



HEAD OFFICE

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MLBArchitects
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COMPANY PROFILE 2025

ABOUT

Established in 1987, MLB Architects has garnered a distinguished reputation over its 37-year history for cultivating a well-resourced and adept professional team, characterised by a diverse range of experience and skills. This strategic approach underscores our unwavering commitment to service efficiency, excellence, collaboration, and timely project delivery.

Our steadfast dedication lies in making a meaningful and lasting contribution to both the built environment and society at large. We firmly believe that achieving exemplary and aesthetically pleasing architecture necessitates the integration of economic, rational, and principled design elements.

Embarking on a new phase, MLB acknowledges the retirement of its inaugural generation of founding members from active architectural practice. This transition, however, is marked by the deliberate transfer of invaluable knowledge and principles acquired over decades of experience. Our expanding footprint, including the recent establishment in Johannesburg, solidifies our commitment to an ever-growing portfolio of projects across South Africa.

TEAM

DIRECTORS

Herman Joubert, Izak Burger, Leonard Arendze, Shaun Heeger

ASSOCIATES

André vom Hagen, Michael Madden

ARCHITECTS

Izak Burger, Herman Joubert, Michael Madden, Gideon van Aardt, Megan Eccleston, Mughsin Parker

SENIOR ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGISTS

Leonard Arendze, Shaun Heeger, Andre Vom Hagen, Candice Kruger, James Cooper, Tershia Stemmet, Westley van Wyk and Wilfred Papier

CANDIDATE SENIOR ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGIST

Graham de Vernon

ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGISTS

Irwin Wales and Divan Smith

CANDIDATE ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGISTS

Aaqeelah De Kock, Chad Morta, Emily Bloemetje, Kearen van Rooi, Shedrick Muller, Yaseen Talaaboedien and Yusiry Abrahams

3D VISUALISATION

Jacques Cleghorn

OFFICE MANAGER

Shaun Heeger

ADMINISTRATION

Laverne D'warte, Sade Etheridge, Noluvuyo Diwu

DIRECTORS

MLB Architects is managed by four directors/shareholders: Herman Joubert, Izak Burger, Leonard Arendze, and Shaun Heeger.

This broad-based structure supports a Level 1 BBBEE 51% Black-Owned company, ensuring that beyond MLB's core function of providing world-class architectural services, other management tasks are handled efficiently and effectively. This guarantees expertise in a range of project types, active involvement of senior management on every project, and networking potential and overlapping benefits for our clients.



IZAK BURGER
Principal Professional Architect

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



HERMAN JOUBERT
Principal Professional Architect

Herman, an NMMU graduate, has been a Director at MLB Architects since 2007. Prior to joining MLB, he ran his own practice for four years. With extensive experience, Herman excels in various architecture fields, including Education, Health, Wine, Industrial, and Mixed-Use projects. His hands-on leadership ensures innovative and excellent designs in every project.



LEONARD ARENDZE
Professional Senior Architectural Technologist

Leonard, a graduate of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, brings a wealth of experience to MLB. Following a decade of successfully managing his own practice, Leonard assumed the role of MLB director in 2018. In his current position, he oversees a portfolio of diverse projects, including residential, commercial, and retail developments.



SHAUN HEEGER
Professional Senior Architectural Technologist

Shaun is an award-winning graduate of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. After successfully managing his practice for 10 years, he was appointed as a director of MLB Architects in 2018. His responsibilities include a range of Residential and Commercial projects, and he manages the office's day-to-day operations.

RESOURCES

MLB has a strong core team of 27 people managed by four directors and two associates.

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 emphasizes diversity.

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

SKILLS

Our portfolio covers an extensive range of mostly large project types, including multi-storey office and mixed-use complexes, shopping malls and public buildings, universities and student accommodation, hotels and airport halls, luxury residential and retirement villages, and industrial and self-storage facilities.

Our expertise and skills have been developed and retained over the years in the core fields listed above, but also in many other specialist building types, including cold stores and paper mills, food processing facilities, cash centres and prisons, community centres and museums, and conservation and environmental projects.

We are proud of this extensive track record, knowing that MLB has the resources, skills, experience, and organisation to undertake numerous large and complex projects simultaneously.

TRAINING

Mentorship, education, and in-house training are central to our business. We are determined to make a difference in South Africa'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 architectural studies. Many of these students have gone on to enter the profession and often return to MLB for holiday or gap year employment.

Every year, we take on architectural students from South African universities and technikons around the country, developing strong relationships with staff at these teaching facilities. MLB is often complimented by these institutions for the transformation their graduates undergo in our studio.

IT & 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 (i.e., triple redundancy). Architectural work is created on CAD and BIM (Building Information Modelling) workstations, including one specialised 3D rendering station. These workstations primarily run the latest AutoDesk Revit building design software, supported 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 Johannesburg is connected via VPN (Virtual Private Network) 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 well understood by both parties.

SYSTEMS

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

'Time' and the management thereof are essential components in our industry due to the high-interest economic environment in South Africa. MLB is constantly looking for ways to improve professional skill, efficiency, and the ability to draw inspiration from our clients, our work, and society at large.

Productivity occurs in an environment where high work standards focus on client imperatives such as function, budget, and delight. Passion 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 spans all categories of industry, including local and foreign private individuals, community organisations and NGOs, numerous private developers and listed property organisations, and many public sector departments across all three tiers of government.

An ongoing focus on service and client satisfaction is paying dividends, with the firm being unaffected by the economic downturn of past years. Much of this success is due to a gratifying degree of return business, client loyalty, and word-of-mouth recommendations from satisfied 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&A Waterfront

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, DTPW – Department of Transport and Public Works, DALRD– Department of Agriculture, land reform and Rural Development

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