



Architecture
Urban Design

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Background

Established in 1987, MLB has over the past 30 years built up a reputation for maintaining a well-resourced and balanced professional team, with a wide range of experience and skills. By doing so, the firm maintains a strong focus on service efficiency, excellence and delivery.

Our focus is unwavering in the quest to make a meaningful contribution to both the built environment and society. We believe that good architecture can only result from a healthy balance of experience & confidence, hard work & collaboration, economic realism & rational design.

Entering a strategic new phase, through its 'MLB Foundation' initiative, the practice has achieved the status of a certified Level 8 B-BBEE contributor. Our footprint continues to grow with the establishment in Johannesburg, underpinning our commitment to a growing portfolio of projects across SA.

Team

Executive Directors

Izak Burger, Herman Joubert, Quinton Lawson, René Grubert & Xico Meirelles

Non-Executive Directors

Nomfanelo Yhukutwana & Zeurina Papier

Associate

André vom Hagen

Architects

Devon Smart, Michael Madden, Mughsin Parker, Jan De Wet, Gareth Nolan, Vicky Salis, Mark de Veredicis and Stephanie Kelly

Architectural Technologists

Bulumko Yhukutwana, Divan Smith, Gary Nymann, Hanle van Huyssteen, Innocent Ngalimane, James Cooper, Mamolukuo Macheli, Riyaad Karriem, Wai-Szee Sing, Wilfred Papier, Stanton Brown, Annina de Swardt, Dewald Carstens, Ettiene van den Bergh and Irwin Wales.

Project Management

André Vom Hagen

Office Manager

Charlene Roos

Administration

Aidan Wagner, Charlene Roos, Laverne D'Warté, Sheila Mkwela

3D Unit

Jacques Cleghorn

IT Unit

Dandre Smuts

Directors

MLB architects, is managed by 5 executive directors/shareholders: Xico Meirelles, Quinton Lawson, Izak Burger, René Grubert, Herman Joubert. The 2 non-executive directors, Nomfanelo Yhukutwana & Zeurina Papier, are also directors of the 'MLB Foundation'.

This broad-based structure ensures that over and above MLB's core function - providing world-class Architectural services - other management tasks are handled efficiently and effectively.

Further benefits derived from this wide management structure include expertise in a range of project types, active involvement of senior management on every project, financial stability of the firm & retention skilled resources and maximum synergy & networking potential for clients.



Xico Meirelles
A KZN graduate, Xico worked 4 years in Rome before returning to establish MLB architects. His recent work focuses mainly on retail, education, luxury residential and mixed use projects.



Quinton Lawson
A KZN graduate, Quinton became an MLB partner in 1988. He brings a wide range of experience in a variety of project types while championing a growing portfolio of urban, environmental and heritage projects



Izak Burger
A UCT graduate, Izak became a partner in 1998, working closely with wide range of property developers, on large commercial, retail, commercial, storage, mixed use and residential projects.



René Grubert
An NMMU graduate, René became an MLB partner in 2007. He is responsible for a series of major projects - cash centres, residential projects, high rise commercial, prisons and mixed use.



Herman Joubert
An NMMU graduate, Herman ran his practice for 4 years. He became an MLB partner in 2007, bringing his experience in a range of project types - education, health and Wine industry, industrial and mixed use.



Resources

MLB has a strong, core team of approximately 35 people managed by five partners and one associate. The firm has the dynamism, resources, systems and track record to undertake several major projects simultaneously. Our ongoing drive to set new standards of excellence drives this focus on diversity.

The five partners run separate studio teams as '5 columns', with each team headed by an architect. This structure allows for effective delegation, enabling partners to maintain a birds-eye view, while still being involved enough to ensure that quality is consistent, and decision making effective.

Known for a collaborative, interactive approach with clients, consultants & LA's, we always assist clients in defining the brief and determining financial viability of every project, drawing on an understanding of market dynamics and property development based on our experience and track record.

Skills

MLB's portfolio covers an extensive range of mostly large project types, including multi-story office & mixed-use complexes, shopping malls & public buildings, schools & universities, hotels & airport halls, luxury residential & retirement villages, industrial & self-storage and urban & interior design.

Our expertise and skill has been developed and retained over the years in the core fields as listed - but also, in many other specialist building types, including cold stores & paper mills, cash centres & prisons, community centres & museums and conservation & environmental projects.

We are proud of this extensive track record with the knowledge that MLB has the resources, skills, experience and organization to undertake numerous large and complex projects at the same time.

Training

Mentorship, education and in-house training are central to our business. We are determined to make a difference in SA's Built Environment professions, by helping to reduce local skills shortages, especially in Architecture, Engineering and other related professions.

MLB has a policy of providing 'work shadow' opportunities for high school students, considering taking up architectural studies. A good number of these students have gone on into the profession and often come back to MLB for holiday or gap year employment.

Every year, we take on ± 6-10 architectural students from SA universities and Technicon's around the country, developing a good relationship with staff at these teaching facilities. MLB is often complimented by these learning institutions for the transformation their 'graduates' undergo in our studio.

BEE & MLB Foundation

Establishing the 'MLB Foundation' was a logical step towards making a meaningful contribution towards socio-economic development in South Africa. Focused on skill development in the Built Environment professions, the Foundation reinforces MLB's approach to Education, Training and Mentorship.

This Non-Profit Company is managed by 4 directors, including 2 independents (Nomfanelo Yhukutwana & Zeurina Papier), as per the Broad-Based Empowerment guidelines in the 'B-BBEE Act 53 – 2003'.

Selected students of Architecture (and/or related professions) will benefit from bursaries provided by the Foundation. Other initiatives being implemented range from 'pro bono work', to in-house training, mentoring and work shadow opportunities, as well as Procurement & Employment Equity policies.

Systems

MLB places utmost importance on processes, systems and documentation, for the sake of efficiency and productivity, thereby mitigating against potential risks. Several senior partners and staff are tasked with the ongoing upgrade, streamlining and training in systems & technology at MLB.

'Time', and the management thereof, is an essential component in our Industry, due to the high interest economic environment in SA. MLB, are constantly looking for ways to improve professional skill, efficiency and ability to draw inspiration in our clients, our work & from society at large.

Productivity occurs in an environment where high work standards focus on client imperatives like function, budget and delight. Passion is what drives the energy, time and commitment poured into every MLB project – we continually strive to achieve excellence in terms of the brief, context and creativity.

MLB has a large client base that ranges through all categories of industry, including: local & foreign private individuals, community organizations & NGO's, numerous private developers & listed property organizations and many Public Sector departments in all 3 tiers of Government.

An ongoing focus on service and client satisfaction is paying dividends, with the firm being unaffected by the last 5 years of economic downturn. Much of this is due to a gratifying degree of return business, client loyalty and word-of-mouth recommendations made by happy clients.

Clients

Banks – Absa, Investec, NBS, FNB & RMB

Cash Centers – Absa Goodwood & Brackenfell

Central Government - DPW - Dept Arts & Culture, DPW – Dept of Correctional Services, DPW - Dept Justice, DPW - Dept of Defense - Navy & DPW - Police

Commercial - Absa, Avis, Abland, Bellandia, Berman Bros, Business Place, Coessa, Emira, Eris, Excellent Meat, Faircape, FNB, Gateway, Madison, Plaisir du Jardin, Redefine, RMBP, Shell, Spear, Solomon Bros, Sujean, Syfin, Swish, Prime Media, Viglietti & Vunani

Community – Colorado Park & Imizamu Yethu

Cultural – Baxter Theater, DPW - Dept Arts & Culture, LFA, Lesotho Dept of Arts & Culture, RIM & V&AW

Heritage – DPW - Dept Arts & Culture, DPW - Dept Justice, DPW – Dept of Correctional Services, DPW - Dept of Defense (Navy), Improvon, RIM & Solomon Bros

Hospitality - Solomon Bros & Sandak-Lewin,

Industrial – Excellent, Gateway, HWS Industrials, Kulsom Paper, Madison, Rabie, SA Metal, Seardel & Sujean

Interiors – Absa, Berman Bros, Eco Ventures, Excellent Meat, Faircape, Sassi & Solomon Bros

Local Government – 2004 Bidco, CCT & SPA

Mixed Use - Absa, Berman Bros, Eco Ventures, Emira, Eris, Faircape, Fairvest, Madison, Redefine, RMBP, Sassi, Solomon Bros, Spear, Sujean, Swish, Tiber, Vunani & Zitis

Refrigeration / Meat & Seafood processing - Excellent Meat, Busy Corner Meat, Fairview Meat & Seafood Processing

Religious – Catholic Education Aid Program, El Shaddai chapel, Gatesville Mosque interiors & Table View 7th Day Adventist church

Residential – Aska, Berman Bros, Eco Ventures, Eurocape, Faircape, NBS, Rabie, Solomon Bros, SA Metal, Sujean, Swish, Tiber & Two Oceans

Retail – China Town Trust, Faircape, Fairvest, Redefine, Plaisir du Jardin, V&AW & Zara

Retirement – Cotran, CPOA, Faircape & Shire,

Public Sector – City of Cape Town, PGWC, DPW, DCS, Justice, Police

Parastatal – ACSA, Armscor, CSIR, Intersite & Prasa

Provincial Government – PGWC Western Cape

Self-Storage – Sassi, Faircape & Acucap Schools - Herzlia, El Shaddai, Talfallah & Buren High

Sports – Gugulethu, 'Goals' & Imizamu Yethu

Transportation – ACSA & Avis

Universities – City Varsity, UCT, SU & UJ

Urban Design – Madison, Swish & Shire

VIA's (environmental) – Alcan, Boschendal, CT Harbour, CPINP, Chand, CES, Concentrix Soitec, CCA, CSIR, CPNP, Darling WE, Drakenstein, Enviromentek, EEU-UCT, Eskom, Fibrecore-Zeconi, G7 Renewable Energy, Intikon Energy, Khulu, Madiba Bay, Mauritius RDA, Nampower, NPA, Normandy Farm, Pechiney, PE, PHS, PortNet, Retosolar, Saddle Path Properties, Shell Oil, SiVest, Solaire Direct, Solar Reserve, Spier, SPM, SRK, TMNP, V&AW