



Architecture
Urban Design

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Established in 1987, MLB has over the past 31 years built up a reputation for maintaining a well-resourced and balanced professional team with a range of experience and skills. By doing so, the firm maintains a strong focus on service efficiency, excellence, collaboration 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 and aesthetically pleasing architecture can only be achieved from a **healthy combination** of economic, rational and steadfast design principals.

Entering a new phase, MLB has seen the first generation of the founding members retiring from active architecture, but not before passing on the valuable knowledge and principals gained from years of experience. 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, René Grubert, Leonard Arendze, Shaun Heeger

Associate

André vom Hagen,

Architects

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

Architectural Technologists

Annina de Swardt, Bulumko Yhukutwana, Dewald Carstens, Divan Smith, David Fischer, Ettienne van den Bergh, Gary Nymann, Hanle Mothilal, Innocent Ngalimane, Irwin Wales, James Cooper, Wai-Szee Sing and Wilfred Papier.

Office Manager

Laverne D'Warté

Administration

Sade Etheridge, Sheila Mkwela

3D Visualisation

Jacques Cleghorn

Directors

MLB architects, is managed by 5 executive directors/shareholders, Izak Burger, René Grubert, Herman Joubert ,Leonard Arendze and Shaun Heeger.

This broad-based structure boasts a Level 2 BBBEE 51% Black Owned company which ensures that over and above MLB's core function - providing world-class Architectural services - other management tasks are handled efficiently and effectively. This ensures expertise in a range of project types, active involvement of senior management on every project and networking potential and overlapping benefits for our clients.



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 and government work.



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.



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.



Leonard Arendze

A CPUT graduate, After 10 successful years of managing his own practice, Leonard became an MLB Director in 2018. He is responsible for a series of residential and commercial, retail projects



Shaun Heeger

A CPUT under graduate, After 10 successful years of managing his own practice, Shaun became an MLB Director in 2018. He is responsible for a series of residential and commercial, industrial projects

Resources

MLB has a strong, core team of approximately 35 people managed by 5 Directors 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.

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.

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, food processing facilities, 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 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.

IT & CAD

IT and Revit

MLB Architects has a fully networked IT infrastructure comprising file and mail servers, wireless connectivity and high speed internet access, as well as on-site, off-site and 'cloud based' backup services. (ie. triple redundancy).

Architectural work is created on 37 CAD and BIM (Building Information Modeling) workstations and one specialized 3d rendering station.

These workstations primarily run the latest Revit building design software, augmented by Autocad, SketchUp and other related design and graphics software.

With this infrastructure we are able to produce all the documentation from conceptual design, through to 3D modelling and full construction documentation.

Our branch office in JHB is connected via VPN (Virtual Private Networks) for file transfer and daily backups of drawings and information.

Our IT infrastructure is planned, implemented and permanently maintained under contract to a reputable local IT service provider. This is a long-standing relationship which is well understood by both parties.

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 the economic downturn of past years. 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 Centres – Absa Goodwood & Brackenfell

Central Government - DPW - Dept Arts & Culture, DPW – Dept. of Correctional Services, DPW - Dept. Justice, DPW - Dept. of Defence - 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, Ryan Joffe Properties

Industrial – Excellent Meat, 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, Ryan Joffe

Properties, The Nova Group

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, The iGroup, Grid Group

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

Retirement – Cotran, CPOA, Faircape & Shire,

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

Parastatal – ACSA, Armscor, CSIR, Intersite & Prasa, National Nuclear Regulator

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, Stellenbosch University & University of Johannesburg

Urban Design – Madison, Swish & Shire