

# Versatile use of vitreous enamel at Freedom Park

The market leader in custom-made vitreous enamelled steel architectural products, Vitrex, recently supplied and installed a range of solutions at the prestigious and historic second phase of the Freedom Park development in Pretoria.

The Office of Collaborative Architects (OCA), which consists of GAPP Architects, Urban Designers, Mashabane Rose Associates and MMA Architects, required architectural column cladding, toilet cubicles and combination shower and change room cubicles for the project.

## WHAT DESIGN PROFESSIONALS CHOOSE

The tremendous design versatility of vitreous enamel is one of the reasons why design professionals are continuing to specify this product. "Not only does vitreous enamel provide for flexible design solutions, but it is also resistant to corrosion, vandalism, vermin and thermal shock. It is also extremely hygienic, non-flammable and fully recyclable," says Cristian Cottino, Sales and Marketing Director of Vitrex.

The Vitraflex toilet cubicles which are part of Vitrex's popular modular cloakroom system, were engineered by the Vitrex Technical Office in accordance with the specific design requirements developed by the architects for Phase II of Freedom Park. "The full height of the system, from floor to ceiling, is 2 400 mm. We also customised the floating leg anchors of the toilet cubicles to reduce the gap between the bottom of the cubicle components and the finished floor to 100 mm. The enamel colour selected by the architects was Black," says Cottino. "We offer a standard range of 25 colours, but an almost unlimited choice on special request."

Vitrex's proven combination shower and changeroom cubicles were also specified for the project. The cubicles were also fitted with Vitrex's new stainless steel "telescopic" leg anchors, which provide ease of installation and facilitate ease of cleaning. "The elimination of conspicuous floor mountings improves hygiene through the reduction of potential bacterial growth at the base of the stiles," adds Cottino.

The cladding panels that were supplied for the circular columns in the bathrooms were customised to fit the project. The columns in the bathrooms were 2900mm tall and the cladding was broken up into four panels per column, with 15mm vertical joints. The aluminium adjustable substructure comprises vertical elements with brackets.


"The cladding panels were roll formed to fit the architects' design requirements as well as the actual site dimensions. As with all Vitraclad heavy gauge panels, the fabrication process takes place prior to enamelling. The raw materials of the product are smelted together in a kiln at approximately 1200°C for four hours and then rapidly cooled," says Cottino.

Vitrex is a privately owned South African company with over 40 years experience in the design, manufacture, supply and installation of vitreous enamelled steel. The products are ideal for high-traffic areas due to their durability, low-maintenance requirement and lasting colour finish.



## INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTS

Vitrex cladding has been widely exported by Vitrex for decades. The panels have been used in various interior and exterior applications. Stations of Singapore's Land Transport Authority and Sir John Rogersons Quay building in Dublin (Ireland) are examples of their exterior use. "The steel panels are produced at Vitrex's Jet Park facility and they have been used in a range of high-profile, international projects," says Cottino.

"In terms of our Vitraflex cubicle range, we recently supplied and installed 1 200 toilet cubicles for the Soccer City stadium in Johannesburg. Our cubicles have been a popular choice for sports facilities in South Africa. In addition to several of the 2010 FIFA® World Cup™ stadia, a wide range of products was specified for the refurbishment and extensions to the cricket grounds for the 2003 Cricket World Cup tournament. Our cloakroom cubicles were also installed at the Wanderers Centenary Pavilion as well as at the Benoni and Bloemfontein grounds," concludes Cottino. 

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