

Defining design

*By Hasmita Amtha, Project Consultant & Property Co-ordinator Chantel Spence,
Photography Barend Roberts & David Ross*



NICO VAN DER MEULEN ARCHITECTS 011 789 5242

Celebrating a milestone of 30 years in business, Nico van der Meulen Architects continues to impress with its contemporary, aesthetic and most importantly functional designs. Functionalism is an important aspect of every Nico van der Meulen design. The architectural firm stands by the notion that functionality should always be given higher priority than form, considering the clients spend their entire lives inhabiting the structures that are designed rather than admiring their external appearances. Functionalism is the company's design philosophy, and while the facades of its projects could have any form, and be associated with any style, the buildings by Nico van der Meulen Architects remain functional. Industry experts suggest that the very best architects are the ones that can best read a client's psyche to ensure they are able to communicate their own unique vision without compromising their wishes. At Nico van der Meulen, architects and designers work with great care and diligence to ensure that a building design encapsulates the vision and essence of the firm's clients. The firm is currently busy in several African countries with the design of upmarket residences and offices. It also recently started the design of luxury residences in places as far as Canada, Russia and Switzerland.



LAFARGE 011 657 0000



CONCEPTUAL STEEL ENGINEERING 0861 6 STEEL (78335)

and reinforce the bush-lodge concept, which can be noticed in his selection of materials, colours, and the way in which the house has a natural positive flow.

In keeping with staying as natural as possible, "the site revealed itself as a mound of quartzite rock, which was excavated and hand cut for the gabion walls and the stone cladding used throughout the house," points out Werner.

From a distance you are able to truly absorb the beauty of the architecture, "the striking square and rectangular forms are strategically positioned to capture your attention, while the rusted steel boxes and stone-clad walls aid in camouflaging the house, creating a sense of unity between the building and the site," notes Werner.

The inside of the home definitely does not disappoint, but offers the owners a trendy interior space to relax in and enjoy. "The kitchen overlooks the lanai and garden, while the frameless folding doors create an invisible threshold between the interior and exterior of the home – these

LEFT: Conceptual Steel Engineering specialises in bespoke staircases, blending steel with subtle lighting, rustic African timbers, polished concrete treads and more. In this home, the company designed a triple stringer staircase to complement the concrete and rust theme with LED light cover plates, manufactured from mild steel, rusted and mounted on to the polished concrete treads.

BELOW: Much favoured by the fun-loving, the Gemini Flushdeck's overflow feature ensures no spillage and water loss, regardless of the number of people occupying the spa at one time. Largest domestic round spa available locally and comfortably seats eight.

destined for a hilltop in Rustenburg, this home found its way to a secluded nature estate, east of Pretoria.

With a 180°-view of the city, this home boasts bold and striking architectural design.

At the home owner's request, Nico van der Meulen Architects designed a 770m² spacious and luxurious four-bedroom house with an emphasis placed on the design of the living rooms, ensuring that the magnificent view was optimised.

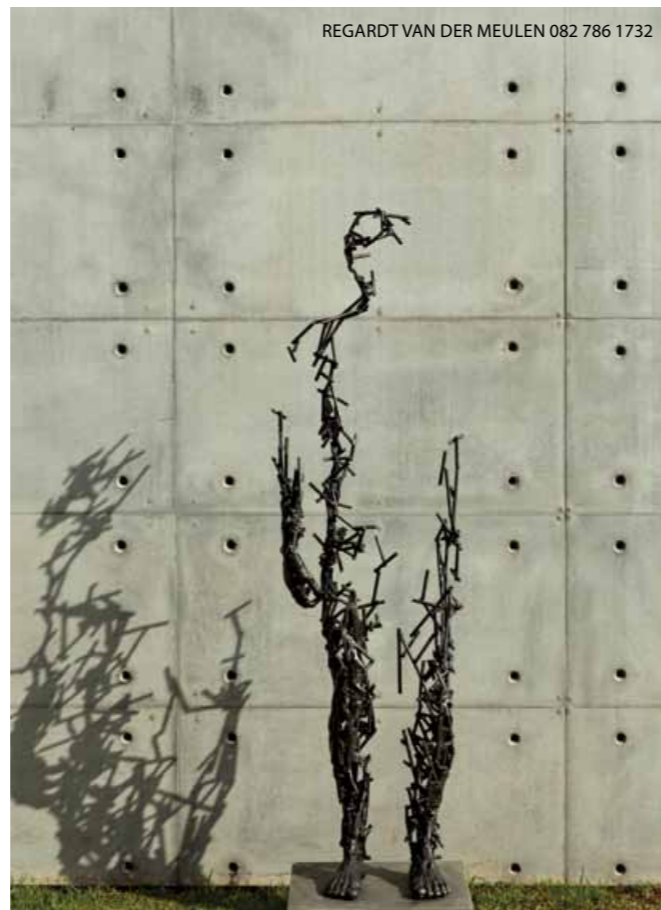
"The concept of a bush lodge arose from the vastness of the site and the natural setting of the stand within the estate," highlights Werner van der Meulen of Nico van der Meulen Architects.

Werner was inspired to design a house that resembled a bush lodge in the way the site responds to nature. Werner translated his inspiration into a contemporary home that complements its immediate surroundings.

In doing this, he created designs that communicate

ABOVE: In this home, Artevia range by Lafarge was used. The Artevia Exposed was used on the driveway to provide a gravel finish, and robust exterior look. It is available in multiple combinations, and is offered in a variety of colours and effects to fit any environment. Artevia Polish was used for the stairs, for its marble finish look. This product has a smooth texture, like polished marble, that is silky to touch and provides a defined elegance. Designed for its indoor and outdoor use, it offers luxurious comfort that your bare feet will love.

RIGHT: "Erode" by Regardt van der Meulen, 2013. Medium: Steel. Size: 2150 x 520 x 520 mm.



REGARDT VAN DER MEULEN 082 786 1732



SUMMER PLACE SPA AND BATHS 011 463 7775



INVESTBO CONSTRUCTION 082 736 4447

With its reputation built on building the finest and most complex homes for discerning clients, Investbo Construction prides itself on upmarket building construction, and the manner in which it runs its contracts in terms of quality, production, communication and reporting. In search of a builder who understands what the client needs, and one who has the experience to tackle a project of this magnitude, the clients commissioned Investbo Construction to work on this home due to its holistic approach – the owner of Investbo Construction is qualified in architecture and civil engineering, therefore understands what it takes to build a dream home of this standard. The home is indeed a masterpiece, and various colours and materials were used to create the desired end result that the home owners envisioned. A proud achievement has been the high quality of off-shutter concrete work that was executed in this home. Working on a “trade in trade out” principle and following a critical path, Investbo Construction specialises in exclusive projects that require intense on-site management by its well-trained personnel, and facilitates all sub contractors.



M SQUARE LIFESTYLE DESIGN 011
789 5242

The concrete staircase features steel inlays and relates to the aluminium ceiling, which features in both the main bedroom and living room. The double-volume entrance hall, framed by a perforated skin of scaffolding boards bolted to a wall, creates the perfect backdrop for the sculptural looking staircase.



BLU_LINE 0860 548 464



ABOVE: blu_line focuses on offering high-end modern kitchens. As one of the leaders in the industry, blu_line ensures that all the functional demands of modern living are met. Seeing the kitchen as a living space, the company emphasises relational interaction, ergonomics and overall functionality. In this home, a combination of charcoal high-gloss lacquer was contrasted with a grey washed oak veneer, offering depth and emotion. Oyster Caesarstone was combined with flamed granite, adding a textured feel to the space.

With a 180°-view of the city, this home boasts bold and striking architectural design.

doors allow for the kitchen and dining room to overflow onto the lanai and bar, making entertaining effortless," adds Werner.

On a softer note, when it came to the decor and furniture, M Square Lifestyle Design strategically linked spaces through the use of various natural materials.

Splashes of colour were used in the living room and bedrooms against the overall charcoal colour scheme used in the house to create interest points, as well as reference to the rusted metal cladding.

This home is indeed a visual delight, with textures, shades of colours and interesting materials used to



M SQUARE LIFESTYLE DESIGN
011 789 5242

According to Phia van der Meulen, head of M Square Lifestyle Design, the interior of this home was inspired by the experience of witnessing this untouched natural site coming to life through the concept of a bush lodge. M Square Lifestyle Design was responsible for the interior design of this home and strategically linked the areas through the use of various natural materials in the interior spaces. The design exposes the truth of the materials by using them in their purest form such as incorporating in situ concrete, quartzite cladding and rusted mild steel in the design.

M SQUARE LIFESTYLE NECESSITIES
011 447 0807

M Square Lifestyle Necessities collaborated with M Square Lifestyle Design and Nico van der Meulen Architects to create an impressive interior space by supplying the lights, furniture and accessories featured in the home. B&B Italia, Molteni & C, I&I, Tom Dixon, and Zero Lighting are some of the luxury brands that were chosen to further enhance the interior design. Splashes of orange were used in the living room, making reference to the orange seen in the rusted metal cladding. The overall charcoal colour range used in this house complements the shades of grey found in the off-shutter concrete walls.

M SQUARE LIFESTYLE NECESSITIES
011 447 0807

M Square Lifestyle Necessities enhanced the interior space of the bedrooms by using its top of the range supply of imported furniture. Molteni & C Gliss cupboards systems, as well as the mirror shoeboxes by Perro were fitted into the en suite bedrooms. These pieces blend exceptionally well with the architecture and interior design of the home, which consists predominately of natural materials and earthy colours.



Q1 ALUMINIUM & GLASS 079 512 0243

ABOVE: Q1 Aluminium & Glass specialises in installation of aluminium windows and doors. Striving to give its clients a great product, Q1 Aluminium & Glass offers efficient services in supplying excellent quality that will complement the design of a home, as well as clearly communicating productions and installation dates. In this home, Q1 Aluminium & Glass installed the aluminium windows and doors, as well as provided the stacking frameless glazing doors.

enhance its natural positioning – the home owners are sure to be inspired by their living space on a daily bases.

CONTACT:

- blu_line – kitchen specialist
0860 548 464, info@blu-line.co.za, www.blu-line.co.za
- Conceptual Steel Engineering – turnkey steel engineering
0861 6 STEEL (78335)
- Investbo Construction – construction and development
082 736 4447, matthew@investbogroup.co.za, www.investbogroup.co.za
- Lafarge – concrete specialist
011 657 0000, www.lafarge.co.za
- M Square Lifestyle Design – interior design
011 789 5242
- M Square Lifestyle Necessities – furniture, lighting and accessories
011 447 0807, www.msquareonline.co.za
- Nico van der Meulen Architects – architect
011 789 5242, www.nicovdmeulen.com
- Q1 Aluminium & Glass – aluminium and glass specialist
079 512 0243, 082 380 3941
- Regardt van der Meulen – artist
082 786 1732, 082 878 1891, www.regardtvandermeulen.com
- Summer Place Spas and Baths – jetted spa baths
021 510 0565, 031 332 7678, www.summerplace.co.za
786 1732 / +2782 878 1891

