

May-July 2019
No. 89

landscape

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Social Event from 17h00:

Cost: **R160** per person
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ON THE COVER

SALI Awards of Excellence trophy winner:
Atlanticscapes for the Somerset Lakes
Clubhouse. The trophy was presented for
Best Use of Colour in the Landscape.

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CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

I am pleased to announce that Landscape SA magazine, first published in 2004 by The Eagle Publishing Company, has been taken over by Estates in Africa (Pty) Ltd, based in Illovo, Sandton. It has been absorbed into a solid stable of niche market publications.

A number of synergies between Landscape SA and several magazines published under Estates in Africa (EIA), a division of Now Media, specialising in the contract publishing of estate magazines, are evident. This is a full service operation which runs the production, sales, editorial and printing of estate-specific publications. A huge plus is the fact that the printing works are situated close by, meaning that this aspect of magazine publishing does not have to be outsourced to external printers.

The titles falling under EIA offer estate residents a communication format for their specific communities, while increasing the profile of the estate. Some of the estates for which EIA produces publications include Dainfern Valley, Waterfall, Kyalami, Silver Lakes, Blue Valley, Fourways Gardens, Boardwalk Meander, Irene Farm Village, Cornwall Hill and Dainfern Precinct Living.

Landscape SA celebrates its 15th anniversary this year. If your company does too, please let me know so we can give coverage to this important milestone.

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The new sales manager is Martin Fourie, working with sales executive Frans Meyer.

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“Landscape SA celebrates its 15th anniversary this year”



Enjoy the read!

Karyn

Karyn Richards,
EDITOR



Classical Garden Ornaments

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BOKSBURG LAKE UPGRADE

The City of Ekurhuleni in Gauteng introduced a three phase project to upgrade and regenerate its CBD and simultaneously, the Boksburg Lake park, in order to revitalise this historic green lung.

Text and photos by Karyn Richards

PROJECT TEAM

Client:

City of Ekurhuleni

Landscape Architects:

Outer Space Planning and Design

Landscape Contractor:

Leafy Space



The first two phases comprised the following:

- Major earthworks to enlarge the park's utility surface by removing an ad hoc road that had been allowed to encroach on its area;
- Upgrading of the security infrastructure with perimeter fencing and controlled access points;
- The development of a network of brick-paved walkways to steer pedestrian traffic; and
- The construction of a 500 seater multi-purpose amphitheatre.

The final phase entailed the creation of recreational nodes in each of the park's quadrants, introducing a climbing wall, play park, outdoor gym, kick-about soccer and netball field, braai area and overall greening of the enlarged nine hectare zone. Plans are underway to construct ablution facilities.



Signage in red brick and sandstone reflects the heritage of Boksburg



An old bridge which was renovated



The climbing wall in the play area has walls of different heights and cut-out pieces to create a sense of excitement and intrigue



New clay brick walkway and seating around the lake



Kick-about soccer and basketball area



Upgraded gazebo with new seating

to incorporate environmentally sound ecological principles. Reed beds will be introduced to filter and clean the lake's water as part of a large-scale water purification exercise to restore its aquatic health.

Other aspects of Leafy Space's work included paving in the area of the climbing wall and the construction of brick seating walls. They employed 50% local labour from the surrounding community, as well as 10-15 of their own employees.

They also installed a new irrigation system and soft landscaping comprising low water use indigenous highveld planting. Acacia and Wild Olive trees were used throughout.

During a walk around the lake, the following points were made:

- Three new water features are still to be constructed as part of the upgrade;
- An old bridge was renovated and new fencing was installed around the park;
- An existing avenue of *Phoenix canariensis* palms was retained;
- The large trunk of a poplar tree was left in place where it fell, and has been re-purposed as an unusual sculpture;
- The climbing wall in the play area has higher and lower sections, as well as circular and square cut-out pieces to create a sense of excitement and intrigue for younger children;
- The installation of solar lights throughout the park will ensure low cost visibility as a security feature.

The last phase of the overall upgrade commenced some years ago with the renovation of the boathouse on the western side of the lake.

BRIEF

Landscape architect Alan Cooper of Outer Space Planning and Design says his brief was to create a vibrant, recreational community space that could spearhead urban renewal in an area that had become very degraded. Says Cooper: "The Boksburg Lake park, dating back to 1889 when it was the social heart of the then burgeoning mining town, had become a dilapidated, vandalised and disused urban headache, frequented mainly by vagrants and cars taking a traffic short cut. Our challenge was therefore to restore the area to its former glory so that its potential a recreational facility for the community could be realised."

Cooper adds that the design team believed it was important to recognise both the park and the city's rich Highveld vernacular architectural legacy. "We therefore respected the red clay brick and sandstone elements that are such a distinctive feature of Boksburg's beautiful heritage buildings by incorporating similar materials for walkway paving and walls. These materials are robust, weather well and can withstand the wear and tear of high usage." A key factor of Cooper's design approach was

INSTALLATION

Taona Mutsvangwa and Masasa Digama of Leafy Space Landscapers were responsible for the installation of hard and soft landscaping, as well as maintenance. The dominant feature is the 3km walkway around the lake and the installation of new play equipment.

Their main challenges were the broad scope of the upgrade as well as the development of the park in phases. To begin with, the old pathway had to be removed and the new one laid down according to specification. The creation of base layers used G5 and river sand, and the final layer uses clay brick pavers which are hard wearing, low maintenance and retain a "vibrant aesthetic," according to Cooper. The face bricks chosen blend well with the paver range and do not need to be painted or plastered, saving on costs relating to upkeep. Copper says clay brick was chosen for its longevity, ability to age well, warmth and red face brick colour. The red clay brick mixed with sandstone both reflect the heritage of Boksburg, where many of the buildings were originally constructed using these materials.

GILFILLAN PARK, JEPPESTOWN

Gilfillan Park in Johannesburg, previously known as Jeppe Park, was upgraded and re-designed in conjunction with local residents through a process of public participation in order to establish the community's needs.

PROJECT TEAM

Client: Johannesburg
Development Agency (JDA)
**Principal Agent/Civil and Structural
Engineers:**
Vitruvius Consulting Engineers
Landscape Architects: kwpCREATE
Main Contractor:
DKPB Construction



*Aerial overview
of the park*

In this overcrowded, rough and very busy part of the city precinct, little attention was given to the needs of pedestrians, and the park was initially a smallish piece of open land, well used by residents living around it, mothers playing with their children, toddlers from a nearby day care centre and waiting commuters. It was however ill equipped for a large number of users and did not have even basic recreational facilities, consisting only of some lawned areas, a few trees (mostly exotic) and a strip of paving around the edges. The park is nestled between office and apartment blocks and surrounded by densely trafficked streets.

CLIENT'S BRIEF AND OBJECTIVES

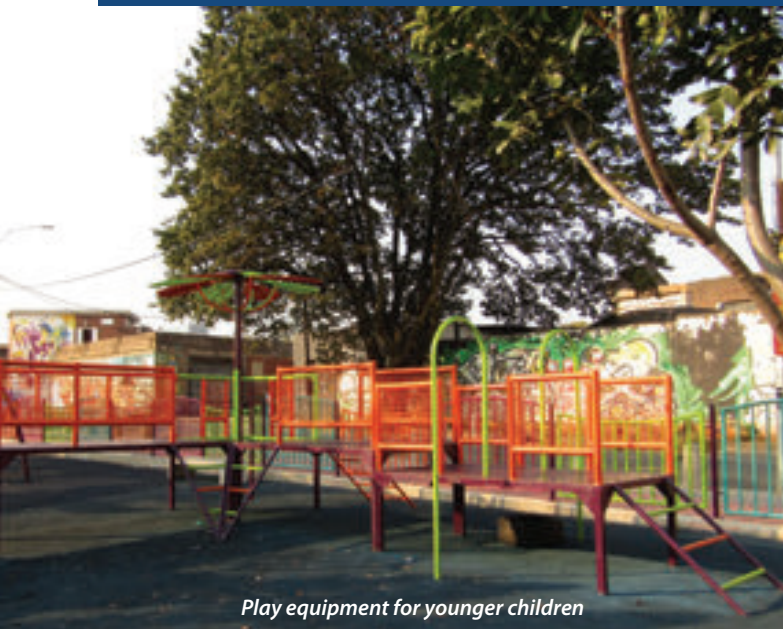
The brief was to transform the space into a functional park without restricting its current uses, and to provide play areas for children of all age groups. A multi-purpose sports field with soccer and hockey nets formed part of the concept, as did the provision of seats for mothers to look after their children and for spectators to watch the

sports activities.

Further objectives identified were:

- Seating with game boards cast into them to provide passive recreation;
- A gathering area for events and religious gatherings by the local churches and hostel;
- Robust skate boarding facilities;
- Safe ablution facilities (still to come); and
- A recycling corner (still to come).

Landscape architects kwpCREATE were involved from the start in order to ensure an integrated overall design and proper project management for inception, concept, viability, design development, documentation, procurement, construction and close-out. This ensured a cohesive design. The concept design was developed by Prof. Piet Vosloo and taken further to



Play equipment for younger children



Solar lights for safety and activity. The 15 masts are angled towards the walkways.

Interesting shapes and colours

time being resistant to vandalism,” says Louw.

DESIGN ASPECTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

KwpCREATE took the following into account for the design:

- The space where small children could play was surrounded by a fence to protect them and prevent them from leaving the play area;
- The park is surrounded by bollards to prevent cars from driving onto the sidewalks;
- Outdoor gym equipment was required by the client to complement the jogging track around the perimeter of the park. The idea of outdoor exercise areas to

installation stage by Charl Louw.

CHALLENGES

The challenge was to enhance the park’s existing uses while making it safer, accessible and more aesthetic; functionality was required without removing its sense of place. As part of an urban design study for the Johannesburg Eastern Gateway in which kwpCREATE is also involved, a comprehensive urban analysis of the surrounding area was undertaken to assist in the development of the brief.

“It was also a challenge to fit in a seven-a-side soccer field and to shape the surrounding earthworks into a spectators’ lawn area. In addition, netball nets were to be part of the play area for older children and teenagers. Play equipment needed to conform to the safety standards of Johannesburg City Parks, while at the same

encourage more physical activity and a healthier lifestyle is on the increase in South African parks, especially in the inner city;

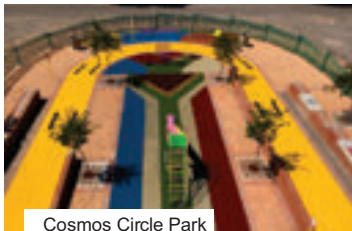
- Materials used were brick, cement, steel and coloured rubberised safety surfaces under the play areas;
- Due to the hardy and robust materials and planting used, maintenance is only required for mowing the lawn. Garbage is removed weekly and an all-day security guard is on duty;
- Previous public views of the park were studied and incorporated where possible, and due public participation was followed and acknowledged;
- Seating was cast with games including chess, mancala and morabaraba;
- An amphitheatre with seating and a small stage was constructed for events and religious gatherings. The seating has steel edges, and there are steel rails for skate boarders to avoid damage to paving, handrails and seating edges;



Colourful fencing uplifts the area. The large existing Oak tree was retained for shade.



Future Africa Campus



Cosmos Circle Park



Katjepiering Park



Leeubekkie Park



Noordgesig Plaza & Colin Drive Intersection

Tswellepele Plants cc was established in 1991, and over the years has expanded its capacity in its field as plantbroker / exporter and consulting landscaper to include other areas in landscaping design, such as fencing, paving, construction and irrigation, amongst other products and services on a large scale.

LANDSCAPING - CONSTRUCTION - GENERAL BUILDING PAVING - FENCING - SUPPLY TREES AND PLANTS

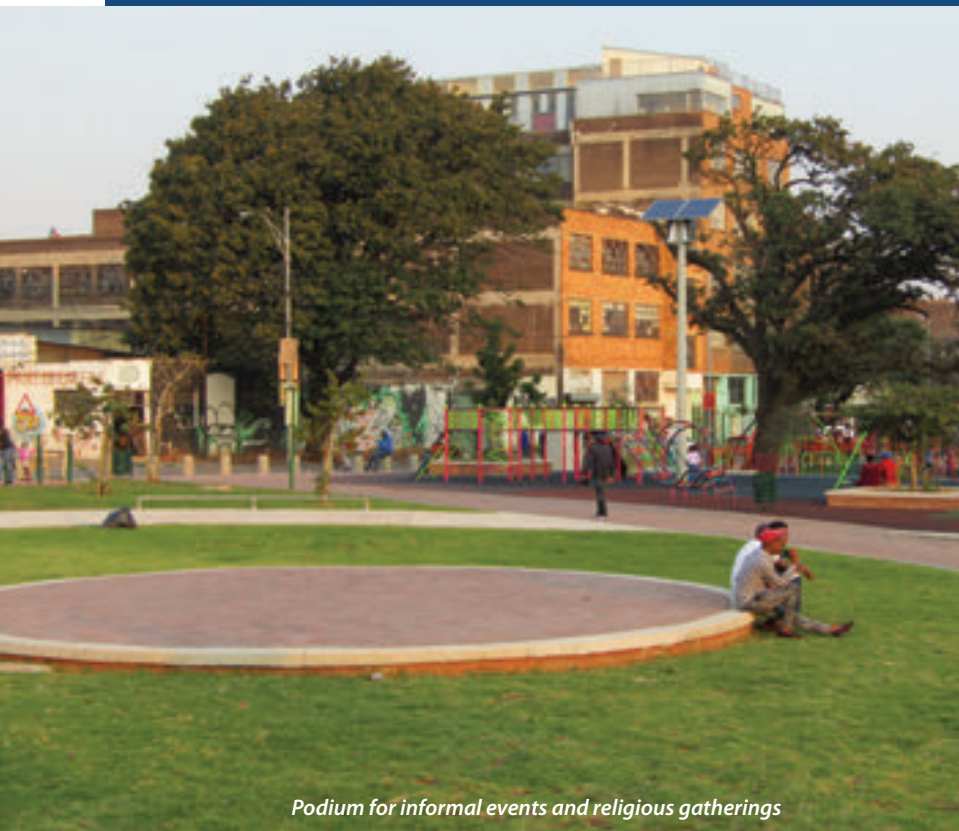
Tswellepele Plants cc excelled at this years SALI Awards of Excellence bringing home **5 Gold Awards** in Specialised Landscape Construction, A Double Gold Award in Environmental Landscaping Work and a **Silver and 3 Gold Awards** in Landscape Construction with Design by Others. Their work was praised by the National Judge's with particular reference to Future Africa Campus where it was said that

"This is a ground-breaking project in terms of plant selection, water conservation, sustainability and suitability of material to SA! The quality of the construction is exceptional and innovation in the approach can be commended."

Regarding the Parks, it was said that these were displays of project excellence and a perfect example of using small spaces and putting them to good use. Brilliant installations, revamping of old equipment, use of colour and steel and concrete work done to the highest standards. Meticulously installed paving and construction work with rubber surfacing.



Tswellapele Plants CC t/a Plantwise | jenneth@plantwise.co.za | www.plantwise.co.za



Podium for informal events and religious gatherings

- A few large existing trees were retained where possible for their much needed shade, and more indigenous trees were planted for the same reason. Tree sizes were 400 litres, with stems of 80mm to help combat vandalism;
- Robust water-wise, indigenous planting and a lawn area were other aspects added in order to soften the harsh environment;
- The slightly sloping site lent itself well to the creation of different levels, adding interest to the design;
- There is deliberately no fencing around the park, allowing for easier entry and exit. This point was strongly promoted by kwpCREATE and endorsed by Joburg City Parks;
- 15 solar lights on eight metre poles have been installed.

INSTALLATION

Dubree Komane of DKPB Construction was appointed as the main contractor for the project, and his scope of work was the following:

- Bulk earthworks for the formation of the platforms on site;
- Landscaping, including tree planting;
- Installation of the irrigation line, grass, street furniture, lighting, bollards and outdoor gym equipment;
- Construction of the two drinking fountains,



The running track

the concrete sports field and the running track.

Microzone Trading was responsible for the manufacturing and installation of the play equipment, colourful fencing and skate rails along the running track. Zak Prinsloo comments that as the neighbourhood is perceived to be unsafe, they aimed to spend as little time as possible on site to ensure the safety of their staff and assets. He adds that each day's work was planned and all items and materials were transported and installed on the same day to avoid theft and damages. "Fortunately the installation went well and there were no problems or incidents during our time on site," he says.

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

The surrounding built environment includes a historical church, apartments, office blocks, a hostel, a day care centre and a tavern. The park caters for these by providing an outside living space and a means for inner city dwellers to interact with a more natural environment. The South African culture of enjoying outdoor spaces with friends and family in a social setting was provided for by the many uses and facilities catered for in Kwp's design. The park encourages social interaction and inclusivity by offering more appropriate functionality for its users, and for those who would not previously have made use of it.

Views to the historic church and brightly coloured graffiti painted on buildings around the park were retained.

Louw says the park forms a harmonious recreational space and a much needed haven in an otherwise harsh city scape. It is the first of a network of parks in the vicinity to be upgraded. He is glad to see it being used extensively and that vandalism has decreased. The community is not only enriched by the park itself, but also through socio-economic involvement in its construction, as well as the training provided for small enterprises. Most importantly, it's also very satisfying to see that the community is enjoying it. The park was designed to be flexible so as to cater for current and future users," he concludes.

Information supplied by Charl Louw of kwpCreate. Photos by Almer Du Pisanie of kwpCreate and Karyn Richards.



Relaxing on the concrete bench beside the netball courts



Outdoor gym equipment has been placed at various intervals along the running track



Concrete soccer and hockey pitch





University of Mpumalanga **CENTRAL GARDENS**

The University of Mpumalanga is situated in Mbombela (formerly Nelspruit). It was established in 2014 and its campus was recently upgraded. A key feature of the project is the design of open spaces, courtyards and links between faculty buildings and residences, as well as an integrated SUDS system (sustainable urban drainage system).

PROJECT TEAM

Client: University of Mpumalanga

Landscape Architects:

Insite Landscape Architects

Landscape Contractor: Endemic Developments

Architects: GAPP Architects and Urban
Designers

Urban Design: UMP PlanningLudwig
Hansen Architects & Urban Designers

Environmental Consultant:

Nemai

*Viewing deck on the west of the
central staircase, and SUDS*



Bird's eye view of the central staircase and ramp

Insite Landscape Architects Abel Mosweu says that the design for the central gardens seeks to provide, add to and complement the urban design layout of UMP and its growing, contemporary campus. As a starting point, the site's landscape infrastructure components required to support the building programme development on the lower campus, had to be confirmed. Pedestrian linkages and the location of gathering spaces and pedestrian pathways had to be co-ordinated.

In addition, incorporation of the SUDS approach formed an important aspect of the design concept and sought to deal with stormwater control before excess stormwater moves into standard stormwater control systems such as pipes. The SUDS system dovetails and is combined with a conventional stormwater system, slowing and holding back the water that runs off the site. This allows natural processes to break down pollutants, and for opportunity to regenerate groundwater. The SUDS and conventional designs integrate with each other and meet statutory requirements. Both systems operate properly as they are designed for different storm and run-off scenarios.

PROJECT ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

Project issues identified were the following:

- The steep terrain of the site made it difficult for disabled people to navigate the campus;
- The hot and humid climate of Mbombela acts as a deterrent for enjoying outdoor spaces;
- The initial, conventional approach that dealt with stormwater underground was sized only

for small downpours.

As solutions to the above issues, the landscape design included the following functional characteristics:

- Increased mobility for disabled people in the form of ramps;
- The inclusion of shade trees and pergolas as crucial elements in the design of spaces to deal with climatic conditions;
- The SUDS approach, dealing naturally with stormwater control on site. It was co-ordinated with the civil engineers (Delta BEC and UMP Engineering), and integrated with the landscape design of the university's central gardens. Stormwater is attenuated by means of roadside planting beds that filtrate and direct it into planters on the east and west sides of the main staircase, eventually draining excess water into the conventional stormwater drains.

DESIGN SPECIFICS

Mosweu explains that Insite Landscape Architects worked with the campus' urban design framework as a basis and starting point. The landscape design for the central gardens integrates and connects the open spaces between newly built structures, namely the Hospitality and Tourism building, the Academic Teaching building block, the (Student Registration and Admin building), and the Wellness and Conference building.

The landscape is connected through various paved walkways, the most prominent of which is the central staircase and ramp connection between the Academic Teaching building block and the Administration building. The grand staircase and ramp create a modification

of a typical space between the existing irrigation ponds, and are framed by planting beds on the eastern and western sides.

Balustrades and fences were proposed as safety measures around the existing ponds, and their appearance is softened by peripheral walkways and planting. The design provides an interface for seating in the form cantilevering timber pods along the water's edge.

The aesthetic design of the landscape supports the urban design of the campus. Accordingly, the landscape design promotes usage of the open spaces such as treed streetscapes in traffic and circulation areas, framing of views and vistas, as well as open lawn areas where gatherings can take place.

INSTALLATION

Jacques Hugo of Endemic Developments was responsible for both the soft planting and hard landscape installation. He made the following points about his work:

- Access to the site was problematic as the campus building is directly on street level;
- Existing civil and electrical services needed to be taken into account;
- The existing dam is a central feature of the site and an advantage for irrigation as it is fed by canal water;
- The dam gave rise to the creation of viewing points, walkways and balustrades;
- The landscaping links the buildings to each other and connects the spaces in between;
- Whilst working on site, challenges arose due to strikes and student protests;
- Planting is mainly indigenous and water wise,



SUDS planter



View of the dam from the timber deck



Central staircase and ramp with Building 6 in the background

with *Eckebergia* species used as street trees and in parking areas;

- Wetland species were used for the SUDS system;
- There were several protected species on site and these were retained wherever possible. An environmental control officer is permanently on site;
- Hugo's scope of work for the hard landscaping comprised the installation of an automatic irrigation system, concrete walkways, ramps, bollard lights, viewing decks along the water's edge, stairs and gabions using welded mesh custom baskets filled with dump rock. In the case of the viewing decks, he worked around existing *Roystonea regia* palms, the presence of which provided an instant effect and were incorporated into Insite's design;
- Groundwork comprised earthworks, soil preparation and base layers for the paving;
- Embankment stabilisation was undertaken using geojute; and
- Endemic Developments has a one year maintenance contract.

COMMENTS

Mosweu says the project was meaningful for him in that it provided much needed infrastructure on the campus, giving the students attractive and usable spaces. "The site has also now become a landmark for the city," he says.

Hugo says he enjoyed working on this "high quality, iconic project."

Text compilation by Karyn Richards. Photos supplied by Insite Landscape Architects.



SUDS gabion planter

SOLAR POWER? HERE'S YOUR GUIDE



Solar PV power generation is clearly by far the most financially sound solution for own power generation. It adds value to your home or business.

You can immunise your home and business from grid power loss in various ways, ranging from uninterruptible power supplies (UPSs), petrol/diesel generators, and to solar photovoltaic (PV) power generation.

Technology	Lifetime	ROI	Warranty
UPS	2 to 5 years	< 0%	1 to 2 years
Fuel Generator	5 to 10 years	< 0%	1 to 2 years
Solar PV power	10 to 25 years	300 - 950%	2 to 25 years

YOUR STEP-BY STEP GUIDE:

1) Find a suitable installer:

By using only PVGreenCard accredited installers, not only do you ensure proper skill levels, but you also obtain recourse: in the event that an installation or system design is found to be sub-standard or faulty, the installer stands to lose his/her accreditation if the client appeals, and SAPVIA (South African Photovoltaic Installer's Association) finds in favour of the client.

Look out for the PVGreenCard logo!

2) Choose the appropriate system for your application:

There are basically only two types of solar PV systems to choose from:

- Grid-Tied
- Off-Grid

Grid-tied systems are tied to a public or private electricity grid. Off-grid systems are stand-alone, and are not connected to any incoming electricity grid – they create their own electricity "island".

Both these types of systems can be configured in a multitude of different configurations. Both types use solar PV panels to generate direct current (DC), whereas the majority of home appliances require alternating current (AC). Inverters are used to convert the DC to AC, and the type of inverter used, will determine if any, and how many backup batteries can be added, and whether or not standby generators are supported. The number of backup batteries determine the level of independence from the grid (e.g. during load shedding, power failures, or at night).

There is currently no off-the-shelf, single brand, turnkey solution available for a complete system. Systems are designed according to the chosen components.

3) Ensure accurate consumption profile measurement:

Copies of monthly electricity bills are simply not good enough for proper solar PV system design. You need measurements for at least 1 full week, taken at most 15 minutes apart. Your accredited installer should do this as part of their standard service offering.

4) Ensure compliance with at least the following:

- NRS 097-2-1: These are utility interface requirements that pertain primarily to the characteristics of the inverters.
- NRS-097-2-3: These are connection criteria that pertain primarily to the size of the solar PV generator with respect to the notified maximum demand (NMD), the nature of the electrical supply (e.g. dedicated vs. shared, single vs. 3-phase), and the minimum breaker size between the point of supply (POS) and the point of control (POC)).
- SANS 10142 – Requirements for wiring of premises. This document currently does not contain a section dedicated to solar PV installations. In September 2018, the technical committee has submitted a draft for comment and acceptance, and it is expected to be promulgated through the course of 2019 or 2020. It will be enforced retroactively, and a certificate of compliance (COC) will be required for the DC and AC part of your solar PV system when selling your property.

5) Grid application for grid connection

Every grid-tied solar PV system in South Africa must be registered with the local authority, using a grid application form. The onus is on the property owner to submit this application, but your installer should be able to assist you with this. It requires at least the following:

- the PVGreenCard accreditation number of the installer,
- a Pr Eng or Pr Tech to sign off on the test report,
- detailed line diagrams of the installation,
- a COC for the PV system, and
- a 3rd party NRS compliance certificate for the inverter(s).

The grid application form must be submitted before you may connect to the grid, and you may only feed electricity into the grid after receiving approval of your application.

The feed-in tariff in Tshwane can range from 10c per kWh to approximately R1.57 /kWh (location dependent).



Solar PV power generation is a technically specialised endeavour, but you can rely on an accredited PVGreenCard installer to help you choose the most effective option for your needs.

Choose wisely, and you can get it right the first time, minimise waste, and contribute to the future of our planet.

TURN YOUR HOME INTO A SOLAR POWERHOUSE!



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FREE CONSUMPTION MEASUREMENT FREE QUOTATION

OPTION 1: SAVE MONEY! Reduce your electricity bill from day 1!
(maximise solar power consumption during the day)

	SOLAR PANELS	BATTERIES
3kW system from R61,650* incl. VAT (ROI: 820%, CO2 saved: 63t)	3.2kWp	0
3.6kW system from R70,670* incl. VAT (ROI 880%, CO2 saved: 76t)	3.8kWp	0
4.6kW system from R85,330* incl. VAT (ROI 945%, CO2 saved: 95t)	4.8kWp	0

OPTION 2: POWER INDEPENDENCE! Become independent from the electricity grid from day 1!

System with battery backup for 1 x load shedding event per day (or 4h †)

3.7kW system from R104,750** incl. VAT (ROI: 500%, CO2 saved: 63t)	3.2kWp	1 x 2.4kWh
4.6kW system from R145,440** incl. VAT (ROI: 605%, CO2 saved: 101t)	5.1kWp	2 x 2.4kWh

System with battery backup for 2 x load shedding events per day (or 8h †)

3.7kW system from R122,260** incl. VAT (ROI: 390%, CO2 saved: 63t)	3.2kWp	2 x 2.4kWh
4.6kW system from R168,410** incl. VAT (ROI: 490%, CO2 saved: 113t)	5.8kWp	3 x 2.4kWh

System with battery backup for 3 x load shedding events per day (or 12h †)

3.7kW system from R145,500** incl. VAT (ROI: 335%, CO2 saved: 69t)	3.5kWp	3 x 2.4kWh
4.6kW system from R194,450** incl. VAT (ROI: 415%, CO2 saved: 126t)	6.4kWp	4 x 2.4kWh

* Assuming that energy efficiency measures have already been implemented

** Including wiring of AC connection to existing DB, plus up to 2 geyser elements and geyser timers, plus up to 10 flow restrictors

† subject to controlled consumption by essential circuits

• The price estimates shown above assume ideal installation conditions and configurations.

• The kW ratings above are based on typical single phase supply. Different supplies have different limitations.

• 3.7kW maximum PV generator size allowed according to current regulations for a shared 60A single phase main breaker.

• 4.6kW maximum PV generator size allowed according to current regulations for a shared 80A single phase main breaker.

• 100 tons of CO2 is emitted by the complete combustion of approximately 35 tons of coal (equivalent to approximately 8x8m of land surface area conserved) – relating to approximately 2m² of land area conserved for every 1m² of solar PV panels installed.

Contact us for your free detailed electricity consumption measurement and quotation:

info@1greenplanet.net

www.1greenplanet.net

Chris: (082) 825 4637

Lajos: (082) 904 1185

2019

SALI AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



SALI Shield for Excellence in Landscaping, Overall Winner –
Bidvest Top Turf for Hertford Office Park Dam Area



Most Innovative and Original Use of Plant Material –
Garden Gate Landscaping for House van der Merwe



Best Novice Entry – Likhutsa Projects for Mpumalanga Traffic College



Best Use of Colour in the Landscape – Atlanticscapes for
Somerset Lakes Clubhouse



Best Water Wise Project – Peninsula Landscaping for
Steenberg Green

■ The 2019 SALI Awards of Excellence took place in Cape Town in June. Projects were eligible for Merit, Bronze, Silver, Gold and trophy awards but due to space constraints, only the trophy winners' images appear in this article. A Double Gold Award, meaning that a project received a gold for both its category of entry and water wise excellence, is indicated by WW after the project name.



SALI National Judge's Discretionary Award – Mary Vincent



Best Landscape Construction with In-House Design – Environmental Studios for House Marshall



Best Specialised Turf Construction - Golf Data for Leopard Creek



Best Specialised Landscape Construction – Greenacres Landscapes for Loftus Park



SALI National Chairperson's Discretionary Award – Leon Kluge



Best Environmental Landscape Work – Servest Landscaping for Simbithi Eco Estate



Best Landscape and Turf Maintenance – Life Landscapes for Phillip Morris

GOLD AWARDS

Category: Specialised Landscape Construction

Golf Data for Steyn City School Play Area
Tswellapele Plants for Future Africa
Green Earth Landscapes for Lifestyle Centre
Tswellapele Plants for Noordgesig Plaza and Colin Drive Intersection
Greenacres Landscapes for Lynwood Bridge
Trees South Africa for Mature English Oak Relocation
Tswellapele Plants for Cosmos Circle Park
Tswellapele Plants for Leeubekkie Park
Greenacres Landscapes for Loftus Park
Trees South Africa for Stellenbosch Historical Tree Rescue
Greenacres Landscapes for Club 2
Greenacres Landscapes for Fernwood
Tswellapele Plants for Katjiefiering Park
Trees South Africa for Mature Coral Tree Rescue
Trees South Africa for Tokara Swamp Cypress Rescue

Category :Landscape and Turf Maintenance

Servest Landscaping & Turf for St Stithians College
Life Landscapes for Menlyn Maine (WW)
Servest Landscaping & Turf for Stone Ridge Country Estate
Servest Landscaping & Turf for Olive Crescent Retirement Village (WW)
Bidvest Top Turf for Inanda Greens (WW)
Servest Landscaping & Turf for St Dunstan's College
Bidvest Top Turf for Telkom Park Centurion (WW)
Servest Landscaping and Turf for Centurion Country Estate
Bidvest Top Turf for Inanda Club Landscaping
Servest Landscaping & Turf for UFS Rugby Fields
Servest Landscaping and Turf for Woodlands Office Park (WW)
Life Landscapes for Phillip Morris (WW)
Servest Landscaping & Turf for Dainfern Valley Estates (WW)
Peninsula Landscaping for Steenberg Green (WW)
Servest Landscaping & Turf for Silverstar Casino
Servest Landscaping & Turf for Wesbank (WW)
Servest Landscaping & Turf for Hazeldean Office Park (WW)
Servest Landscaping & Turf for Department of Environmental Affairs

Category: Specialised Turf Construction

Turftech for Ashton International College

Golf Data for Leopard Creek (WW)
Turftech for Curro Building Blocks Gold (WW)
Turftech for Ligbrun Academy Construction (WW)
Servest Landscaping & Turf for Sol Plaatje Municipality, Skilpadsaal Renovations, De Beers & Galeshewe Stadium (WW)

Category: Environmental Landscape/Conservation Work

Countryside Horticulture for Ridgeside Coastal Forest Conservancy
Leitch Landscapes for Fairmont Zimbali Resort
Tswellapele Plants for Future Africa (WW)
Servest Landscaping & Turf for Simbithi Eco Estate (WW)

Category: Landscape Construction with Design by Others

FSG Property Services Landscaping Division for Apartments on William (WW)
Tswellapele Plants for Construction of Noordgesig Plaza and Colin Drive Intersection (WW)
Bidvest Top Turf for Hertford Office Park Dam Area (WW)
Amaloba Landscaping for University of Pretoria Jasmyn Ladies Hostel
Bidvest top Turf for Private Residence Bryanston
Atlanticscapes for Somerset Lakes Forest Swale (WW)
Life Landscapes for Shamwari Riverdene Phase 1
Greenacres Landscapes for The Blyde Riverwalk Estate
Green Earth Landscapes for Fernwood (WW)
Tswellapele Plants for Katjiefiering Park (WW)
Idube Landscaping for Cornubia Retail Park (WW)
Tswellapele Plants for Leeubekkie Park (WW)
Atlanticscapes for Somerset Lakes Clubhouse (WW)
Greenacres Landscapes for Lynnwood Bridge
Peninsula Landscaping for Steenberg Green (WW)
VIP Gardens for Ackermans Head Office

Landscape Construction with In-House Design

Bidvest Top Turf for Private Residence Ruimsig
Green Creations Landscaping for Thompsons Travel House
Garden Gate Landscaping for House van der Merwe (WW)
Garden Gate Landscaping for House Rosema
Environmental Studios for House Marshall (WW)
McWades Landscapes for House Potts (WW)
Alan Dawson Gardens for Garden Davis
GvH Landscapes for House de Bruin



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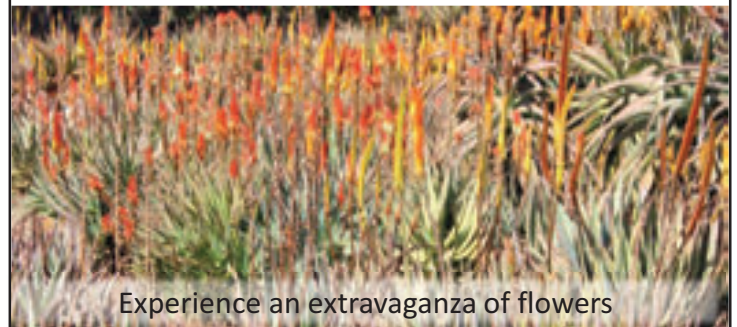
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NEW DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS FOR SALI

Corné Nothnagel has taken over from Amy Prinsloo as SALI Director of Operations, effective 1 July 2019.

Whilst in high school she developed a love for landscaping and after matriculating, studied at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), obtaining her BTech Landscape Technology in 2008. During her first year, she obtained a distinction in Environmental Studies, and did her Plant Material Studies under the late Lynton Johnson.

Her career in the green industry began as assistant manager at Safari Garden Centre in Pretoria, and thereafter she joined Earth Architectural Landscapes as their nursery manager. From 2011 to 2018 she was the landscape designer/manager for Gardening Concepts Online in Midstream, and facilities manager for Midstream Meadows HOA, a large residential estate in Midrand.

Going forward, her goals for SALI are to aim for more transparency and a better flow of information between members and to continue with the "Back to Basics" training, which she feels is essential to maintain high standards in the industry. In addition, she intends to focus on educating non-members about the benefits of belonging to SALI, and to start a bursary fund.

The digital footprint of SALI is another aspect that will receive her attention, and she intends ensuring that traffic on the Facebook page increases.

Corné looks forward to bringing her strong administrative skills to her new position and says she is "in it for the long haul".

For further information contact Corné Nothnagel on 067 246 3092



Corné Nothnagel.

WHICH ALOE WHERE?

Aloes are a highly diverse plant genus, varying in size from the tiny grass *Aloe saundersii* that grows naturally in the Nkandla forest, to the majestic 12 m high *Aloe barberae* (*bainsii*) from the eastern regions of South Africa. There are more than 150 different species growing in the most diverse climatic conditions of the country, such as *A. polyphylla* which grows only on the wet, snow-capped mountains of Lesotho, to *A. dichotoma* in the arid Kalahari.

Certain Aloe species will not grow outside their natural habitat unless their climatic and soil conditions are artificially replicated. Fortunately however there are many other adaptable species that are being cultivated in gardens all over the world. The demand and popularity of Aloes is increasing and their presence is visible in many new or revamped landscapes, whether in private gardens, parks or commercial developments. Modern landscapes have become more environmentally friendly with a minimalistic appearance. Lush, jungle-type plants are being replaced by more sculptured, focal plants and are often combined with natural rocks or features which match the environment and buildings. Aloe plantings have become a prominent component of ultra water-wise, highveld Zen landscapes.

Although Aloes are water wise and sometimes even waterless, it is still

advisable to select species which grow naturally within a particular climatic zone. This will ensure that their natural habitat is expanded into gardens, which will auger well for their survival. Importantly, their beautiful colours will ensure the survival of birds, bees and insects that are endemic to the area where the aloes are planted. It is advisable to match the climatic conditions of new plantings with that of the country's regional zones as much as possible, for example:

- *the eastern regions where warmer, frost free and higher rainfall conditions are prevalent, with occasional forests and more lush vegetation;
- *the central Highveld Savannah region which is a hot, drier summer rainfall region with colder, frosty winters;
- *the Western Cape region with its moderate Mediterranean climate and winter rainfall conditions, with its unique flora species such as fynbos, restios and succulents.

Some Aloe species that naturally cross over these climatic zones make them adaptable for cultivation in most South African gardens. Aloes hybridise easily, whether in nature or cultivated.

For further information contact Jan van Vuuren on 082 600 5484

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Vacancy

Bidvest Top Turf in Gauteng is looking for a Projects Division Clerk. Email Jonathan Ferguson on jonathan@topturf.co.za or phone 087 268 5625

ILASA Corobrik Awards of Excellence 2019

The Ilasa Awards are taking place on 25 September 2019 at the Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West, Cape Town. For further information contact Eileen Bayley on eileen@vdw.co.za

IERM Convention

The IERM Convention is taking place from 3-6 September 2019 at Oubaai Hotel, George, Western Cape. For further information email: iermservices@vdw.co.za



PEBBLE POWER



Pebbles are versatile in many landscaped settings



Pebble types available from Pebble City



The pebbles are offloaded at Pebble City and stored on their premises

Pebbles are a creative aspect of landscape design due to the wide range of colours, shapes, sizes and textures available. Their uses are numerous and varied, both aesthetic and functional. Landscape SA spoke to Neville Rodrigues and Zesta Wilken of Pebble City in Gauteng.

In South Africa, where the emphasis is on water saving, the most important reason for using pebbles is in the form of mulching and as an alternative to plants and lawn which are water intensive. Pebbles simultaneously protect soil from drying out, prevent erosion, are hard wearing and have an unlimited life span.

Rodrigues says that when deciding which type of pebble is suitable for a specific site, landscapers can and should advise their clients. Budget, area size and the type of site are other factors to consider. "For example, on roof tops where weight restrictions have to be taken into account, heavy dump rock should not be used; but it is very suited to large expanses of space such as pavements. Crusher stone, on the other hand, is well-suited to smaller areas in residential gardens."

The versatility of pebbles means that they can be attractively combined with other materials such as stone, concrete, timber, brick, lawn, groundcovers



Opposite top, above and below: Pebbles lend themselves to artistic creativity



and plants to create pathways, dry river beds, fire pit surrounds or simply features on their own.

Another creative use for pebbles, says Rodrigues, is in a corporate environment where pebbles can be arranged to depict the company's logo, colours and identifying features. Other uses include:

- Drainage, where pebbles can decorate drains and cover grates without affecting the flow of water;
- Creating underwater landscapes in water features (best to avoid white pebbles in this case as algae build-up will discolour them);
- As a decorative finish around the bases of trees and walkway stepping stones. In the case of pathways, pebbles provide contrasting textures to large concrete slabs and help to emphasize the pathway itself;
- In a Zen garden, pebbles raked in a certain pattern are a dominant and defining feature;
- Pebbles are good when used to infill or outline spaces;
- They create very attractive features when placed in wire gabion baskets. The height, length, breadth and depth of the basket will need to be taken into account when deciding on the type of pebble to be used in the basket.

PREPARATION

Rodrigues advises that before placing pebbles, the ground surface should be levelled, weeds removed and coarse salt (instead of weed killer) placed on top of the soil to prevent further weed growth. A porous fabric (sometimes called a barrier paper) is then placed on top of the soil, allowing water to percolate and penetrate. Once the pebbles have been placed in the required position, edging can be used to prevent them from shifting out of place.

Pebble paving can be laid over any existing sub-base such as tiles, concrete, brick and tar. The advantages are that they are non-slip, impact resistant, porous, seamless and very low in maintenance.

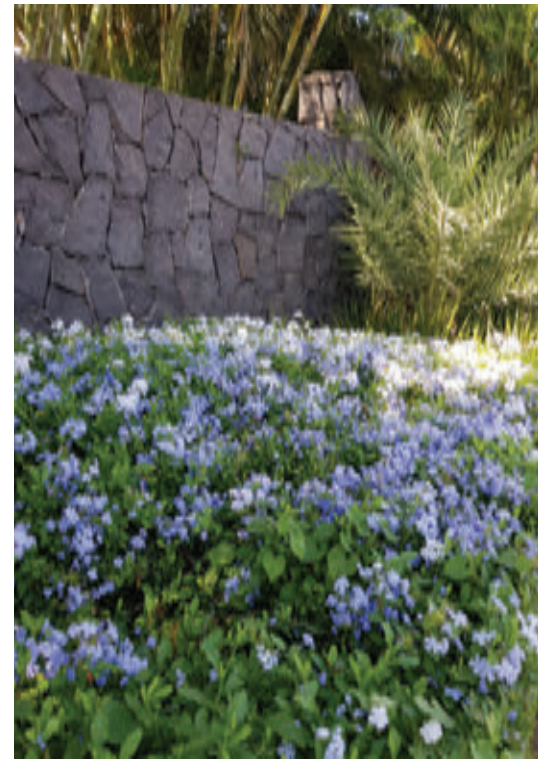
NOTEWORTHY POINTS

Rodrigues and Wilken made the following noteworthy points:

- Pebble City supplies hardware stores, retail and wholesale nurseries;
- Wilken gives informative talks on pebbles to sales people and builders so that they in turn can advise their clients;
- Pebble City often passes on specials to their clients, in the hope that these will be passed on to the end customer;
- Stones are sourced from the Eastern Cape, Limpopo, KZN, Mpumalanga and Namibia. The necessary permits are first required to remove the pebbles, and removal is then carried out manually by the local communities of the area. Earthmoving equipment is not permitted for environmental and ecological reasons;
- Once the pebbles have been loaded from the river bed onto tractors, transportation is the biggest cost factor;
- Of all the pebble types available, Rose Quartz is the most expensive as it is a semi-precious gemstone.

For further information contact Neville Rodrigues or Zesta Wilken on 011 452 1540.

Text by Karyn Richards. Photos supplied by Neville Rodrigues.



Clockwise, from top left: Clever repetition of planters and quality of plant material; Simplistic and elegant planting representation; No weed invasion – good coverage; Excellent pathway/hard landscaping maintenance. Opposite: Good attention to maintenance; Good structure in planting and coverage

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE AUDITS

Jo-Anne Hilliar of LDCI has been involved in landscape maintenance audits for several years, in South Africa and now mainly in Mauritius. The article below explains her work.

A landscape maintenance audit is a comprehensive audit evaluation, together with basic gardening skills training, which goes hand in hand in terms of providing improvement in conducting and ensuring a well-maintained landscape. This will then bring a different perspective to the overall evaluation over time, and the audit rating of the site.

The audits are conducted on foot and highlight issues on site which relate to good garden management and maintenance, together with a considered view on the overall appeal of the landscape. Follow-on audits incorporate basic gardening skills training at the same time, and Hilliar reflects on skills development for the gardeners on site, thus the approach is two-fold. The audits are very comprehensive, incorporating a detailed audit evaluation report, together with on-site feedback on basic skills training as the audit is taking place.

The on-site supervisors or managers are also thoroughly trained to provide the gardening skills that are taught as the audit is being conducted, together with an understanding of improvements to take place. Audit ratings are conducted every six months. In this way, the sites have to maintain a high standard of improvement in ratings in order to meet the client's expectations.

FINANCIAL UNDERTAKING

The financial undertaking ensures that the contractor carrying out the maintenance is providing a consistency of service to ensure no loss of income, no loss of sites and a gaining of new sites, even through the re-tendering process. Overall audits and on-site training of staff ratings are relayed back to the contractor's client.

This is an additional service that is made available to the client and although it is not specified in the contract, it brings added value in terms of the client being confident of good maintenance. On-site training of gardeners is maintained constantly through the process of the contract.

The audit and the on-site training work hand in hand, and is a constant reminder to staff performing the work of the standard required. If there has been a drop in standard, that standard will be reflected in the next round of audit ratings.

AUDIT OUTCOMES

Hilliar works closely with site contractual staff and gardening staff as the audits proceed, in order to set goals and objectives for improvement. Regular onsite landscape audits are part of the ongoing management focus.

She assists in organogram structures to assess the ability of staff to do the job and to ensure that consistent delivery structures are in place.

There is a comprehensive report back on all the sites, with contractual staff available to assess the onsite training improvements as the audits progress over time.

Other aspects of the audit outcome are:

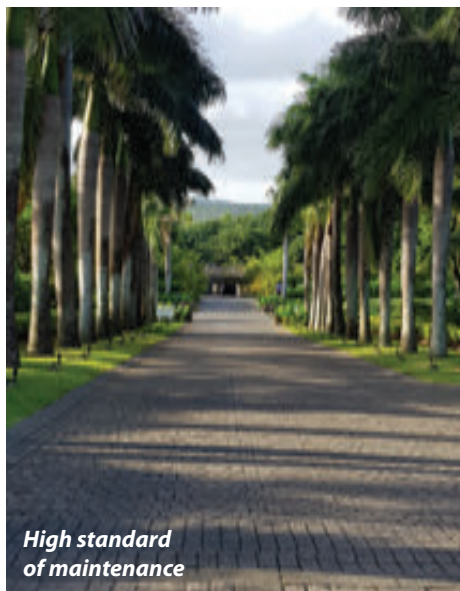
- To determine high visual areas and ensure zero tolerance for sub-standard maintenance delivery;
- To agree with the site supervisors on an efficient maintenance delivery plan, incorporating onsite skills training development;
- To ensure that the onsite supervisors continually communicate the work activities that need to be improved upon, and to ensure that all staff on that contract are correctly allocated and positioned daily to achieve accountability for delivery;
- LDCI sets the correct work ethics to get the job done over a specific time frame for each site;
- The audits ensure that high standards of maintenance delivery are being achieved daily. There is zero tolerance for basic maintenance activities that are not being achieved i.e. tidy sites, good plant coverage, weed free, correct pruning, sweeping, grass cutting and edging, all professionally executed together with good aeration methodology practiced;
- During the audit, the correct spits and divides, and filling of gaps as part of the



maintenance contract, are discussed and demonstrated. They are again assessed for improvement as the projects are audited on a consistent basis;

- All gardens are assessed in terms of horticultural upgrade, together with specific design issues that need to be undertaken.

Hilliar conducts the audits on a six-monthly basis over a two-week period in Mauritius, on 852 hectares of landscaping. The work is all done on foot, not sitting in a vehicle, which is generally the case in South



High standard
of maintenance

Africa as often clients here do not give enough time for an audit to be undertaken correctly. "The best way to undertake an audit is on site, together with the on site supervisors and manager. They need to participate in the walkabout and discussion of the entire site, thus ensuring that correct ratings take place", she says.

Training of supervisors and managers running the site, and their understanding of what needs to be improved and changed in terms of work being done, is very proactive.

"I personally have been very encouraged by the massive improvement and standard of excellence that has been delivered. The sites I am now evaluating in Mauritius, the standard of expertise and the work being conducted is now of a very high standard and can be rated highly, comparable with most sites around the world," she adds.

ASPECTS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR THE AUDIT

The audit evaluation covers an in-depth detailed report on the application of the ratings for each particular aspect being audited. This goes from 80% - 100% which is excellent; 70% - 80% which is good; 60% - 70% which is fair and 50% - 60% which is poor. The audit covers an assessment of the following:

Understorey planting – overgrown*
understorey coverage – poor* pruning of
trees *pruning of shrubs/middle-storey

splits and divides – filling of gaps
weeds in gravel areas * lack of weed
removal* small weeds *tall weeds *weeds
in grass in shade *soil leached *lack of
aeration*poor soil *lack of water *rubbish
*well maintained *garden overgrown*poor
maintenance *overgrown verges *invasive
aliens *lawns badly maintained *lack of
compost *litter in gardens *overgrown
planting *deadheading flowers *denuded
bank *lack of sweeping *grass cutting
poor *grass blocks badly maintained *bed
edging poor *traffic abuse - damaged
plants.

BASIC SKILLS TRAINING INPUT

Over many years, Hilliar's company has developed an on-site basic skills training programme, covering aspects needing attention as a result of the audit evaluation. The training covers the following:

- Correct weeding activities
- Correct alien invasive weed removal
- Correct herbicide application
- Correct insecticide application
- Correct aeration methods
- Correct edging methods
- Litter pick up removal
- Organic pick up removal
- Alien pick up removal
- Correct shrub and tree planting
- Correct split and divide and cutting
- Correct sweeping and leaf removal
- Correct edging
- Correct mowing and brush cutting
- Overseeing irrigation coverage and guidance on methods used
- Correct top dressing, composting and fertilising
- Correct tree and maintenance activities
- Correct pruning of shrubs and tree activities
- Correct deadheading of flowers
- Herbaceous borders i.e. plant removal, upgrade or new to plant
- Correct direction on establishment and nurturing of endemically planted areas.

FEEDBACK ON AUDIT AND TRAINING ACHIEVED

After every visit, LDCI will meet with the full contractual team, together with management, to report back on the overall results in terms of the improvements that have taken place through onsite training over time, but also to direct the horticultural and delivery input that needs to be achieved on sites that are below a 75% -

80% rating.

Rating improvements are based on 80% - 100% coverage of agreed maintenance areas, i.e. splits and divides through onsite training, especially with new projects, to ensure that basic restorative activities are running smoothly.

In addition, Hilliar presents an audit evaluation feedback report to the entire management team for all the sites. The report is detailed and comprehensive. It is also a very positive interaction with the management team, the MD and senior managers all being present to accept and underwrite the report. Each report for each site is then presented to the individual manager once the consultant has left.

OVERALL MAINTENANCE BUDGET

Hilliar says that as far as she understands, the audit forms part of the overall maintenance budget. The work is underwritten by the Mauritian Qualifications Authority (MQA), as there is a huge component to on-site training and interaction with the gardeners during the auditing process.

FREQUENCY OF AUDITS

The audits are conducted six-monthly, at different times of the year, so as to assess the landscapes in different climatic conditions. Hotels and large housing estate projects are currently developing rapidly in Mauritius, with occupancies from foreign tourists as well as locals.

The contractor's clients are advised that Hilliar will be on site conducting the audits and she often interacts with the general managers, walking their sites with them. She says everything is taken into account with regard to issues or complaints with the landscapes, but in most cases the sites are very well run and the clients are satisfied with the work being done.

The contracting company that she works for in Mauritius is the largest maintenance contractor on the island, a "totally homegrown Mauritian organisation, run efficiently and professionally, comparable with top contractors in the world," she concludes.

**Text and photos supplied by
Jo-Anne Hilliar**



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