods, leathers, and custom glass, taking care to ensure the integrity and interpretation of the original design.



Crazy Bar



Akenhaten Console



Wedge Sofa



Picasso Coffee Table



D-Ring Lounge Chair



Hex Chair

The success of the Rebar Collection provided Smith with tremendous insight into the manufacturing process, and he turned his attention to establishing relationships with the right people to build his complicated designs. That process took him to Italy, where new materials like solid brass with mirror finish and French crushed velvet evolved into the FLUTE SOFA. He later combined light-shifting Crazy Glass, lacquered mahogany and solid mirror brass into the CRAZY BAR, giving life to yet another one-of-a-kind collection.

“I don’t build square boxes. But while my designs are wild and different, I put a lot of practicality into the pieces that I build to ensure that they serve a purpose,” he explains. “Form and function are great friends, and I don’t subscribe to design without usefulness.”

Troy Smith views the world through art-coloured glasses, and his collections are reflections of that world. Design is ever-present in his environment, from his custom tailored bright pink-and-yellow suit, to his self-renovated Rosedale home, immersed in colours, textures and art in

all of its forms. The walls of his home are engulfed in large canvases, including some of his own acrylic paintings that embody the same colourful characteristics as his furniture. He is also an avid collector of ancient jewellery, including bracelets and rings, and the Renaissance man boasts a modest 300-bottle collection of select wines in his wine cellar. 

www.troymithdesigns.com

The best is yet to come

Meet Deziree Smith, founder and creative genius behind the Whimsical Collection brand. With immense concern, Deziree fights with passion to raise awareness for the Rhino's plight and that of other endangered animals.

Designing Ways asked Dezi about her love of art and African wildlife.

DW: Tell us about your childhood - where did you grow up?

DS: I grew up in Klerksdorp, a mining town not too far from Potchefstroom. It was very easy living in the platteland. We played in 'rooi grond' and danced in the rain. Far removed from today's technology generation. Back then the truly simple things in life were magic! I always long for 'times gone by' and intend to paint a collection on this topic soon.



DW: What was your first work experience?

DS: Fresh out of college I was fortunate enough to work with the celebrated designer, Ralph Krall. I pretty much made the coffee and painted at the same time. His style was very colonial and African and that rubbed off on me as a young artist. He used many of my paintings in his décor. This was without a doubt a big stepping stone to my career as a fine artist.

DW: What do you love about being an artist?

DS: Every day I create something new. I've never been bored. I have so many ideas to share with the world and I can't help feeling that the best is yet to come.

DW: What inspires you?

DS: This incredible place called Africa. From our smallest insects to the bigger than life big five.

DW: What is your favourite art work to date, and why?

DS: There is one painting I regret selling, it's called 'Off the Edge of the Map' - it depicts a plane flying over palm trees and a map compass in a sea of green - my



favourite colour. This painting represents the endless journeys that still lay before me. It inspires me to keep going. I have no idea who owns this piece now and hope it one day finds its way back to me.

DW: Tell us about Whimsical Collection.

DS: We are a proudly South African company that creates African gifts from the designs that I paint. The products include prints, magnets, trays, beach bags, cosmetic bags, cards, signed prints, gift tags, place mats and scatter cushions.

DW: What is your vision for the collection?

DS: I want to change the way we look at Africa's animals. My focus in each new range is to portray the animals in such a light that will make us respect them, remember them and ultimately conserve them for future generations. As artists, we carry the possibility to use our art to communicate and capture the status of our current times and alter peoples thinking. We will save what we love.





On our signed prints we promote the plight of our African animals and offer a website link where one can go to donate much needed funds in this very real time of poaching. Whimsical Collection also donates to The Rhino Orphanage in the Limpopo Province to help bring up the babies whose mothers were poached.

Wildlife in Flight showcases our animals floating on vintage hot air balloons. It's a fun and whimsical take on the normal designs you see out there. By

putting the animals in an unlikely space we have captured the imagination of most on lookers.

Wildlife at Leisure is about bringing African wildlife into the home, leisurely enjoying themselves on the sofa and not ready to get up just yet. I tried to paint the animals on the kind of sofa I can imagine they would have in their own home. Envision this animal coming over for a visit and asking you for another sugar in its coffee.

Wildlife in Colour is about diversity and takes a modern approach to our animals and portrays them in the colours of the rainbow. Bold and powerful, this range makes a statement. Not for the faint hearted this range aims to stop you in your tracks and demand you to take another look.

Whimsical Christmas was introduced in September 2017. Here, I chose the six most popular animals to bring warmth to the festive season. Inspired by the hues of the African plains and the traditional symbols and colours of Christmas, we created a range that provides a touch of Africa under the tree.



www.whimsicalcollection.co.za





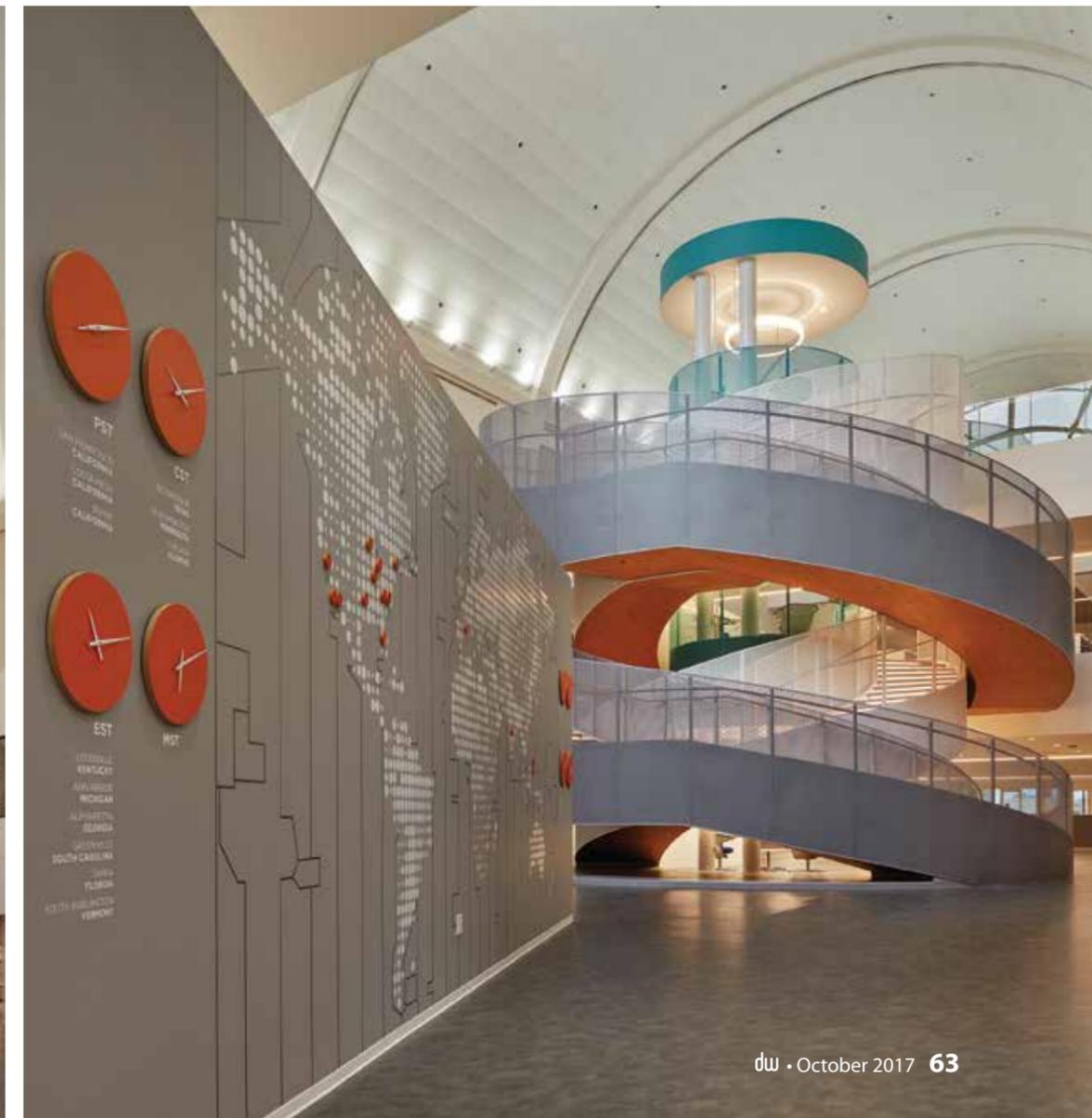
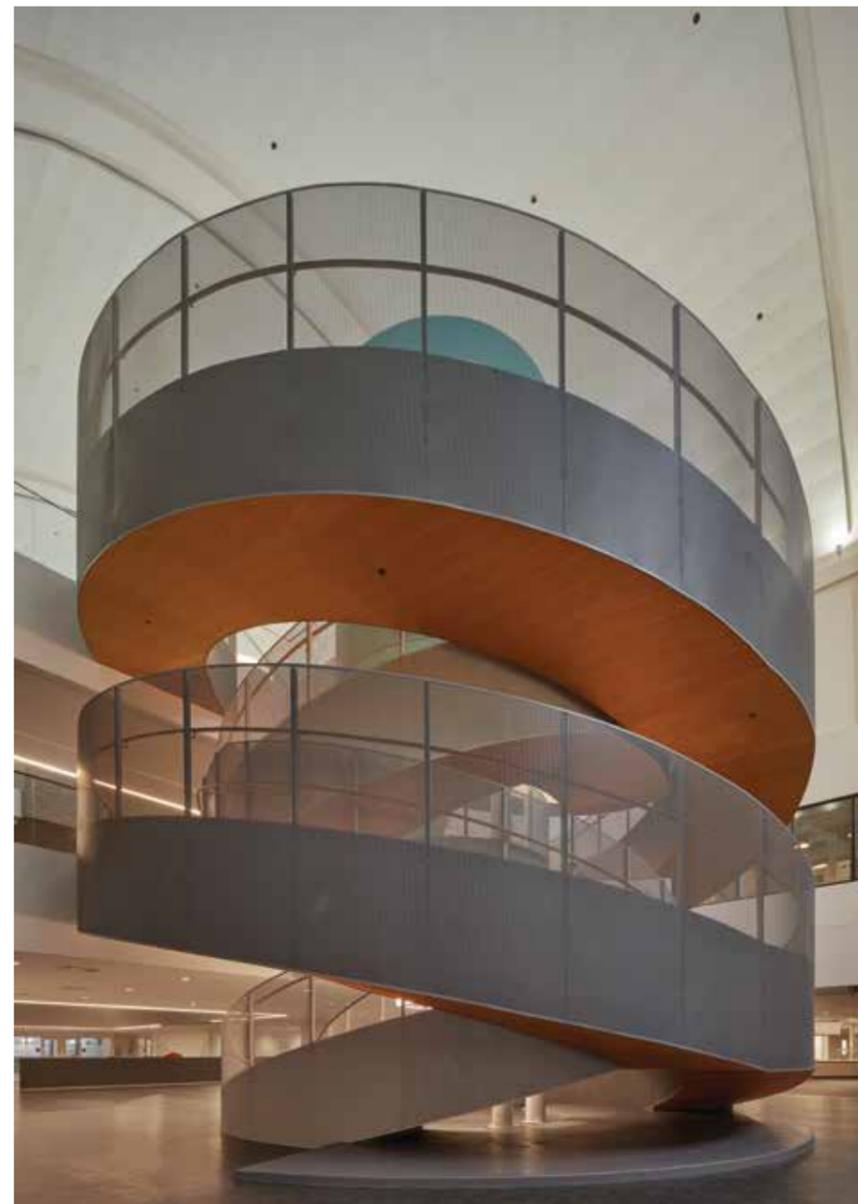
RealPage Headquarters

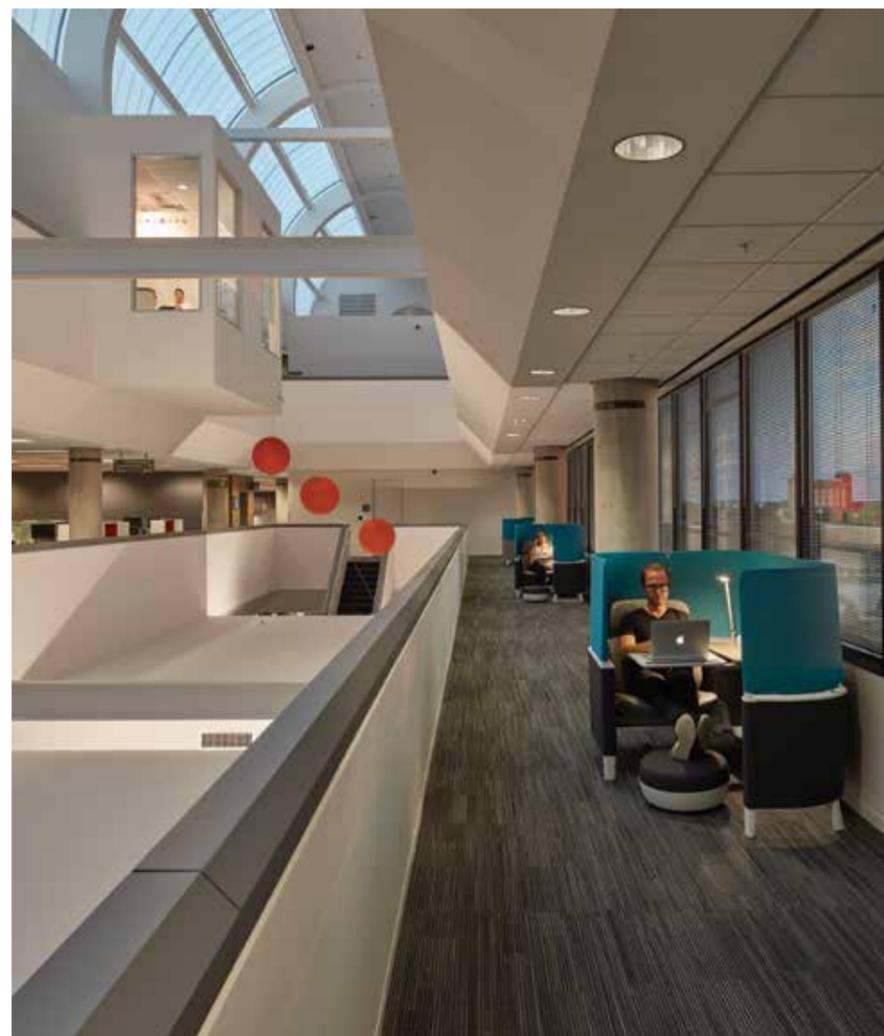
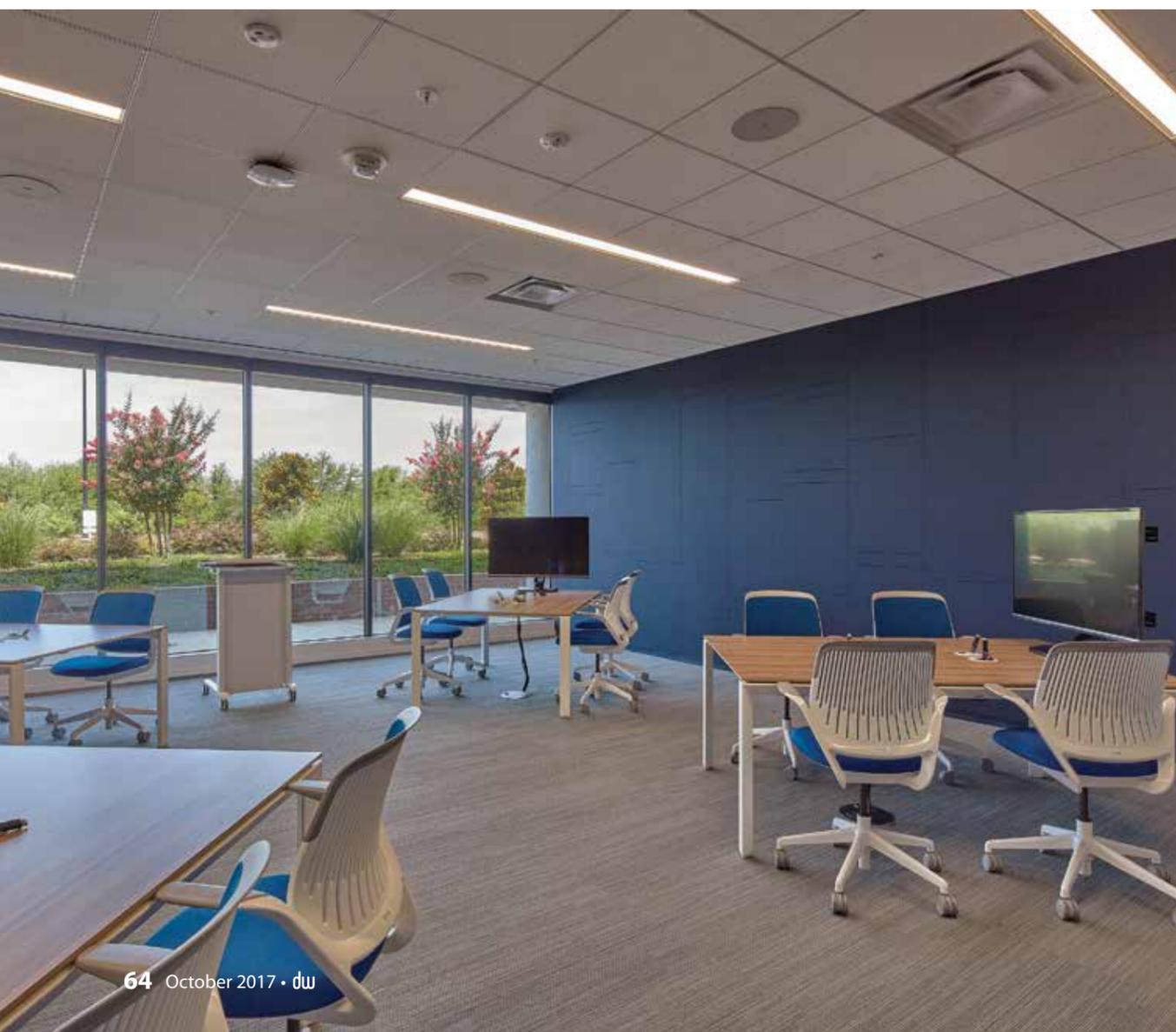
The new Dallas campus for RealPage, the global technology company, features a 'neighbourhood' approach to workplace design.

Considered America's leading property-management software company, RealPage has experienced exponential growth since launching in 1998. In response to a drive to achieve a more cohesive corporate culture, the fast-growing company consolidated its Dallas, Texas headquarters, previously composed of four disparate locations, under one 37 000 m² roof.

In developing the design for the company, architects HGA San Francisco placed significant emphasis on advancing the culture and ideals of RealPage, specifically taking into consideration how its colleagues work and communicate. Led by HGA San Francisco lead architect, Melissa Pesci, who has designed multiple RealPage locations in San Francisco, Irvine, Chicago, Seattle, Barcelona, South Carolina, and Georgia, among other cities, the design approach for the Dallas headquarters exemplifies the gold standard in thoughtful workplace design. It seeks to reveal not only a refreshed environment, but also a forward-looking vision paired with a workplace strategy that promotes collaboration and efficiency.

As opposed to the original campus, where employees were often siloed, the new headquarters is designed at the human level with the belief that places for eating and daily activities are just as important as meeting spaces. The first thing Pesci's team did was knit together the company culture by creating important amenities, such as a farmers' market-style cafeteria and coffee bar, gym, training and conference centre, film and sound studio, auditorium, and an open workplace with custom furniture, made by Steelcase, that is adaptable to the company's changing needs.







Their design approach sought to humanise the large floor plate through ‘neighbourhoods’. Within each neighbourhood are workstations and hubs. The hubs are made up of private offices that are adjacent to a coffee bar, as well as open, collaboration space and closed collaboration space.

“The RealPage headquarters move needed to be very strategic,” says Sandy Seaton, Vice President of Real Estate & Workplace Solutions. “The idea of bringing all of our employees together and creating one workplace culture with new amenities like the work café, fitness centre and neighbourhoods, has created a cohesiveness that didn’t exist before.”

Project Highlights

RealPage currently serves over 12 000 clients worldwide from offices in North America, Europe and Asia.

For the Dallas campus, HGA converted four floors of an existing low-rise office building, including the ground floor level that was previously a data centre and one floor in an adjacent mid-rise building, into cutting-edge, Class A office space. The low-rise square footage is 37 000 m². The new campus also includes an adjacent 2 300 m² mid-rise building.

HGA conceptualised and designed key office culture and workplace areas such as the:

- Farmer’s market-style cafeteria with different market spaces.
- Fitness centre/gym
- Auditorium
- Conference rooms
- Conference Centre
- Huddle rooms
- Open-plan workstations.

dw

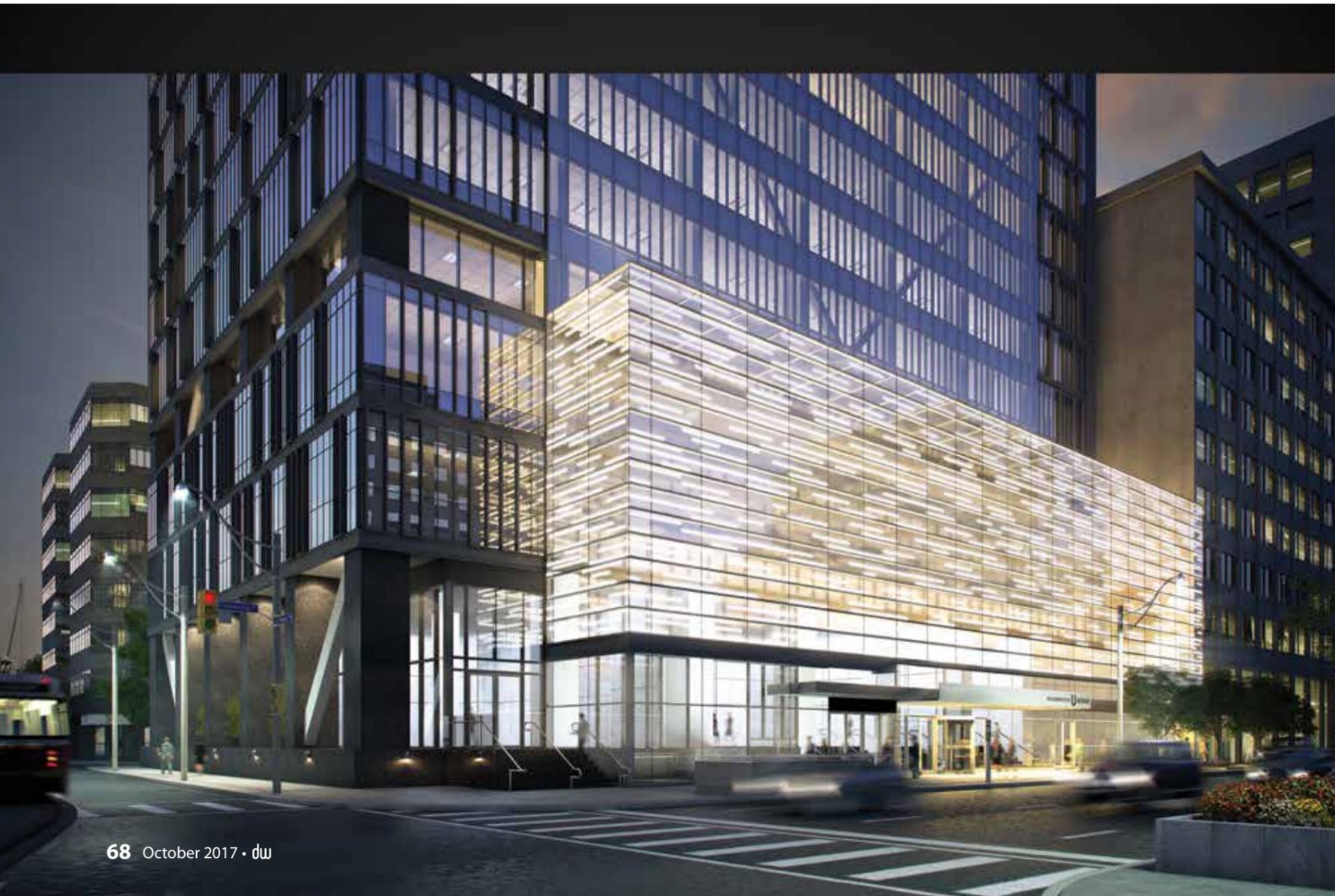
www.offsetoffice.squarespace.com
www.realpage.com

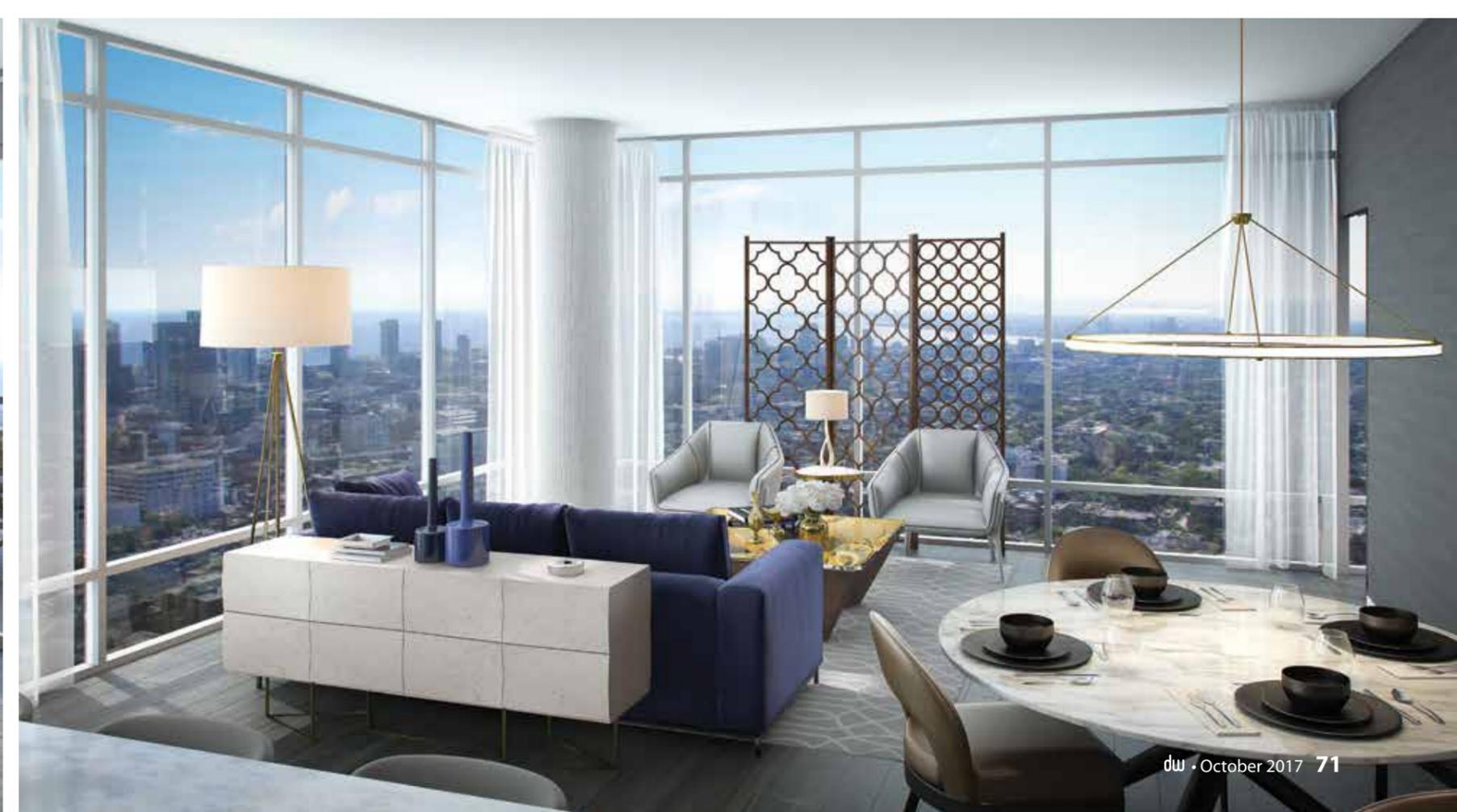
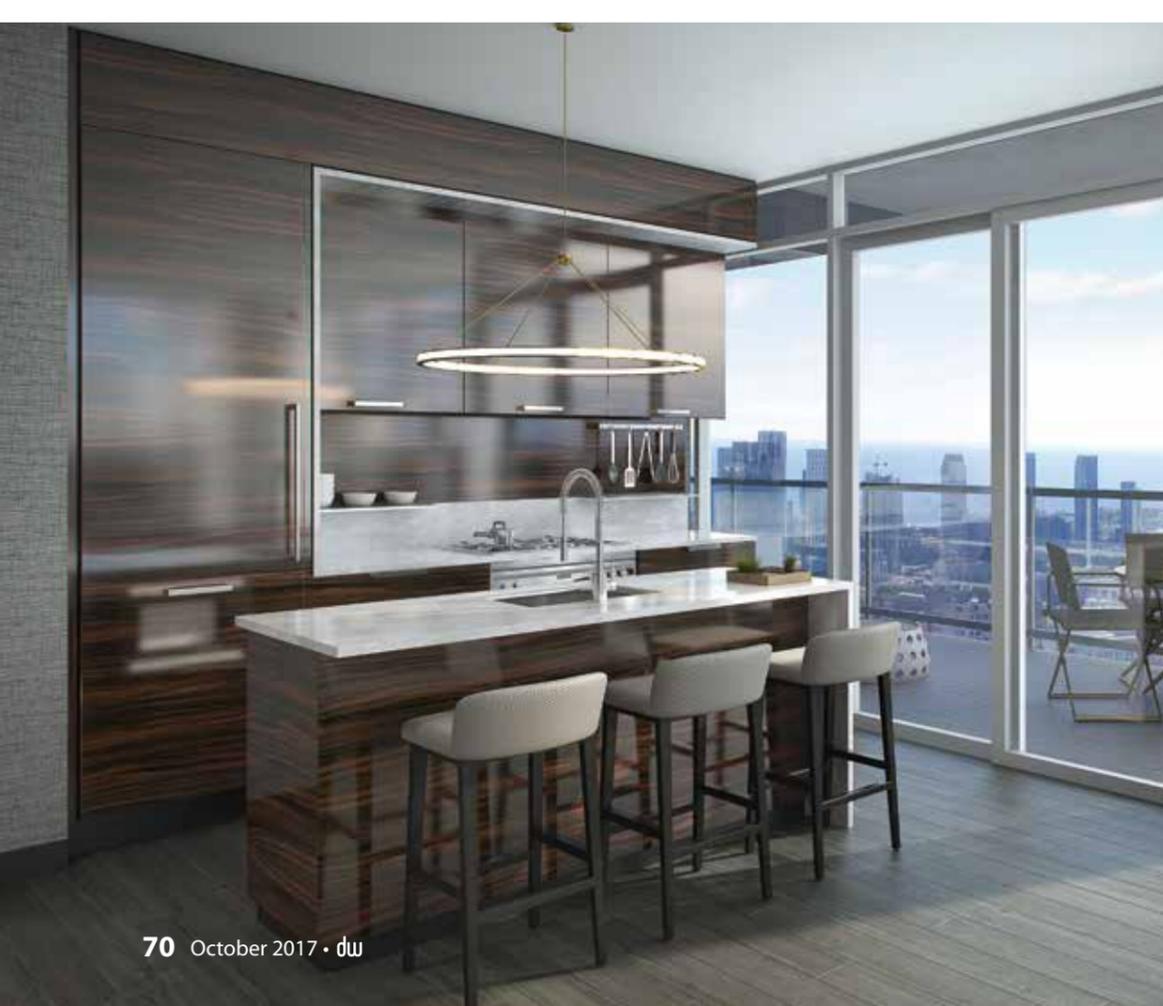
The Residences of 488 University Avenue

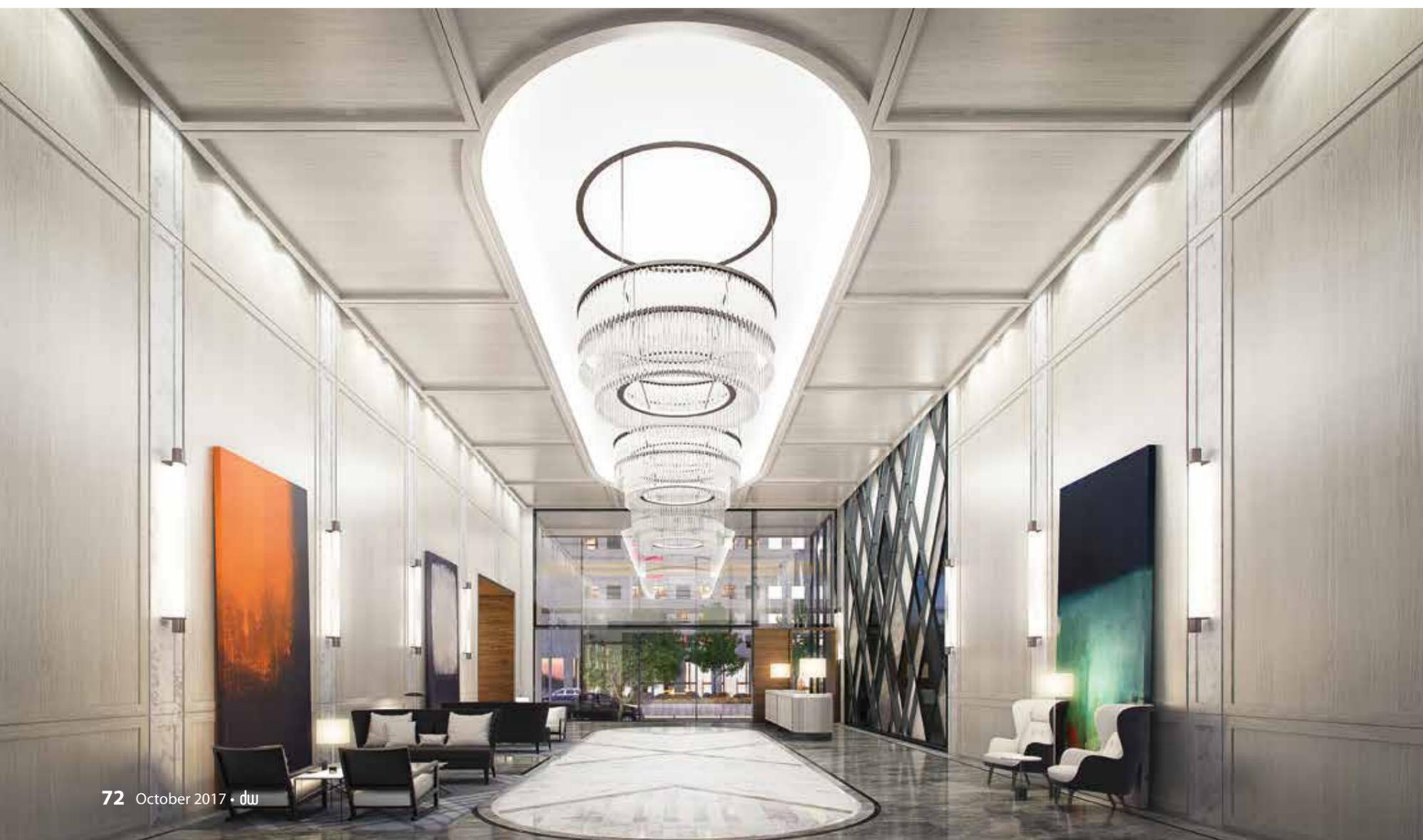
Every great city has its iconic Avenue, rich in history and heritage. New York has Park Avenue, Paris has Avenue Champs-Élysées and Toronto has University Avenue, the ultimate landscape of society, culture, and commerce.

Scheduled for completion in 2018, the Residences of 488 University Avenue will be a radiant 55-storey tower of glass and steel that ascends from a jewelled podium. In a feat of engineering, underground parking has already been excavated, the perimeter foot extended and the building exterior completely re-clad. A new 37-storey condominium with 453 luxurious units will rise above the office tower, with construction occurring while the offices below remain open and operational.

The offices are accessed through the commercial lobby that features floor-to-ceiling glazing and affords a direct connection with the exterior and public transit. Connected to the residential lobby, the combined volumetric space is reminiscent of a jewellery vitrine, merely separated by a mirrored partition, making it feel even more grand and ceremonial.







SKYBAR AND SKYCLUB

Inside the stunning residential entrance, the design team set the stage with rich wood panelling, glowing glass walls and Art Deco-inspired furnishings. Stepping off the elevators into the 19th floor SkyLobby, the soaring view sets the serene tone and displays Toronto's downtown lights. The residential tower features two full floors of light-filled space, opening onto the sun and swim terrace. Residents enjoy a spacious state-of-the-art fitness centre and private SkyClub - a place to indulge in a light meal and a drink at the SkyBar. With over 2 700 m² of lifestyle amenities, this condominium is designed to be an urban oasis.

LUXURIOUS SUITES

Each suite combines the lavishness of sophisticated design with the serenity of modernism, offering tomorrow's urban lifestyle today. Boasting beautiful layouts, floor-to-ceiling windows, oversize terraces and impeccably detailed finishes, design elements incorporate Art Deco-inspired aesthetics in rich tones and textures creating an expansive feel to each suite. Opulent and timeless finishes include exquisite marble countertops, iridescent mosaic backsplashes and rich walnut cabinetry that celebrate refinement and indulgence.

WINNER OF BEST ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN AWARD

In September, The Residences of 488 University Avenue was recognised as the best architecture and interior design of 2017 in the 16th Annual ABB LEAF (Leading European Architecture Forum) Awards. Designed by II BY IV DESIGN, it was selected from among 78 shortlisted entries across 17 categories, with projects spanning the globe from over 25 countries. The competition was judged by an impressive panel of 10 jurors including Michele Pasca di Magliano and Viviana Muscettola of Zaha Hadid Architects, Kai-Uwe Bergmann of BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group, and Vanessa Brady, President of the SBID.

Photo credit: Norm Li Architectural Graphics

www.iibyiv.com



View on the Main Altar



Baptismal Font

Our Lady of the Fields

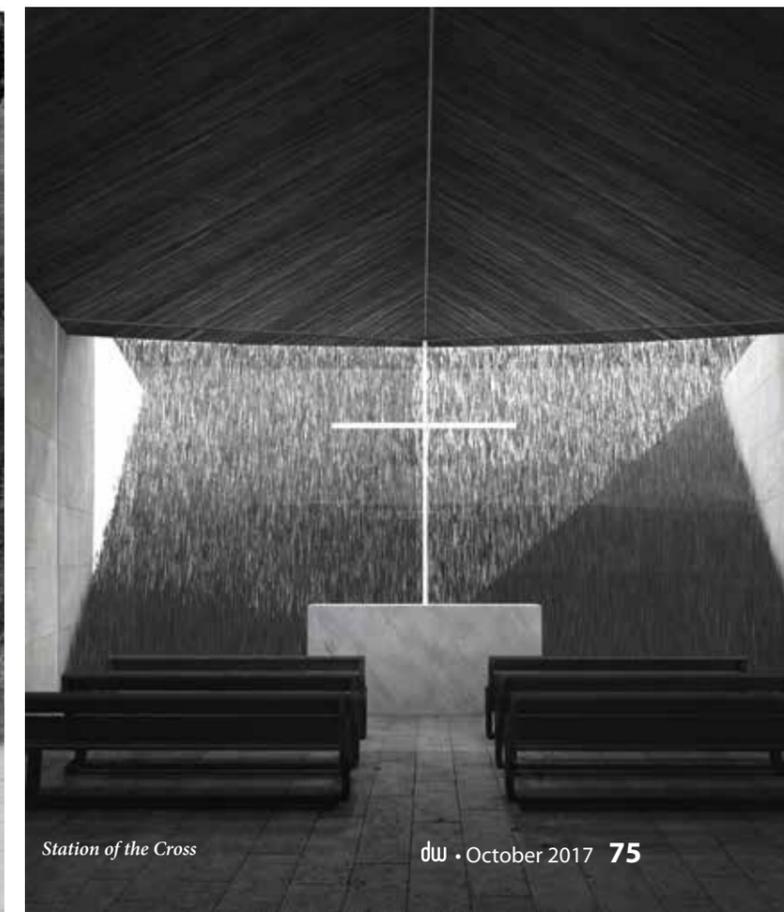
Stanislas Chaillou recently won the American Architecture Prize, in the student category. His project, 'Our Lady of the Fields', is a conceptual proposal for a cathedral for South Boston, inspired by Pope Francis' Encyclical 'On Care for Our Common Home'. Chaillou introduces a new dimension to church design, while addressing the intertwined facets of ecology and faith.

The construction of 'Our Lady of the Fields' in the park of Dorchester Heights (Dorchester, MA), aims at revitalising the space while offering a strong centre for Catholic communal life, with three main objectives: (1) to bring the believers' community into close proximity with nature, by inviting the garden into the cathedral, (2) to call the community of believers to a journey by using natural elements as symbols of the Christ's Passion, (3) and to welcome others, beyond the community of believers, by introducing a roof garden.

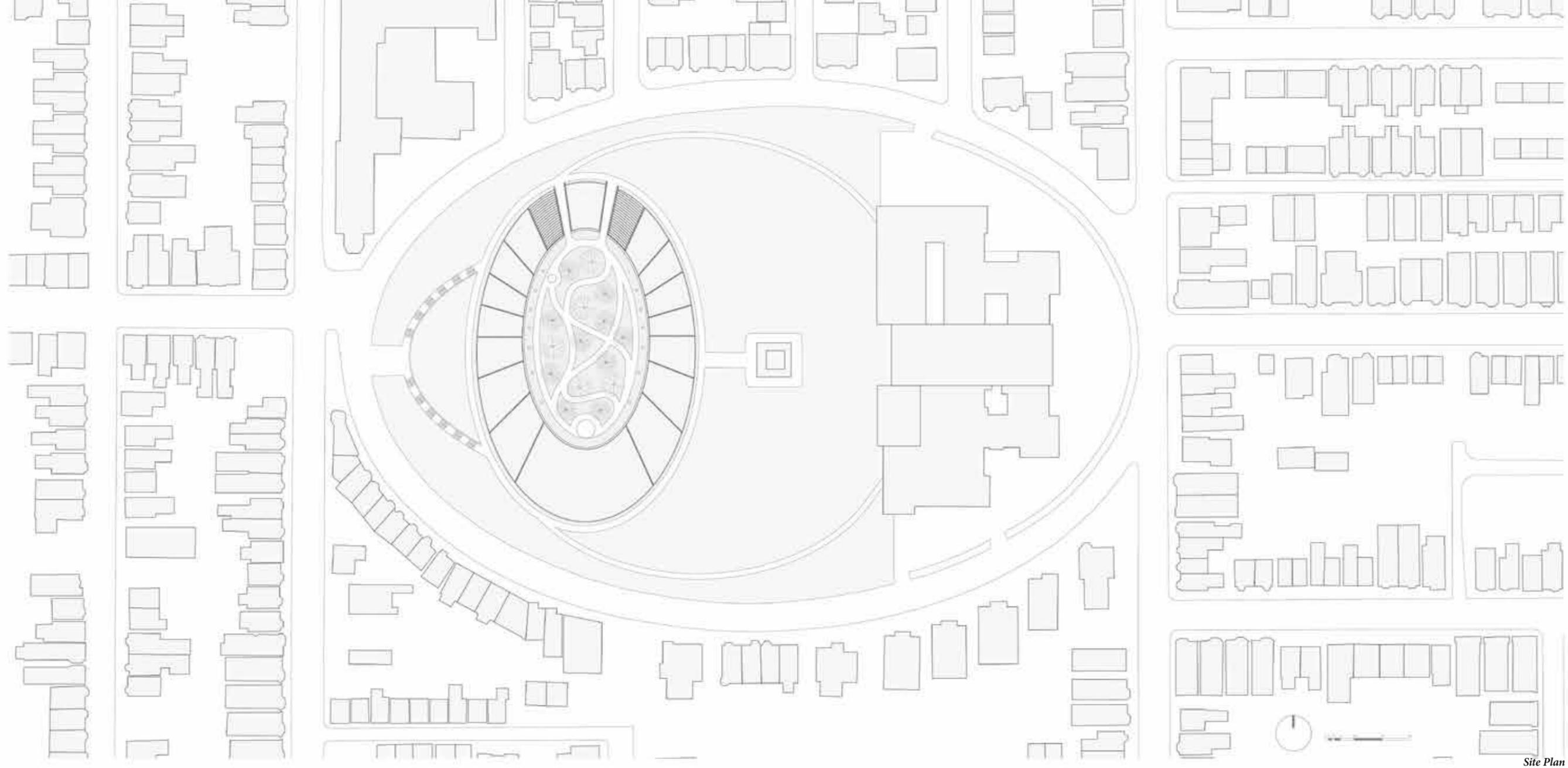
The cathedral faces the south, the entrance stairway is on the northern side. On the western side, two stairs bring people from the street up to the park on the roof, which is actually at ground level. This canopy is landscaped with trees and bushes simulating a dense wood and offering the visitors an Eden Garden-like experience. The building, sunk in the ground, is surrounded by a landscaped slope.



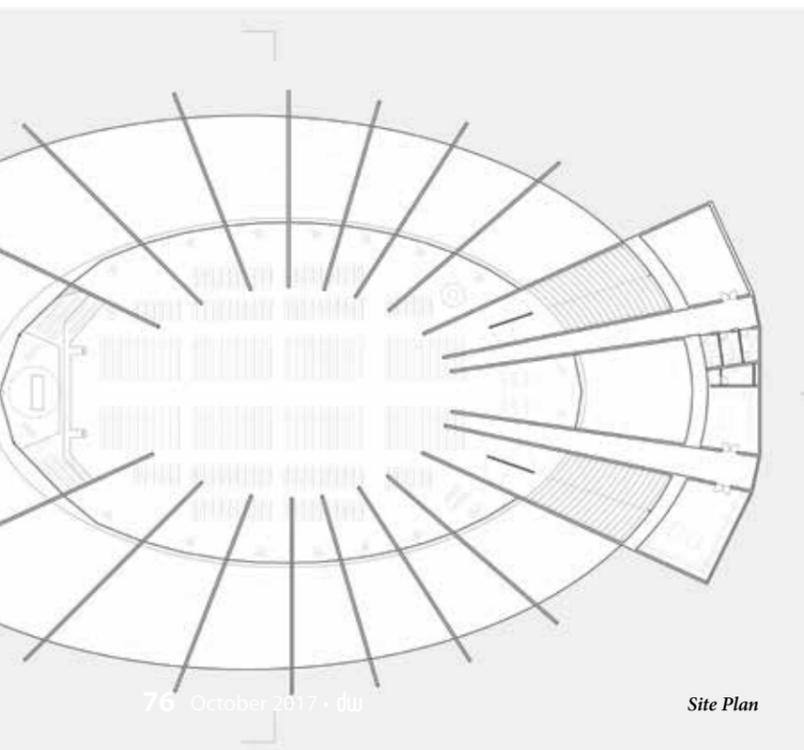
The Eden Garden (Cathedral's Roof Garden)



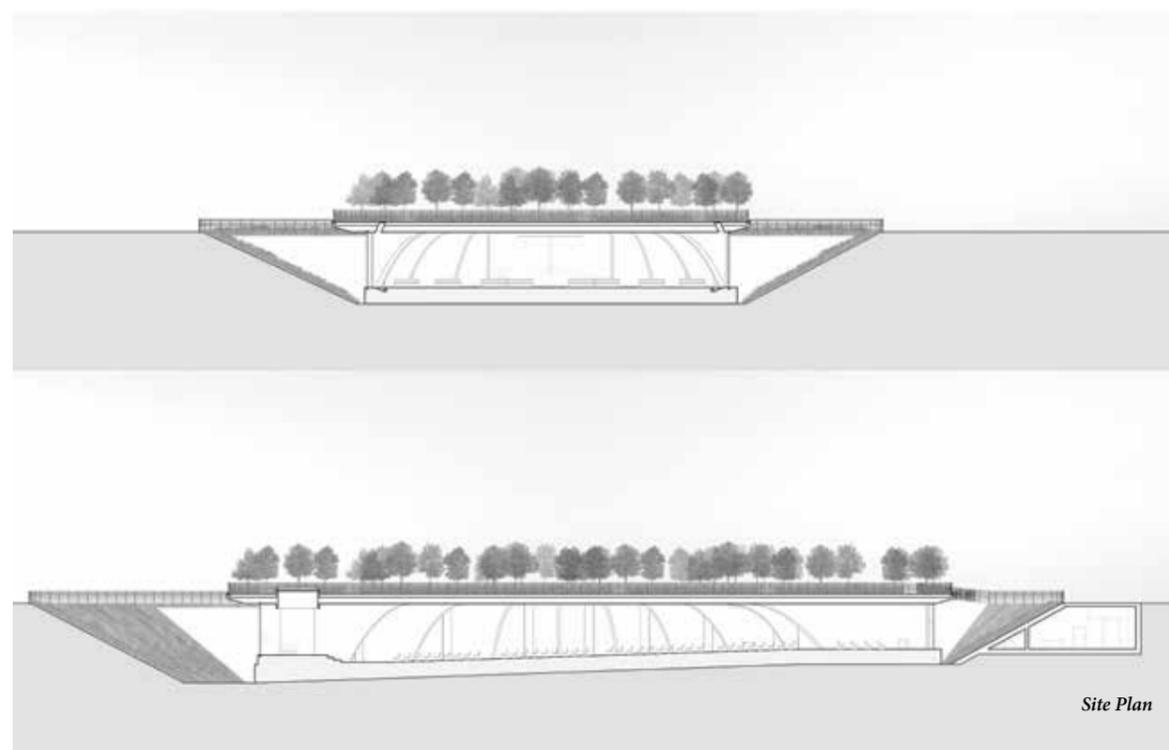
Station of the Cross



Site Plan



Site Plan



Site Plan

Taking the entrance stairs, the visitor enters the cathedral and discovers the central perspective of the main altar, framed by 20 concrete pillars.

The light enters through the spaces left between the concrete pillars, offering 16 curated views towards the outside. Each view uses both the landscape in the background and a strong iconography to evoke the Passion of Christ. The precision of the 14 Stations of the Cross, painted by Veronique Charpy, contrasts with the rough minerality of the cathedral. Beyond the aesthetic intent, a deeper theological meaning prevails: the presence of the divine (gold) in the mundane (concrete) - or the extraordinary present in the ordinary.

Throughout the day, the light moves from east to west, successively enlightening the stations of the Passion of Christ. The landscape in the background also adapts accordingly: mineral paving for the first stations, vivid and green nature for the last ones. The daily cycle of the sun magnified by the 'mineral to vegetal' gradation of the landscape acts as a discreet allegory to the Passion cycle. Overall, the intention through this project, is to contribute to the creative momentum for a new Christian building design, (that Pope Francis has triggered), away from post-modernist architecture. dw

stanislaschailou.com
Image credit: Stanislas Chaillou



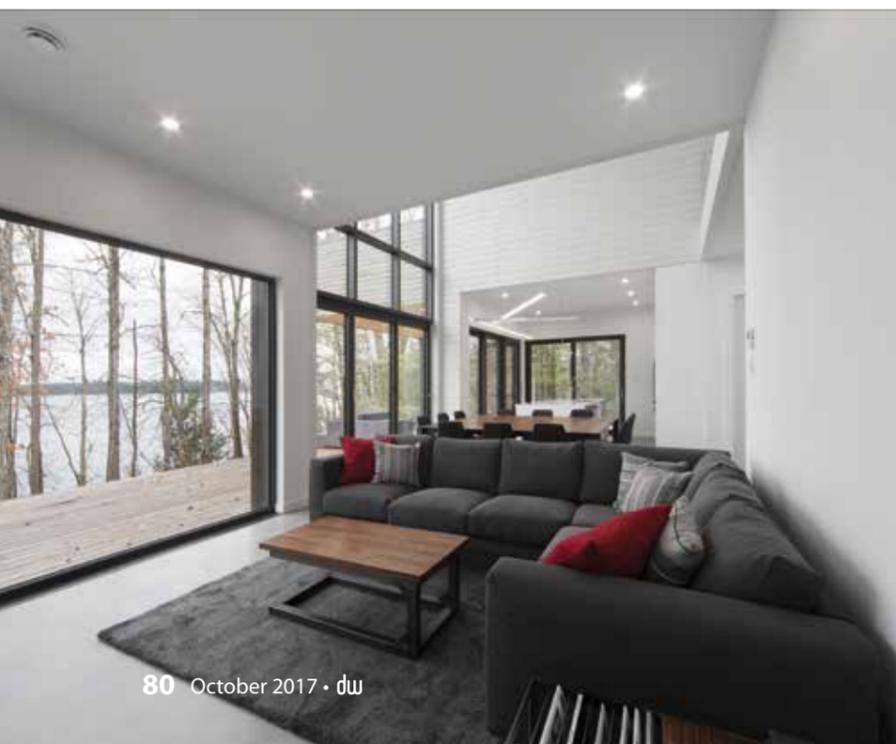
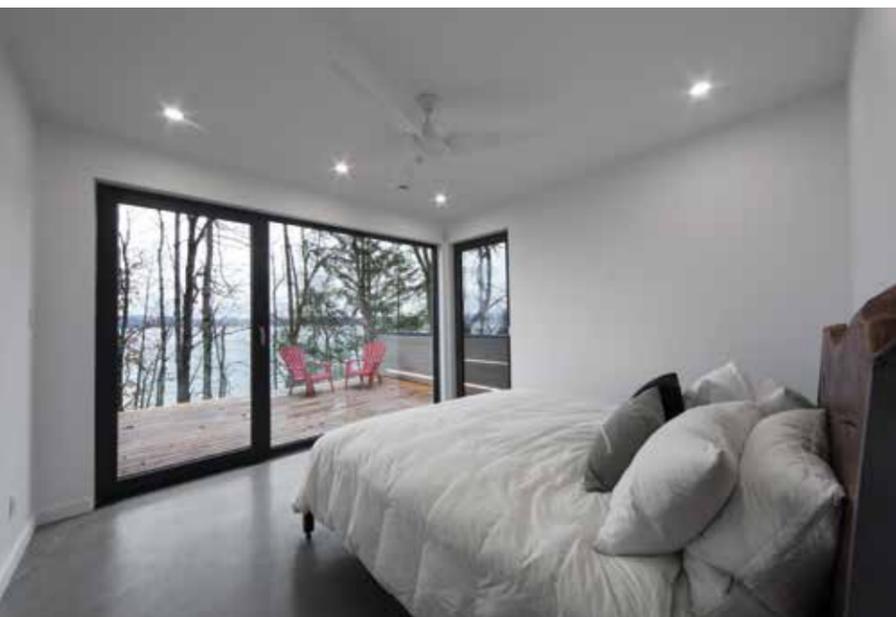
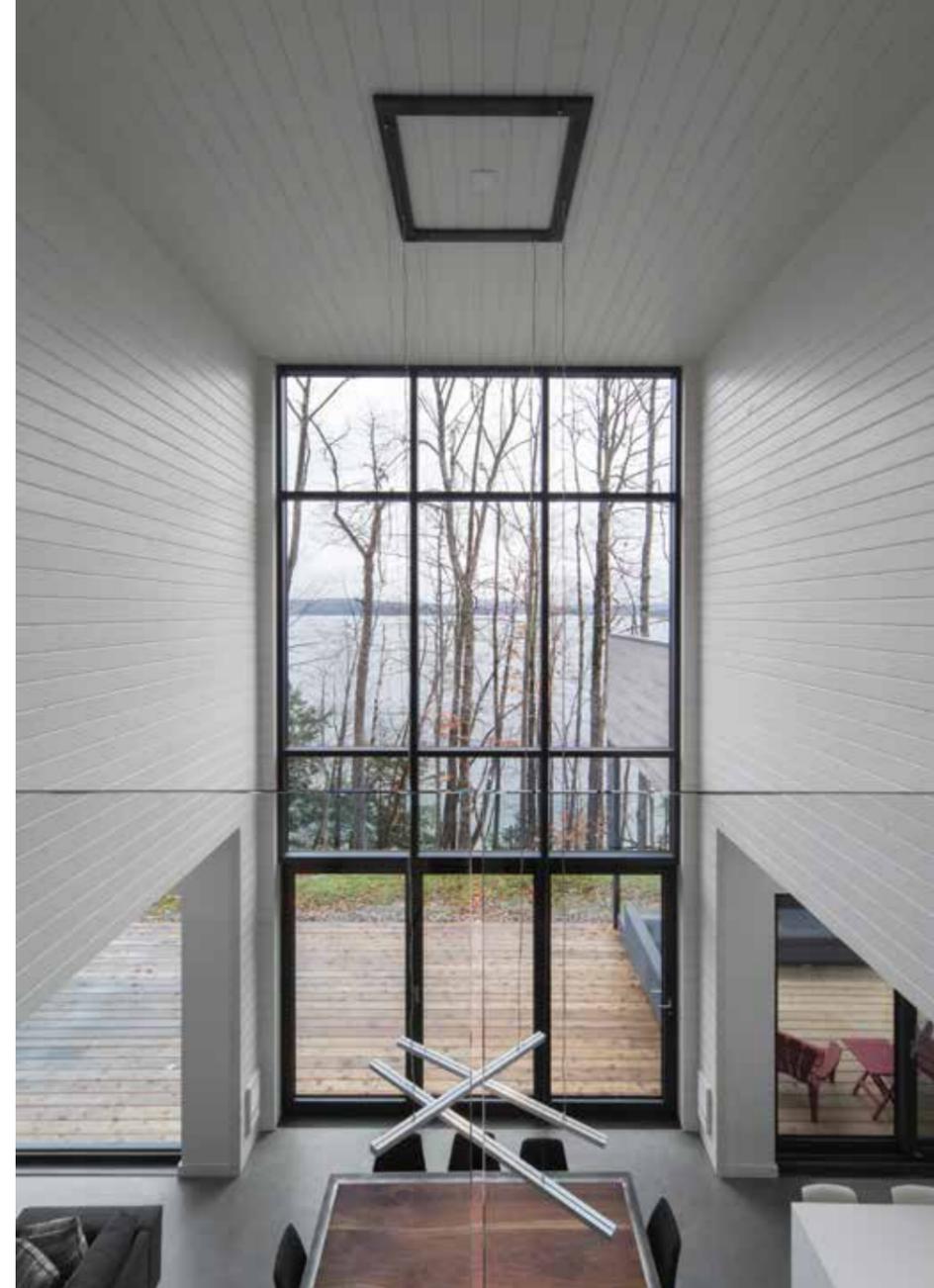
Bécassines Cottage

Historically, the Boomtown House is associated with the 'mushroom' towns created near industrial complexes and mines in the years 1890 - 1920. It is easily recognised by its simple facade and square shape. Its roof is flat or nearly flat, an innovation for the time. The popularity of the Boomtown House was mainly due to increased space and low construction costs.

Now, a century later, the BOOM TOWN workshop proposes a rereading of architecture based on the Boomtown house, following the principles of simplicity and efficiency. Working with space, light and matter, the architects design contemporary houses, adapted to modern living.

Bécassines Cottage is one such Boomtown house. Located on the shores of Lake Memphremagog in the Municipality of Potton, in Canada, this cottage with four large bedrooms and a dormitory comfortably accommodates more than a dozen people, enabling them to appreciate the location thanks to its wide openings onto the surrounding countryside. The cottage consists of the blending of four cubic areas around a central space through which the site can be crossed from the arrival level to the lowest level leading to the lake.





A large terrace makes it possible to enjoy the wooded area through which the lake lets its mysterious presence filter through. An enormous, staggering balcony (thanks to an invisible guardrail at its end) juts out towards the Memphremagog below from the master bedroom and protects a part of the terrace beneath. The tall folding door at the base of the curtain wall facing the lake makes it possible to enlarge the dining room and to receive numerous guests in good weather. The cedar and spruce wood coverings distinguish each of the areas from the composition. White wooden panelling covers the central core and extends under the porch of the main entrance to accommodate the occupants. The colour palette for the cottage varies from dark and brighter greys to white. Concrete, glass, stained wood, porcelain, marble, and quartz represent most of the materials used. dw

Completion Year: 2017

Area: 185 m²

Architects: Atelier BOOM TOWN

Furniture: Louis-Martin Roy

Photo credits: Steve Montpetit

www.boom-town.ca



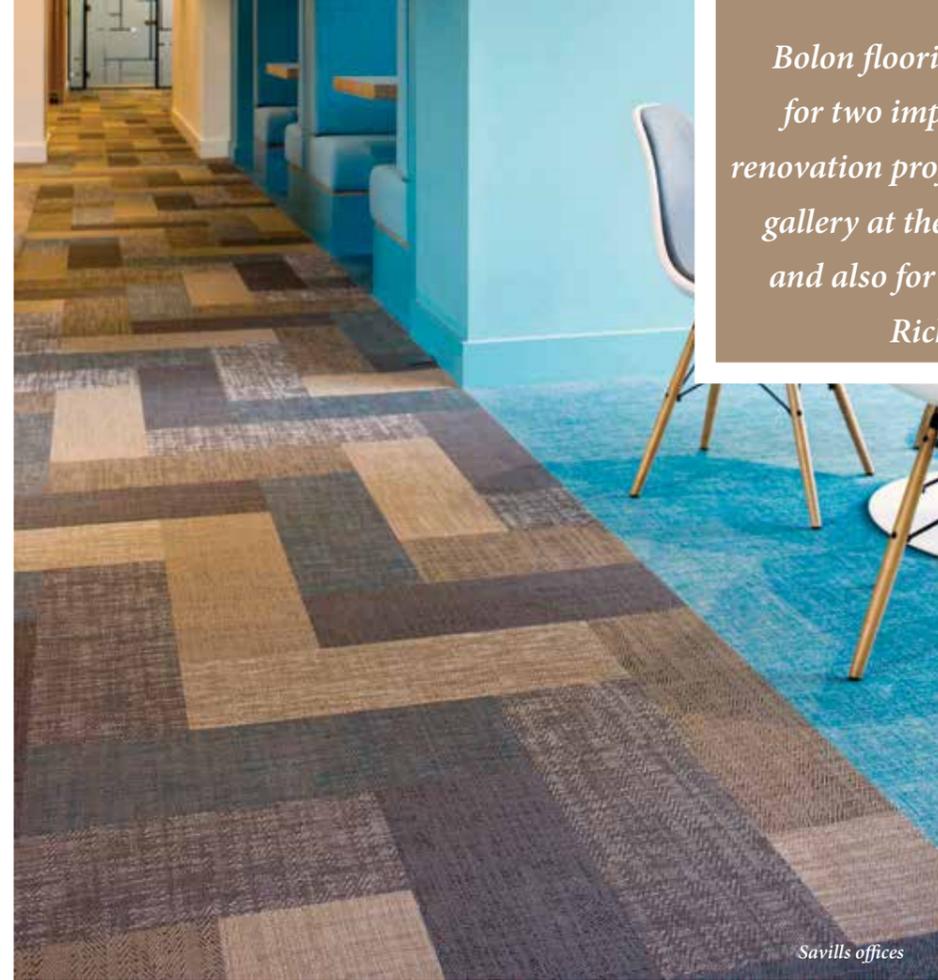
Bolon flooring specified for two impressive London renovations

Bolon woven vinyl flooring has been specified for two new impressive installations in the UK: the renovation of The Sir John Ritblat Treasures Gallery of the British Library, and the renovation of Savills estate agents' offices, both in London.

The Sir John Ritblat Treasures Gallery is home to more than 200 historic and fascinating items such as Gutenberg's Bible of 1455 and Leonardo da Vinci's personal notebook. The gallery is named after Sir John Ritblat, former head of the British Land Company, who was a major donor to the library and provided one million British pounds for the library's state-of-the-art display cabinets. Ancient documents, religious tomes, the classic music of Beethoven, Handel and Mozart, the 60s pop music of the Beatles, antiquated maps, and sound recordings from years gone by can all be found in the Sir John Ritblat Treasures Gallery.

For the Gallery's new flooring, Plaid Design Studio opted for a pattern of Bolon tiles in Botanic Cilia and Osier, and Artisan Slate, to cover the 550 m² flooring area. The Bolon range is ideal for public environments and meets stringent standards for fire safety, wear and durability and sound insulation – the latter an important aspect for an installation such as in the Library.

Bolon flooring was specified for two important London renovation projects: an important gallery at the British Library, and also for Savills offices in Richmond.



Savills offices



Savills offices



Savills offices



Savills offices



British Library



In South Africa, KBAC Flooring supplied and installed Bolon flooring for the footwear area of the new Woolworths store in the Mall of Africa in Midrand.

Woolworths



British Library



British Library

For the renovation of the offices of Savills in Richmond, London, MCM Architecture chose Bolon flooring from the Silence collection for this busy Savills office. Bolon's Sense, Gracious, Illuminate, Visual and Balance ranges were used to create a combination of both portrait and landscape planks. The visually dynamic yet calming interior environment is widely regarded as a striking example of Bolon flooring's versatile potential.

Bolon, which has its head office and production plant at Ulricehamn, was founded in Stockholm in 1949, and was the first company in the world to produce woven vinyl floor coverings. Bolon products have been installed in more than 30 countries with clients that include iconic brands such as Google, Mercedes-Benz, Armani, Adidas, and Sheraton; and renowned collaborators such as Tom Dixon, Jean Nouvel, Cappellini, and Missoni.

Bolon flooring is also proving popular with the South African interior design fraternity and KBAC Flooring recently supplied and installed Bolon flooring for the footwear area of the new Woolworths store in the Mall of Africa in Midrand. KBAC provided three Bolon ranges for the new store: Bolon Studio Play, Bolon Studio Natural and Bolon Studio Luxury.

KBAC Flooring is the exclusive sole SA distributor for the acclaimed and extensive range of Bolon floor coverings from Sweden.

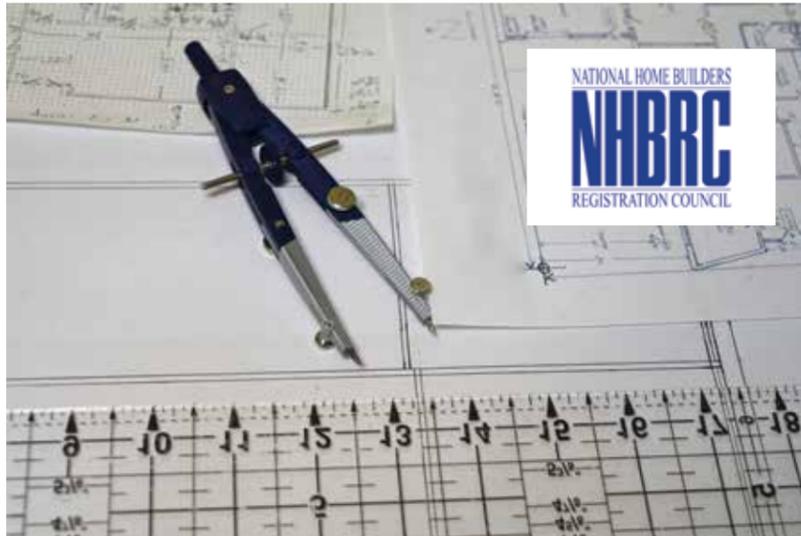
www.kbacflooring.co.za

dw

The Role of the NHBRC

The National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) is an agency of the Department of Human Settlements which is responsible for the protection of housing consumers and for regulating the home building industry. The council was created by an Act of Parliament (Housing Consumers Protection Measures Act 95 of 1998) to protect the rights of housing consumers against shoddy workmanship by unscrupulous home builders. All home builders and sub-contractors are required by law to register with the NHBRC before commencement of any home building project. They also ensure the quality of the homes built, through periodic inspections during the building stages as well as training of the home builders. They set building standards which all home builders must adhere to, as well as minimum quality standards for building materials to be used.

More importantly, the NHBRC manages a Warranty Fund, to which all home owners contribute as part of their registering with them. This fund is meant to act as an insurance cover for a period



of five years from occupation of the new home and covers the following:

- 1 year on roof leakage;
- 5 years on major structural defects.

Please note that the said Act does not cover commercial buildings or alterations to existing homes. Neither does the Warranty Fund cover any items meant to enhance the aesthetics of the home, e.g.

taps, cupboards, windows etc.

Housing consumers are encouraged and urged to address any snag issues within three months of occupying their new home, failing which, they are at liberty to approach the NHBRC to mediate in order to compel the home builder to fix these issues. Builders who fail to comply with the NHBRC directive may be subjected to a disciplinary hearing and, if found guilty, fines can be imposed.

The NHBRC however is concerned about the low levels of awareness with regards to home owners or housing consumers. Consumers need to be aware of their obligations which include:

- Using NHBRC registered builders and sub-contractors.
- Registering or enrolling a new home 15 days before building is started.
- Demanding that a minimum of four inspections are done during construction.
- Making sure that the home owner is satisfied with the quality of their new home before signing a 'happy letter'.
- Addressing any construction-related issues with the builder in the first three months of moving into a new home, to take advantage of the Warranty Cover.

www.nhbrc.org.za



Terrazzo Outdoor Prints and Plains



This season, Romo presents a bold collection of graphic outdoor prints featuring five eye catching designs in a vibrant and playful colour palette. Designs include Brick, a large scale geometric reminiscent of a computerised brick wall, Basket, an oversized, simplified basketweave effect and Point, a graphic chevron design. Terrazzo, after which the collection is named, is an intricate mosaic design inspired by Terrazzo stone flooring, whilst Deck, is a contemporary take on a classic deck chair block stripe.

Terrazzo Plains feature versatile and practical plain and semi-plain designs in a selection of bright, fresh colours. These two designs perfectly complement the Terrazzo Prints collection.

Features: washable, mould-resistant, excellent light fastness, fully stain-resistant, 100% solution dyed, outdoor Acrylic.

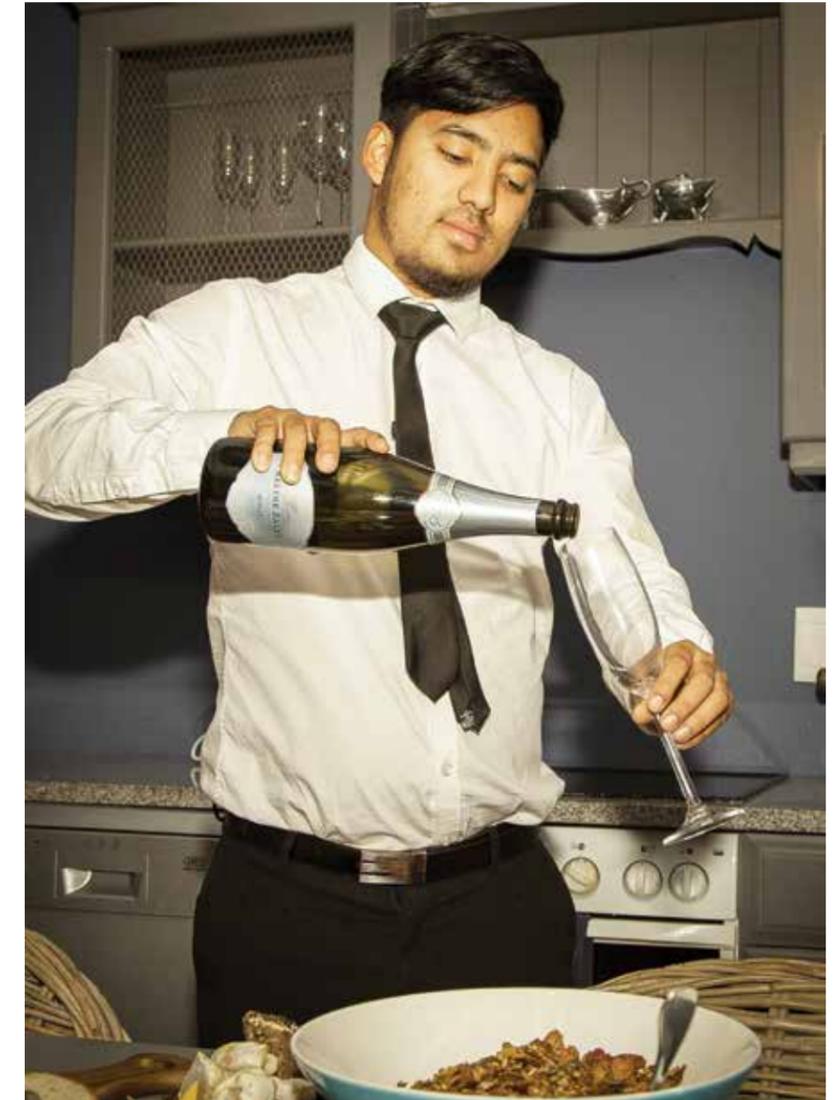
Canopy Outdoor

Romo's modern collection of practical OUTDOOR fabrics features 8 small-scale designs specially created for use on garden, poolside, terrace and patio furniture.

Features: washable, excellent light fastness, water- and mould-resistant.

www.romosouthafrica.com





Abalone Pool Villas

One of the oldest fishing villages on the Cape's West Coast, Paternoster is far from the Madding Crowds and a lovely place to unwind and relax. A relatively short (145 km) drive from Cape Town, its stretches of unspoilt beaches and quaint houses are a great attraction for holidaymakers.

But if you were expecting everything to be raw and unspoilt, you'd be wrong as the Abalone House & Spa oozes decadence. And now, there are two newly revamped Pool Villas offering the finest self-catering accommodation in the village – with a butler service, to boot!

The two Pool Villas are virtually identical, with bedrooms leading onto the patio and pool. Each sleeps two couples

or a family of four in two spacious and magnificently appointed bedrooms with king size beds dressed in fine percale linen, and en suite bathrooms. One of the rooms also has a private balcony with 180 degree sea views all the way to the horizon. In fact, wherever you are in the Pool Villas, the ocean is right outside – just beyond the sparkling rim-flow infinity pool, so uninterrupted sea views are everywhere.

The main living area is spacious and beautifully appointed with comfortable couches, while the floor is strewn with Persian carpets. Oversized, colourful Tretchikoff prints add pizzazz to the walls and are echoed on the scatter cushions. These are toned down by delicate touches of delft blue and red throughout the living areas and bedrooms.







For winter evenings, there's a cosy indoor fireplace, along with a Smart TV and Netflix to enjoy – and, for those who can't resist being always connected, there is complimentary Wi-Fi throughout. In the summertime, the large stacking glass doors can be completely folded back to allow indoor-outdoor living around the pool and braai area. There's also a convenient outdoor shower for washing off beach sand before jumping into the pool.

An enticing selection of restaurants is within walking distance of the Villas and you can find both simple and sensational cuisine there, by day and night. However, the fully-equipped and stylish Villa kitchen also encourages easy meal preparation, and the dishwasher does the rest. Both Villas are also serviced each morning to keep them pristine and turn downs are done in the evenings. There's plenty of flexibility too around service, to ensure your stay is thoroughly relax^{du} enjoyable and luxurious.

www.abalonehouse.co.za



photo mike hall



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Implosions

The other day a group of buildings was imploded in Rosebank. I watched the event on You Tube, but heard it live and saw the dust rolling over my garden from a few blocks away. How amazing to simply count down to an explosion and then have a huge building collapse into itself, leaving a relatively small pile of building material lying in the hole that must have been underground parking. Apart from the dust, there was quite a lot of paper detritus that lay in the roads afterwards, and strangely most of the pieces were parking tickets. Did the preparations beforehand miss out the machine that prints the tickets, or the part that eats them? Were these used ones? I was walking my dog that evening when I noticed them. I was very impressed that by the next day, the streets and pavements

of Rosebank were spotless; the clean-up team did a wonderful job.

Not that long ago, in 2012, the Nedbank Gardens building, also in Rosebank, was imploded. Again, you can see this on You Tube. The countdown, the bang, the crumpling building, then the clouds of dust. That building made way for part of the depressing new Rosebank Mall. When there, I have no sense of orientation from the inside and feel as though I am walking round and round the sunless exercise yard of a Correctional Services building. Even worse, the developers cut off the access to part of a line of green spaces and parks that goes from east to west between Oxford Road and Jan Smuts Avenue. For the Mall section, you have to go through the shopping centre, into the parking garage on the west side, down a couple of

floors and then out the other side, back into daylight and open air. I find this strangely selfish and thoughtless.

In 1985, the cooling towers in Newtown Johannesburg were imploded. This was a huge event, watched by a large crowd. Way before the possibilities of Photoshop adjustments, the company that produced Chomp, a crunchy chocolate bar, made a classic advertisement with a man biting into one of the bars. As he did so, the cooling towers in the background crumpled satisfyingly. I don't remember the cooling towers, but I have never forgotten the advertisement. What a pity it isn't on You Tube.

Gill Butler



vitra.



An appetite for elegance

Environments dedicated to the enjoyment of food present particular challenges, senses and taste must be enticed by effortless style, while functionality calls for hygiene, resistance and easy-care under constant use.

DuPont Corian® solid surfacing, is specially engineered to be both visually stunning and long-lasting. With Corian®, the comforts of beauty are equalled by robust reliability, easy maintenance and endless adaptability. Imagine a smooth transition from worktop to fascia, splashback to sink, food preparation to relaxed enjoyment. From the most minimal of aesthetics to maximal charm, the wide choice of colour, detail and design all come together to enhance the simple pleasures of living well. No matter how spacious or compact your kitchen, Corian® lends an endless elegance and a silky, seductive touch.

BEAUTY, FUNCTIONALITY & TECHNOLOGY (Why use Corian®?)

- Corian® is a non-porous surface that prevents dirt and stains from penetrating the material.
- Corian® provides seamless integration, enabling you to create large designs fashioned from a single element.
- Corian® is easy to clean.
- Corian® is tough and durable.
- Corian® material is renewable; most damages can usually be repaired to restore the integrity of the original smooth, hygienic solid surface.
- Corian® can be shaped and carved.
- Corian® is available in a wide range of

modern, elegant colours which also include a few translucent colours for those daring, inspirational designs.

QUALITY NETWORK & WARRANTY

Corian® is backed by a 10-Year Limited Product Warranty. When the Corian® Quality Network install your Corian®, the entire installation is under limited warranty for 10 years, too. Our team of authorised fabricators and installers are trained in the latest techniques for working with Corian®. They are committed to delivering the highest levels of quality and customer service at the lowest installed cost.

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*Above: Corian® offers design versatility lending to an endless elegance and a silky, seductive touch.
Below left: Integration of functional hob bars add to functional sophistication.
Below right: Draining grooves are seamlessly fabricated into the design.*



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PVC Opaque	Blockout	Room Darkening	✓	✓	✓	✓	2 years
V-Range	Blockout	Room Darkening	✓	✓	✓	✓	2 years
Le Reve	Blockout	Room Darkening	✓	✓	✓	✓	2 years



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