



ACG ARCHITECTS

The Official ACG ARCHITECTS Newsletter



FESTIVE GREETINGS

from

ACG ARCHITECTS

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF ARCHITECTURAL
EXCELLENCE

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End of Year reflections for new beginnings

Please note that our offices will be closed from the 15th December 2023 and will reopen on the 11th January 2024

DIRECTORS NOTE

As we approach the end of another year, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on what a challenging year 2023 has been, not only as a company in the built environment but the country as a whole and the world at large. Two words come to mind when I think about this year and they are strength and resilience. As leaders, we have to be strong and adaptable to changes in circumstances and this calls for the ability to change adversity into strength. Being resilient in the workplace has meant recovering from challenges, reflecting on them and cultivating a growth mindset, having a positive driving force and a sense of purpose. The philosopher Nietzsche said - he who has a why can bear almost any how.

As Architects, we are not only responsible for building design but shaping the landscape of our country. Our work has an impact on communities, the lives of people, and the environment. It demands innovation, sustainability, and an understanding of the needs of our clients and society. Despite the challenges this year, we celebrate our successes and the meaningful relationships we have built with our clients and other professionals in the industry. Collaboration is key and there is so much benefit in this.

We are excited about being selected as part of Property Points Enterprise Development Programme and cannot wait for 2024 and the growth and challenges that it will bring.

Our vision for ACG is to be an ISO:9001 certified women lead practice taking the business forward through the legacy of our founding directors, Hassan Asmal and Malcolm Campbell who have built the business successfully over the last 30 years. We celebrate them and their contribution to ACG and the industry. We look forward to starting 2024 with renewed energy, strength and resilience once again and rising to what awaits us.

A message to our valued clients

Looking back at 2023 on our achievements and successes, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for your continued support.

To our staff

We celebrate you and your unwavering commitment and hard work over the year. We have watched the growth within the space and look forward to what 2024 will bring for all of us. Let's walk this journey together sharing one vision.

One last thing! Wasn't it absolutely incredible how we, as a country, stood together and supported the Boks? Everyone I've spoken to had experienced so many emotions at the same time. Even now, just writing about it gives me goosebumps. It once again shows the strength of a team working together towards a common goal and the resilience shown, even when the Boks had the odds stacked against them.

We wish you a safe and restful festive season and a happy new year

Shameez Mohamed & Itham Gabier



FEATURE ARTICLE

“OUR INTERNSHIP JOURNEY”

Over the past 5 months, we had the privilege of immersing ourselves in the dynamic world of architecture, gaining invaluable insights and honing a plethora of skills that have significantly enriched our professional repertoire.

From day one, we were exposed to a myriad of projects such as housing. Each presenting unique challenges and opportunities for growth. One of the standout aspects of our internship was the emphasis on cultivating a comprehensive skill set. Moreover, our time at ACG Architects & Development Planners, provided us with a deep understanding of sustainable design principles, an increasingly critical facet of the architectural landscape. The collaborative nature of the firm fostered effective communication and teamwork, teaching us the importance of seamless coordination among diverse professionals. We actively participated in client meetings, honing our ability to translate complex



Doneline Fortuin, Jaydee Meyering & Thaakiya Farat

architectural concepts into accessible language for a non-specialist audience.

In retrospect, our internship at ACG Architects & Development Planners, has been a transformative chapter in our professional journey. The exposure to real-world projects, coupled with the nurturing guidance of seasoned mentors, has not only sharpened our technical skills but also installed in our profound appreciation for the role of architecture in shaping our built environment.

We are excited to bring these newfound skills and experiences into our future endeavours, carrying forward the lessons learned and the passion for creating spaces that inspire and endure.

Thank You once again for this incredible opportunity.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF ARCHITECTURAL EXCELLENCE

ACG Architects reached its 30th anniversary, and commemorated this milestone with a delightful staff lunch – a tradition that never fails to be a feast!

ACG's 30th birthday signifies a significant achievement, symbolizing three decades of progress, ingenuity, and triumph. This moment allows for introspection into the company's trajectory, accomplishments, and the individuals pivotal to its prosperity.



A 30th anniversary is a juncture to honor the past, embrace the present, and anticipate the future. It serves as an occasion for appreciation, contemplation, and enthusiasm as ACG Architects persists on its path of success and expansion. ACG has been honoured to have had many well known Architects contributing to its success and achievements over the 30years and most noteworthy projects such as: Khayelitsha District Hospital, Hartleyvale stadium, CTICC, Forest Village Affordable housing amongst others and its contribution to sustainable design which started with its founding member Hassan Asmal who had contributed to the founding of the GBCSA and culminated in the Shared services office building, a 5 star green rated building which was the first rated public facility in the western cape.

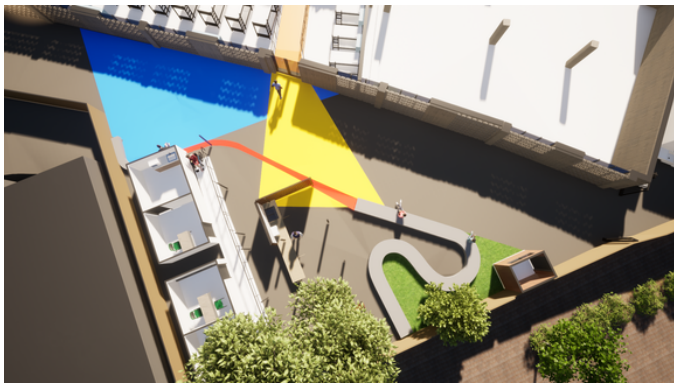
We recognise the valuable contributions made as well as the leadership over the companies lifetime for ACG's numerous AWARD WINNING contributions to the built environment.



**ACG
ARCHITECTURE
PROJECTS
2023**

EBENEZER DEPO SAFE SPACE

The City of Cape Town’s Community Services and Health Directorate has assembled a team tasked with creating a secure space and shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness in Cape Town. ACG has been assigned the responsibility of designing the facility, ensuring that both the client and the user needs are integrated throughout the development process. The project entails establishing a sleeping area beneath The Helen Suzman Boulevard along Ebenezer Road. Prefabricated units will be implemented to house ablution and administration facilities, alongside external seating, and dining areas. The design’s primary goal is to offer a caring environment and foster a positively uplifting atmosphere. This project is planned to commence construction early in 2024 and is a Cape Town Mayoral project



3D views of the Ebenezer Safe Space



Elevations of the Ebenezer Depo Safe Space

ACUTE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL UNITS (APU)

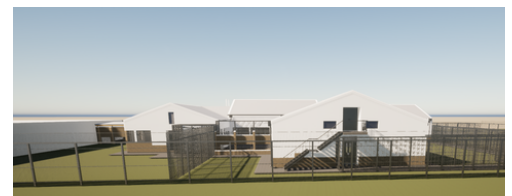
We are delighted to share with you the latest progress on the construction of two Acute Psychiatric Hospital Units (APU) in Eerste River and Khayelitsha, for Western Cape Government Department Of Health. With completion of the APUs scheduled for early 2025, we have now reached the midway point in construction, and pleased to report that both sites are progressing smoothly and that the buildings are taking shape, bringing us one step closer to transforming mental healthcare in these regions.



PROPOSED WEST ELEVATION



PROPOSED SOUTH ELEVATION



WYNBERG INTEGRATED RAPID TRANSPORT MYCITY BUS DEPOT

Situated opposite Kenilworth Racecourse and accessible via Wetton Road, this site encompasses a wetland and an existing informal dumping ground. These presented various design challenges.

The initiative unfolds in two phases, with the first scheduled for completion by 2025 and the second by 2050.

Phase one encompasses civil works, landscaping, and architectural interventions, featuring a security gatehouse, refuse room, driver rest facility, attenuation pond, kickabout area, and a more formal access road to the Bonnytown informal settlement at the rear of the site.

The security gatehouse, positioned at the entrance, is a steel portal frame structure clad in sheeting. Its butterfly canopy design facilitates bus entry, while a lower canopy accommodates regular vehicles. The refuse room, a simple face brick structure adorned with open brick patterning, prioritizes natural ventilation, and eliminates glazing elements. Face brick serves as a unifying material across all buildings on the site.

The driver's rest facility serves as a hub for bus drivers to collect schedules and buses, offering a relaxing space before their shifts commence. Constructed with a steel portal frame, face brick panels, and a concrete canopy, the facility embraces an industrial aesthetic. Raw construction materials are intentionally exposed, and the saw-tooth design of the roof captures an industrial vibe, allowing soft south light to permeate the spaces below. Construction is scheduled to commence in early 2025.





ACG LANDSCAPE PROJECTS 2023

ACG Landscape Architects experienced a bustling year in 2023, marked by the successful completion of two longstanding projects. The fulfillment of a project and the realization of our envisioned designs are always exhilarating moments. Additionally, a multitude of new projects have been added to our portfolio, further contributing to the dynamic nature of our work.

ASANDA VILLAGE WETLAND PARK

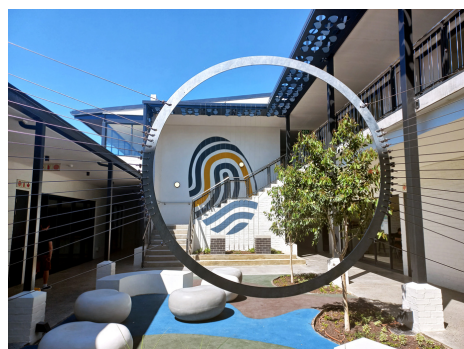
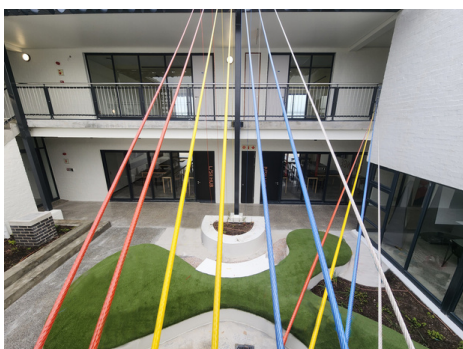
In October 2023, the construction of Asanda Wetland Park reached its completion. WCB Construction, the contractor responsible for the project, has encapsulated the final outcome in a video. Witnessing the local community's children actively using and delighting in the specially designed space is immensely gratifying. It serves as a tangible testament to the project's success, demonstrating that despite the usual challenges encountered in any undertaking, the efforts were truly worthwhile.



[Click on photo to watch video](#)

RALLIM HIGH SCHOOL, SUNINGDALE

ACG Landscape Architects partnered with Ruben Reddy Architects for the design and build of Rallim High School. The project involved crafting designs for three internal courtyards and their surrounding external spaces, encompassing outdoor classroom hubs, seating areas, and general planting. In each courtyard, we incorporated tensile cabling to symbolize light refraction in the mathematics/science courtyard and featured a circular sun portal in the arts courtyard. These cables also serve as support for the growth of climbing plants. Externally, we designed pergolas with seating and outdoor classroom hubs extending seamlessly from the classrooms.





END OF YEAR REFLECTION FOR RENEWED BEGINNINGS

As the calendar turns its final pages, the end of the year invites us to engage in a profound and introspective practice—reflecting on the journey we've travelled over the past 12 months.

This annual ritual provides a valuable opportunity to pause, take stock of our experiences, and set the stage for a renewed beginning.

We will explore the significance of end-of-year reflecting and how this annual practice can pave the way for personal and professional growth.

1. Celebrating Achievements:

One of the key aspects of end-of-year reflecting involves celebrating achievements, both big and small. Take a moment to acknowledge the goals you've accomplished, the milestones you've reached, and the challenges you've overcome. This positive reinforcement not only boosts self-esteem but also instills a sense of gratitude for the journey so far.



2. Learning from Challenges:

Reflecting on the challenges faced throughout the year is equally important. Rather than viewing setbacks as failures, consider them as opportunities for growth. What have you learned from the obstacles encountered? How have these challenges shaped your resilience and problem-solving skills? By extracting lessons from adversity, you transform setbacks into stepping stones for future success.

3. Setting New Goals:

As you bid farewell to the current year, it's the perfect time to set new goals for the upcoming one. Reflect on your passions, values, and aspirations, and align your objectives accordingly. Whether personal or professional, well-defined goals provide direction and purpose, propelling you forward with a renewed sense of motivation.



4. Cultivating Gratitude:

Practicing gratitude is a powerful component of end-of-year reflection. Consider the people, experiences, and opportunities that have enriched your life. Expressing gratitude fosters a positive mindset and reinforces the

interconnectedness of our journeys. Consider keeping a gratitude journal to document moments of appreciation, creating a tangible reminder of the richness in your life.

5. Assessing Personal Growth:

Reflecting on personal growth is an integral part of the end-of-year process. How have you evolved as an individual?



What new skills have you acquired? Evaluate the areas where you've expanded your knowledge, honed your talents, or developed a deeper understanding of yourself. This assessment lays the foundation for continuous self-improvement.

6. Nurturing Relationships:

Consider the relationships that have played a significant role in your life during the year. Reflect on the connections that have thrived and those that may require attention. Investing time and energy into nurturing meaningful relationships contributes to a support system that can sustain you through life's highs and lows.

In conclusion, end-of-year reflecting is a transformative practice that invites us to be intentional about our personal and professional growth. By celebrating achievements, learning from challenges, setting new goals, cultivating gratitude, assessing personal growth, and nurturing relationships, we pave the way for a renewed beginning. As we embark on a new year, let reflection be the compass that guides us toward a future filled with purpose, resilience, and continuous evolution.

ACG HEALTH YEAR END REFLECTIONS

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