

# Arc Architects Pretoria has a good story to tell

“We are honoured to have been awarded the winner of the refurbishment category and Overall Merit award for innovation in engineering, for the University of Pretoria Mining Industry Study Centre,” says Anton de Jongh, MD of Arc Pretoria. “We’ve also been short-listed in the refurbishment category for Sanlam Life Insurance’s Norwich Place at 66 Grayston Drive and conceptually associated with Growthpoint Properties’ Tshedimosetso House development, which received an Overall Merit award of innovation in green design.”

The specific challenges associated with the UP Study Centre were that the centre needed to be erected on top of an existing concrete roof not designed to accommodate such a structure. This was accomplished by utilising 43m flat arches over the existing structure and partially suspending the centre. The storm water run-off around the centre was designed as a reed-bed filter system, with ponds that accommodate the fauna and flora that forms part of the botanical garden. The utilisation of photo-voltaic glass is deemed a South African first.

The award of Overall Innovative Excellence is indicative of the practice’s approach always to expand on convention within the parameters of client requirements and financial restraints. The practice is currently involved with projects nationally in South Africa, and expanding into Africa in the commercial and corporate office, retail, residential, leisure, mixed-use and medical fields.

## West Hills Mall, Aweija, Accra

With completion of the first phase of the largest regional mall in West Africa this year-end, West Hills Mall, many South African national tenants will be established in the Ghanaian retail landscape.

West Hills Mall will be primarily anchored by Shoprite and local nationals Palace. Major fashion retailers will include the likes of Edcon, Woolworths Holdings, the Foschini Group, Truworths, the Azadea Group, Mr Price, Lufian, and Woodin.

Many of the local banks will be represented, along with tech brands, communications providers, a forex bureau, beauticians, jewellery merchants and accessories stores. Entertainment consists of a five-cinema Silverbird complex overlooking a central square with locally established restaurants such as Sizzlers, Foods Inn, Basilissa and Barcelos.

“Having paid the school fees by physically experiencing the intricacies of introducing major retail abroad over the last three years, we believe that our efforts in Ghana have paved the way for our future endeavours there,” says Pierre van Driel, director at Arc Architects.



## Ecobank Ghana Limited head office building at Ridge, Accra

This development is the outcome of a successful response to an international competition that called for an ultra-modern head office complex with a banking facility for Ecobank Ghana Limited.

The overall objective was to produce a world-class facility that is contextually rooted and celebrates the spirit of Accra. Numerous challenges were overcome by embracing sustainable and economical building solutions that meet and exceed the needs and expectations of the end-user client. With an optimised response to solar orientation, balanced by an inside-out approach, the functional requirements as set out by the brief determined the size, site circulation, and building massing.

The development, with a 15% footprint on the 1,2ha site, is characterised by two building components mediated by a multi-volume entrance atrium. The tallest building of the two houses will be the office component and will be 13 storeys high, while the second building will house the banking hall component, complimented by other public functions, such as the canteen and auditorium. The development will average about 17 500m<sup>2</sup> of usable area, two basements and on-grade parking.

The development shall strive to embrace best practice in terms of green principles and shall embrace international office-space standards in its creation of an energy-efficient and high-performance building. It shall manifest as a powerful yet poetic and rhythmic addition to the Accra Skyline, embedded as a meaningful contribution to the built environment – one that shall remain timeless and contemporary.



Anton de Jongh, managing director



Pierre van Driel, director

LEFT Ecobank Ghana Limited Head Office Building at Ridge, Accra  
BELOW AND BOTTOM West Hills Mall, Aweija, Accra (internal and external representation)  
OPPOSITE, FROM TOP The University of Pretoria's Mining Industry Study Centre; Norwich Place at 66 Grayston in Sandton; Tshedimoseiso House, Hatfield, Pretoria



Mo Phala



Madi van Wyk



+27 (0)12 362 7350  
arcpta@arc.co.za  
www.arc.co.za