# Architect and Builder



#### Architect



COVER: 1 PARK LANE | PHOTO BY INFRASTRUCTUREPHOTOS

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The interior had to reflect creativity, encourage collaboration, and promote knowledge sharing between different divisions.



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he September issue is always a highlight of the year as this is when we focus on the award winning projects announced at the SAPOA Convention. Many are buildings we have featured over the last year and are obviously outstanding developments, but there are always some surprise winners that I have not encountered, which keeps things interesting.

I am sure, like many, there are times when I've found this year a 'just a little' gloomy and concerning. The industry is facing the most challenging time I can recall and I hear stories of job losses and business closures on a weekly basis from my clients. I was glad to read this issue's opinion piece by Patrick McInerney, Director of Co-Arc Architects, who balances what he felt was a pretty depressing SAPOA Conference with positive thoughts on the industry – giving me hope that we an overcome our challenges. A positive sign was that this year's SAPOA feature was enthusiastically received and better supported than the previous five years we have published it.

More so now than ever it's important that firms work with me to ensure their projects are receiving maximum exposure. I like to think I'm aware of 90% of the important commercial projects under construction but there will always be some that I miss. In order to make sure that's not the case, let me know what you are working on, even if you're not sure I will be interested. I am also trying to give smaller projects an opportunity to receive some exposure by including them in the News Watch section. I don't want them to miss a chance to be published just because they are not large enough to carry an extensive feature article. In many cases there is also no cost involved, or if there is, I might ask you to participate on a team ad for a small fee. The magazine is read by many developers so having your work featured could lead to future project work.

**E&O:** In a feature article on the interiors of Oracle's new offices in the June/July issue the impression was given that Empowered Spaces was not solely responsible for the architecture. Empowered Spaces was in fact the sole architect on the project.



1 PARK LANE SANDTON

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#### **PROJECT FEATURE**

## 1 PARK LANE

ocated within the new Katherine Street Mixed-Use Precinct, 1 Park Lane is a 23,000m<sup>2</sup> GLA, P-Grade development within walking distance of Sandton City and the Gautrain Station. Developed by Alchemy Properties, the building is now the Head Office of Bidvest Bank as well as providing an additional 12,600m<sup>2</sup> of premium-grade office space for other tenants. Designed by Paragon Architects, the 20-floor Park Lane is set to become a prominent Sandton landmark alongside the iconic neighbouring Sasol and Discovery Head Offices.

#### Site and Access

Situated between Katherine Street and Wierda Road West the building is slightly removed from the very heart of Sandton, which allows for convenient access



1 PARK LANE Sandton

DEVELOPER Alchemy

PROJECT MANAGER CAPEX PROJECTS

ARCHITECT Paragon Architects

QUANTITY SURVEYOR

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER Sotiralis Consulting Engineers

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER MNS Consulting

MECHANICAL ENGINEER Adaptive Resource Engineers

WET SERVICES IZAZI Consulting Engineers

FIRE CONSULTANT TWCE

SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANT PJ Carew Consulting

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LIFT CONSULTANT Solutions for Elevating

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MAIN CONTRACTOR Trencon Construction

PHOTOGRAPHY Infrastructurephotos

From a tenancy perspective the design team wanted to take advantage of the building's height and maximise the panoramic views to the north and south over Sandton

1 PARK LANE





#### **5TH FLOOR**



#### GROUND FLOOR



options on all sides of the building. A new road, Park Lane, was also created with wide boulevards to provide pedestrian access to the building. There was an existing low rise office development on site that was demolished to make way for the new building, and as services were already in place the site itself did not present any challenges.

#### Brief

The brief to the design team was to create a building with office space that was highly flexible; accommodating tenants with varying space requirements. During the initial development process, 1 Park Lane's anchor tenant, Bidvest Bank, were intensively consulted on their requirements and, consequently, floor plates from reception to the 4th floor were developed to suit the bank's specific requirements. The building was designed without an underground basement





parking structure and therefore has nine floors of above-ground parking, with 11 floors of office space catering for 1,000 parking bays.

#### The Building

From a tenancy perspective the design team wanted to take advantage of the building's height and maximise the panoramic views to the north and south over Sandton. The views from the interior of the building to the north and south are completely expansive from floor to ceiling, with no breaks in the glazing, including spandrels and cills.

The rest of the envelope is clad in a mixture of A2 rated aluminium composite panel (ACP) and unitised double glazing in one system. The chosen system lent itself to being responsive to conditions on site and was required in terms of energy efficiency, HVAC design and ventilation. Using the latest technology to identify hot spots, a very specific design pattern was assigned to the ACP in order to meet requirements from a heating and cooling perspective as a certain percentage of the façade facing west and east was required to be solid to account for temperature regulation within the building. Without the temperature regulation integrated into the building's envelope, the HVAC system would not be able to cool the interior space down sufficiently. A unitised façade system was used to maximise the structural requirements of the design whilst containing costs.

The challenging aspect of this façade design was to source a glass that looked exactly the same in both single and double glazed versions, ensuring a completely seamless look to the façade throughout. Extensive research was carried out into the glass options available until





a suitable product was found. Planting has also been incorporated into the façade and the roof to disguise plant machinery that could not be integrated further into the building. The structural support columns and sheer walls are hidden by the building envelope where possible. The framing of the building is supported by the lift cores and the sheer walls are incorporated within the building.

#### Parking Levels

As there is no basement in this building, all nine parking levels are located above ground. The

parking is accessed off street level from Wierda Road West. One of the design challenges when working with the above ground parking brief was to seamlessly integrate the parking levels into the façade of the building.

The parking levels are naturally ventilated. This is achieved by cladding the parking levels with 30mm x 40mm aluminium slats, powder coated in varying shades to create a variation in the design. This slatted design allowed for the necessary levels of natural ventilation required by the fire department.





#### Lobby

Visitors enter the building from Park Lane into the common lobby and reception area that also accommodates a coffee shop. Each visitor is provided with a card that only allows access to the floor required, creating a further level of security within the building. The lobby incorporates greening in the form of planted walls, planters and large, free standing trees in order to bring the outside landscape into the building. The lush lobby experience is complemented by the outside streetscape landscaping on Park Avenue.

#### Terraces

Part of the design brief was to ensure that tenants had access to private terraces, and this is accommodated by providing both private and communal terraces on floors throughout the building, allowing for outside access without the need to leave the building. Larger work functions are most comfortably accommodated by opening up the floor space to the terrace.

Due to the fact that all rain water has to be attenuated from the building, each terrace is designed with approximately half a metre





of rain water catchment which fills up and is then released in a controlled manner into the stormwater system.

#### Sustainability

The building is in the process of applying for a 4 Star Green Star rating. Other than energy efficiency built into the building envelope, other sustainable elements include low-flow fittings installed in all bathrooms. Provision is also made for fuel efficient transport such as hybrid and electric vehicles. Cyclists are also catered for through the provision of bicycle storage and shower facilities. Recycling waste storage is encouraged through the inclusion of dedicated storage areas for the separation and collection of recyclable materials.

#### Conclusion

1 Park Lane is another development that adds to the longstanding relationship between Alchemy Properties and Paragon Architects, continuing the commitment to forward thinking commercial design and development.

