

The art of travel

It is not only our roads that are public assets, built and maintained with public funds. Our transport interchanges - rail stations, taxi ranks and bus stops - are also public assets, and the places in which we spend much of our valuable travel time waiting or transferring.

While it's obvious that these exchange and

transfer environments should be as comfortable, pleasant and safe as possible, it would help if they were also beautiful, stylish and inspiring places.

We've selected a number of designs from "10 years = 10 buildings: Architecture in a Democratic South Africa" that do just that: buildings that make our travel and commuting experiences just that much more interesting and pleasant.

BELOW: Joe Gqabi Transport Terminus in Philippi, Cape Town.



ABOVE: Kwanobuhle Carwash in Uitenhage, Eastern Cape, is a landmark in an otherwise nondescript urban landscape. Designed by Ngonyama, Okpanum and Hewitt-Coleman Architects, it is not an isolated entity like most of its petrol station counterparts, but is a vibrant node of social and communal activity.



ABOVE: Metro Hall Transport Facility and Traders Market, Newtown.



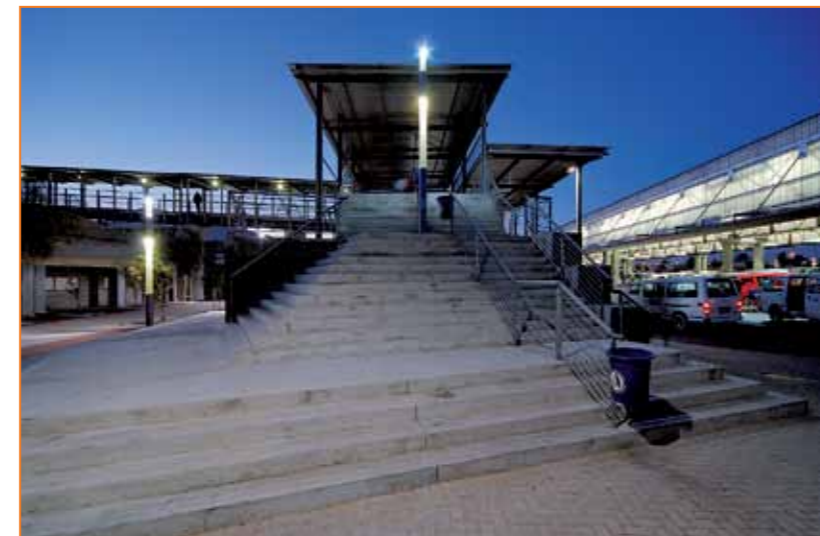
ABOVE: Baobab Toll Plaza, on the N1 Highway between Musina and Makhado, Limpopo, was designed by Mathews & Associates Architects. The architects derived conceptual inspiration from the baobab tree, which is indigenous to much of Africa, and endemic to Limpopo. It is the emblem of the province.



ABOVE: Diamond Hill Toll Plaza, with its traffic control facilities and eight off-ramp tollbooths, is situated on the N4 Highway between Mpumalanga and Gauteng. Mathews & Associates Architects drew on agricultural metaphors as well as the mining industry imagery for inspiration.

LEFT: Public art at the Baobab Toll Plaza, on the N1 Highway between Musina and Makhado, Limpopo.

BELOW: Mitchell's Plain Public Transport Interchange is the largest transport interchange in the Western Cape, developed in consultation with the community and other stakeholders. The design, by Holm Jordaan Architects & Urban Planners, was largely informed by the pedestrian-oriented nature of the area.



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ABOVE: Baragwanath Transport Interchange and Traders Market is a kilometre-long transport node on the Old Potchefstroom Road opposite Chris Hani-Baragwanath Hospital. This formalising of the informal transport and trade is pivotal in addressing South Africa's imbalanced first-third world existence, explain the designers, Urban Solutions Architects and Urban Designers.



ABOVE: Metro Hall Transport Facility and Traders Market, Newtown.

LEFT: Diamond Hill Toll Plaza in Gauteng.



Diamond Hill Toll Plaza.



ABOVE: Mitchell's Plain Public Transport Interchange, Cape Town.



Joe Gqabi Transport Terminus in Philippi, Cape Town, is an example of where a new long-distance bus terminus and railway station act as catalysts for an ambitious spatial development framework for the Cape Flats. The urban design and architecture, by Lucien le Grange Architects & Urban Planners, and ARG Architects, has been conceived as a series of public courts, defined by street furniture and bounded by the railway.



LEFT: Metro Hall Transport Facility and Traders Market, Newtown, was one of the first major infrastructural improvements of Johannesburg's new municipal dispensation. Before 1994 there were no ranking facilities for the informal taxi sector - this facility therefore forms an essential part of the city's urban renewal strategy. The design is by Urban Solutions Architects and Urban Designers.

BELOW: Diamond Hill Toll Plaza.

