

Does South Africa have its own architectural style? Yes. Aside from the plague of Tuscan-mall and Victoriano-nostalgia, more designers are searching for something more rooted in the buildings' locality and their African identity.

But the style is in its infancy, so still very eclectic. However, it exhibits a strong connection to the landscape. It's also reflected in a search for cultural reference and the incorporation of local artistic talent. And lastly, it's in the expression of raw material like stone and *latte*, and an increased appreciation of indigenous landscaping.

Which project has been closest to your heart?

The upgrading of the Nieuwoudtville municipal caravan park, which has included skills training and extensive use of local materials. What's made me most proud is travelling to Bangkok last year as one of 15 finalists – alongside Renzo Piano – in the Holcim Global Award for Sustainable Construction.

Best building/structure in SA? New Mapungubwe Interpretation centre by Peter Rich.

And worst? Vodacom headquarters at Century City, Cape Town.

What would you like people to say about your work? Beautiful and thought provoking.

Which 'green building' concepts do you admire? All! Some of the key issues have to do with an integrated land-use approach, the conservation and re-use of water, the conservation, efficiency and renewable use of energy, healthy, non-polluting materials and processes, and a lifecycle approach to buildings.

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