



## Urban architecture at its best

### A boutique office development in the heart of Sandton

Number 4 Stan Road in the heart of Sandton is the original home of MDS Architecture, a South African practice with a history spanning over 60 years. Today, this new eight storey 4-Star As-Built Green building has a unique sculpted street presence yet provides a sense of sanctuary and privacy.

MDS Architecture designed the office building for a consortium of professionals. The site is bordered by complexes of residential towers on three sides, with a large office development between it and the very busy Grayston Drive.

“The original single level structure that made way for this exciting new building was being dwarfed by massive developments as this part of Sandton grew,” says Pat Henry, a partner at MDS. “For us, the site holds so much history and while wanting to pay homage to our roots.”

The street address façade on Stan Road is west-facing and is treated as a solid face with massive full height fins behind which thin slivers of glazing peep southwards over the roofscapes of Sandton. In this way the design manages the typical heat build-up of a west-facing façade and controls the associated glare issues.

The north-facing façade is fully glazed, opening up the office spaces to the views across Bryanston towards the Magaliesberg as well as looking onto a private landscaped courtyard on the fourth level.

The entrance to the building slices vertically into the solid west street façade, creating a unique permeable street address with reception facilities at street level.

The slope of the street led to the contrasting angles in the façade. At night, vertical illuminated shafts between each pair of trees mirrors the concealed vertical illumination between each of the façade’s fins, further creating a dramatic presence in the street.

The use of dark full height performance glazing on the northern façades ensures a modern, timeless expression complemented by large scale white porcelain clad fins adding vertical interest to the building and giving it a simplified black and white aesthetic. The podium is dark and clad with recycled security grilles from the original building. These grilles have been fitted with planters at each floor level so that in time they will be covered with soft green creepers giving the podium the appearance of a large clipped hedge.

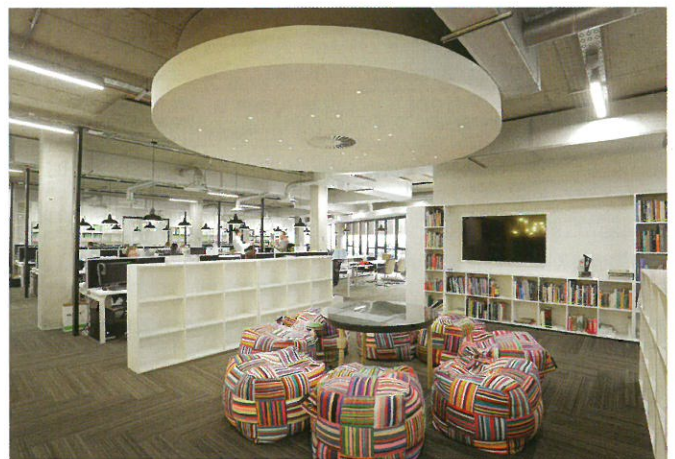
MDS Architecture has chosen an open-plan office layout with a restrained industrial design studio aesthetic. The

colours are generally also black and white with painted rather than plastered brick, exposed concrete and warmed with natural timbers.

While the reuse of certain elements from the original building has contributed to 4 Stan Road’s sustainability rating, it is also provided with all the energy efficient and building management systems, including submetering of both water and energy necessary to achieve its 4 star Green Star rating from the Green Building Council of South Africa.

Air-conditioning and ventilation is a decentralised variable air volume (VAV) system which is sustainable and flexible and complies with the Green Star rating of the building.

4 Stan Road is a boutique office building that features thoughtful and practical modern design. It is a fitting testimony to the unique blend of creativity and pragmatism, for which MDS Architecture is known. ■



### PROFESSIONAL TEAM

Client: Sharmane Investments (Pty) Ltd  
 Architects: MDS Architecture  
 Quantity Surveyors: Brian Heineberg & Associates  
 Structural Engineers: L&S Consulting Engineers  
 Electrical Engineers: CKR Consulting Engineers  
 Air-conditioning: Spoomaker & Partners  
 Green Consultants: Green By Design  
 Fire Consultants: Specialised Fire Technology  
 Landscape Architects: Bertha Wium Landscape Development  
 Main Contractor: Tiber Bonvec

Photographs by Mike Pawley