

Stars at the SAPOA awards

The stylishly distinctive abstract 'chequered' 15 Alice Lane Towers in Sandton Central has scooped top honours at the South African Property Owners Association (Sapoa) Innovative Excellence in Property Development Awards 2011, sponsored by Nedbank Corporate Property Finance.

This year five of the nine award-winning property developments are located in Sandton, proving it to be the centre of innovative property development and design in South Africa.

"The awards acknowledge quality, excellence in design and innovation – all essential to the ever-evolving art of property development," says Neil Gopal, CEO of Sapoa. "They epitomise the ability of South Africa's property developers to find solutions for client's requirements and to stay at the forefront of global trends."

All situated in Sandton, Pick n Pay Nicol took the retail development category, Legacy Corner won the mixed-used development category, the Park Inn Sandton scooped the 'other developments: hotels' category and Nedbank Phase II won the overall green development category.

Overall winner and best in the office development category, 15 Alice Lane Towers is set atop a six-storey basement with two towers which rise 17 floors into the Sandton sky.

Co-developers Zenprop Property Holdings and Tiber Projects commissioned this addition to the Sandton skyline, designed by Paragon Architects.

The 24 000m² development is the new address for legal firm Deneys Reitz.

Located at the western edge of bustling Sandton Central, next to Sandton City Shopping Centre, the twin towers, constructed of concrete, glass and aluminium, are architectural markers on the skyline.

The architectural form of the towers is unique in South Africa. Viewed from all angles, the building presents a patterned and abstracted surface of architectural elements that change constantly with the shifting time and atmosphere of the day.

Winning the retail development category is Pick n Pay Nicol, developed by Abland, owned by Pick n Pay and designed by Bentel Associates International with an extroverted design approach.

Castle Walk Shopping Centre, owned by the Public Investment Corporation (PIC), took top honours in the refurbishment category, with Boogertman + Partners appointed to design the external refurbishment of the development to create a fresh and modern facelift to the building.



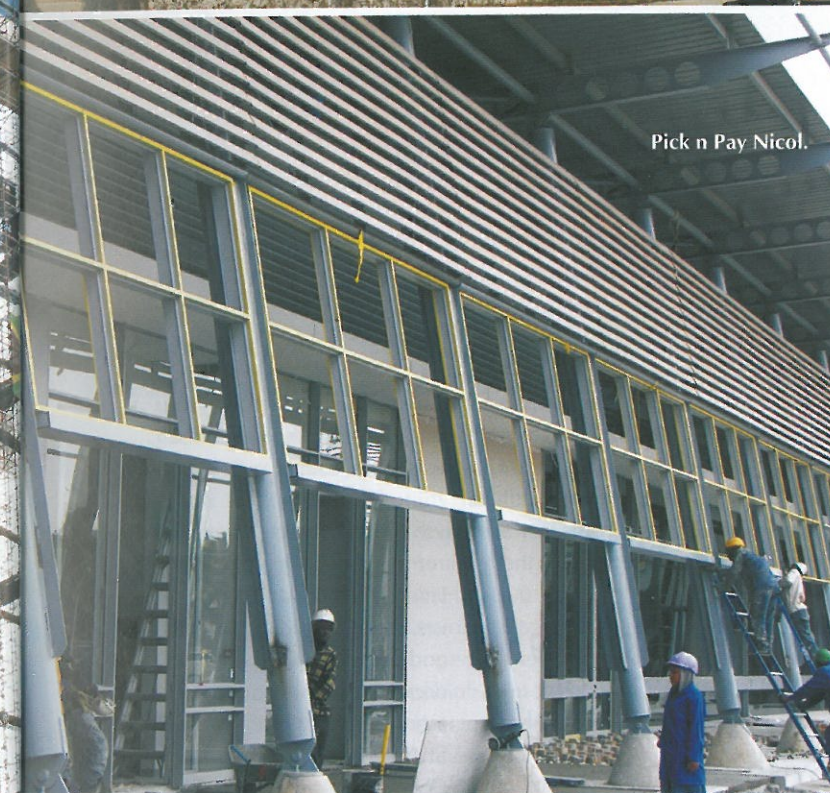
15 Alice Lane Towers.



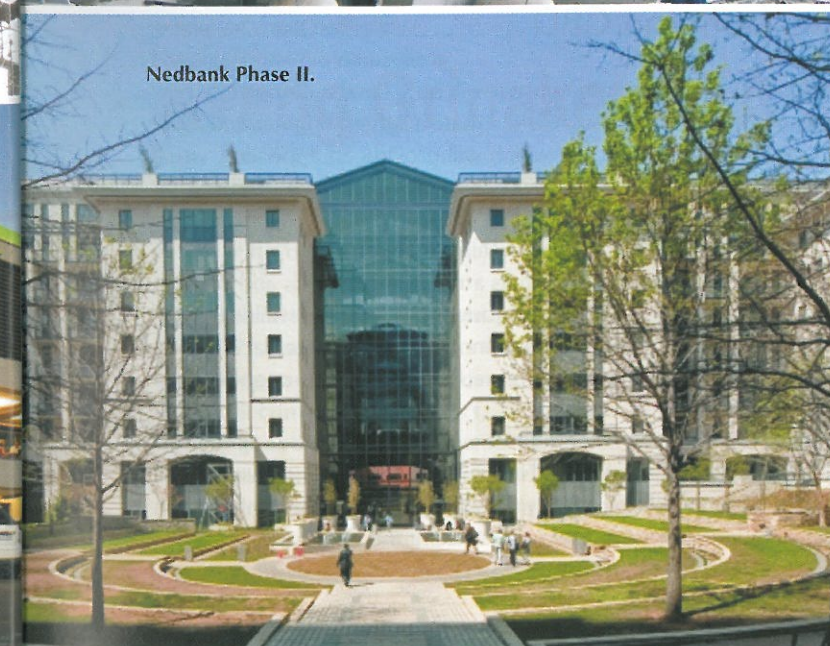
Castle Walk Shopping Centre.



Park Inn Sandton.



Pick n Pay Nicol.



Nedbank Phase II.

The winner of the mixed-use development category is Legacy Corner, developed by Legacy Development & Management, owned by Sandton Square Portion 7 and designed by Bentel Associates International.

The Park Inn Sandton was announced as the winner in the other development: hotels category. Developed by New City Group, owned by Crystal Lagoon Investments 53 and designed by GLH Architects, the Park Inn Sandton is a 273-room 3-star hotel.

Winning the other developments category is the University of the Western Cape Life Sciences building, developed by the university and designed by DHK Architects.

This cutting-edge institutional research laboratory is an embodiment of social and environmental scientific research in Africa and brings together several science departments and research institutes formerly located in a number of old buildings.

The winner of the social development category, as well as scooping the award for the new transformation category this year, is the Lebone II College of the Royal Bafokeng in Phokeng, in the North West Province, developed and owned by Royal Bafokeng Administration and designed by Activate Architecture and Afritects. Lebone II is a resource centre for education for 45 other schools in the region.

Lebone II has capacity for 800 learners in an environment that supports and stimulates learning over a gross floor area of some 25 000m².

Securing the award for overall green development, Nedbank Phase II shone above all other green developments.

Owned and developed by Nedbank Limited, designed by Grosskopf Lombart Huyberegts & Associates Architects, Nedbank Phase II was submitted at two stages and achieved a certified four-star Green Star rating from the Green Building Council of South Africa on both submissions – 'design' and 'as built' – becoming the first Green Star-certified building in South Africa.

Frank Berkeley, managing executive of Nedbank Corporate Property Finance, is passionate about furthering excellence in property development.

Nedbank's commitment to high-quality property development extends beyond its sponsorship of the awards to its own development, as demonstrated in Nedbank Phase II, which won the Sapoa Excellence Award for overall green development.

"We are pleased to contribute to furthering the highest standards of property development in South Africa. The excellence that has been achieved in 2011 is something of which the sector can be exceptionally proud," says Berkeley. ■