



Nestlé a new eco-friendly head office

Nestlé not only wanted a new building to reflect new times, but also one that would enhance transparency and creativity in the workplace.

The new corporate headquarters of Nestlé SA is situated in the midst of an established Bryanston residential district, close to the prominent Grosvenor Crossing intersection between William Nicol and Main Street.

This prestigious building has been developed by Tiber Projects and will eventually become part of an office park comprising more office buildings to be developed in the future.

BRIEF

The brief for this new development was to create and provide an energy-efficient, cost-effective building design that would cater for Nestlé's business requirements.

The new building comprises two office levels with two basement parking levels which will allow a lettable area of approximately 10 000m².

SITE

The new building was designed to maximise these views over the city, but also to protect the building from the busy Grosvenor crossing intersection between William Nicol and Main Roads.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned requirements, the multi-level building has been "cut" into the sloping site with only one level protruding from the Main Road elevation.

This interface with Main Road was designed with a solid curved wall, consisting of natural stone cladding, which will

protect the building from noise pollution created by the busy Grosvenor crossing intersection.

FAÇADE DESIGN

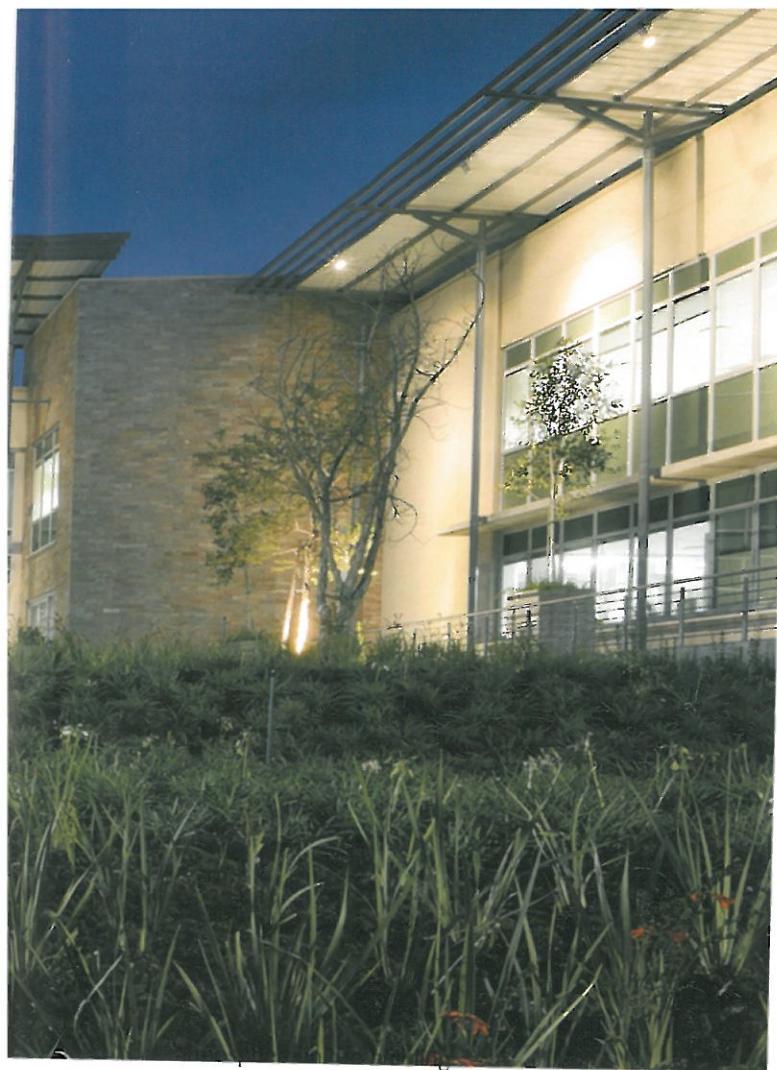
The building façade design incorporates simple, elegant lines which interact with the curved "stone screen wall" to produce an internal garden space, which is a prominent feature for the internal office space.

The building colours reflect a soft natural palette with stone cladding on certain façades to add texture and interest to the façades. Façade and fenestration design is aimed to help control internal temperature in the buildings.

LIGHT

In order to allow the maximum natural light into the buildings, fenestrations on the façades are protected with horizontal shading devices, which will still allow protected views over the cityscape.

Internal glazed and landscaped atria were created inside the new buildings in order to allow the maximum natural light to filter through the deep office space, which contributes greatly to the internal ambience and general work



FACILITIES

Facilities inside the building include a crèche, gym facility and restaurant area, with external entertainment area and various pause areas.

The building layout ensures maximum flexibility, with access flooring throughout the building and with a higher than average parking ratio of six bays per 100m².

DESIGN

The building design has incorporated various sustainable

"green" aspects and elements in order to be up to date with the latest technology available. At the inception of the company, back in 1867, its founder, Henry Nestlé, was adamant that its operations should cause minimal negative impact on the environment. In this way, Nestlé pioneered green solutions decades before they would become commonplace in the industry.

The building design, therefore, incorporates, but is not restricted to, the following sustainable initiatives:

- Proximity of development to public transport and other amenities, such as shopping centres etc, will reduce the need for vehicle traffic.
- 5% of all parking bays will be reserved for car pool vehicles and bicycle storage areas for 3% of staff have been provided.
- Daylight glare is reduced through fixed shading devices.
- Glazing for this project was carefully selected to ensure good solar control properties.
- Solar water heating is used to supply hot water.
- Ventilation rates in these buildings exceed the national standards by 50%. This will decrease levels of pollutants and experts say that productivity should increase.
- All basement ventilation is connected to CO sensors, which will ensure that fans do not operate unnecessarily and only when required, saving electricity.
- The air-conditioning system designed utilises approximately 20% less energy than a standard air-conditioning system.
- Fresh air is introduced by access floor and extracted at high level, which improves air distribution effectiveness.
- Ammonia chillers were utilised which has a 0% global warming potential. These chillers are also water-cooled, which ensures a high level of effectiveness.
- Office areas were designed at 350 lux due to the fact that the majority of work would be conducted on computer.
- Electricity meters were provided for all loads greater than 100kVA.
- All light switches and air conditioning are connected to motion sensors in order to ensure that no energy is utilised when no-one is present in any specific area.
- Daylight harvesting was incorporated into the design and motion sensors on perimeter light fittings automatically ►



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adjust and control light levels (based on natural light spill into the building) to achieve the light levels required

- All light fittings to the building have LED globes.
- Light fittings in basements are also connected to motion sensor control.

INTERIORS REPORT

The brief given to B+P Interiors for the Nestlé head office was to create a dynamic workspace that would emphasise Nestlé's ethos - 'Good food, good life'. Moving from an old 1970s building in the Randburg CBD, with its dark stairways, enclosed spaces and many floors, Nestlé not only wanted a new building to reflect new times, but also one that would enhance transparency and creativity in the workplace.

To achieve this, the building embodies open-plan office space, enclosed meeting rooms and informal meeting places where staff can enjoy a coffee and a chat. In contrast to the rest of the workspace, these informal areas are defined by warm timber flooring and playful soft seating, creating a magnet for social interaction. The open-plan design promotes a sense of community and allows for better communication and exchange of information among colleagues.

The interior design is an embodiment of African earthiness inspired by its physical context, as well as a reflection of the company's sober Swiss roots. The internal envelope is composed by using soft natural colours and natural light streaming in from the many double volume atria. Intelligent use of textures, sculptural elements and bursts of bright colour introduce subtle African nuances into the space. Modern, clean lines and vast expanses of glass are juxtaposed with a repetitive twig pattern inspired by the Nestlé logo. This concept represents Nestlé's new "Nest" and seems to flow throughout the building.

Graphic wallpapers from the branding company, Stratcom, create a strong Nestlé identity throughout the building.

An 80m long indigenous indoor garden, designed by Insite Landscapers, introduces the outdoors to the interior. A recyclable 3D artwork spans the expanse of garden wall, with words to inspire and motivate the Nestlé staff. Informal seating within the garden serves as a spot where people can meet, or just take a minute to relax.

As Nestlé is primarily a food and nutrition company, its staff restaurant is a vital part of the interior. Bright furniture, combined with informal bench seating, upholstered in the creations of local fabric supplier, Design Team, sets a playful tone to the space. The stark contrast to the neutral office space creates a visual and psychological distinction. The restaurant has an outdoor patio overlooking a reflection pool, the ideal setting for people to relax and enjoy the outdoors.

The Nestlé brand not only stands for good living, but lives up to it too. The building features a fully equipped state-of -the-art gym, complete with yoga studio, looking out onto the Bryanston skyline. There is a wellness clinic along with a massage room and a crèche for working parents. There is even a dedicated pet area, where employees can bring Spot and Bruno to socialise with others of their kind!

"This building supports Nestlé's ambition of being a nutrition, health and wellness company and this was a very important requirement from us when we were discussing the design of the building," says Ravi Pillay, Nestlé's corporate affairs director.

While exceeding its social responsibility, the Nestlé head office does not fall short on the environmental front either. State-of-the-art technology and architectural design create an energy-efficient building. ■

Nestlé Head Office - Nov 2010



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