



# A GOOD CAUSE GOES GREEN!

On 23 March 2012, history was made with the opening of Africa's first eco-friendly children's home – the New Jerusalem Children's Home (NJCH) in Midrand, Gauteng. This revolutionary structure, made entirely from recycled materials, was the brainchild of husband and wife team Sean Wall and Mia Anfield of 4D+A Architects.

4D+A got involved with the project through NJCH's fundraiser, Doctor Adrienne Feldner-Busztin, with whom they had previously worked. The New Jerusalem Children's Home provides residential care for abandoned, abused, traumatised, orphaned and HIV-positive children and vulnerable youngsters from 0-18 years.

The home was started in 2000 when two sisters, Anna and Phina Mojapelo, realised the desperate need in their surrounding community to provide shelter and protection for vulnerable children. Their aim was not only to give those children a home, but also to offer them a future filled with hope. Anna and Phina opened up their own homes and started with just one child. Today they shelter over 80 children at a time.

The home aims to fulfil all the children's physical, social, emotional, spiritual and educational needs. They also look forward to the promotion of protection, safety and the well-being of children and youth within the context of the family through training and counselling youth on HIV/Aids awareness campaigns in the community.

Initially the existing orphanage needed upgrading to bring it up to the standard required by the Department of Social Development. Funds were then made available for the building of a Montessori Pre-School.

It was then decided that a site development plan should be put together, taking the future needs of the home into account. The plan indicated three houses, an administrative building and a chapel. The first of these houses has been built and the

rest will follow as funds become available.

Safintra Roofing identified this spectacular development for their ongoing "Great South African Architecture" marketing campaign. The company was fortunate enough to become involved at a stage in the project where they were able to donate roof sheeting to this worthy cause.

Apart from the stunning and innovative architecture, it was particularly exciting to find out about the "green" element of this development. Mia Anfield explains: "Basically we set out to design a 'green' environmentally-friendly home, which not only would house the children in a safe, comfortable environment but would also teach them about recycling and preserving the earth."

The company set out to achieve this in various ways, but the most striking feature has to be the clever use of recycled shipping containers sporting elevated cantilever roofs, featuring Safintra products.

The cantilever roofs are more than just a design feature – they also allow for natural air flow. Sean Wall explains: "The use of steel roof sheeting was an absolutely natural choice for us, given the 'green' theme of the project. It is a well-known fact that

steel roofing provides one of the greenest solutions available in building today. It is completely recyclable, thermally efficient, lightweight and state-of-the-art coating systems, such as aluminium/zinc, which ensures a durable product."

In addition to this, the project also features solar heating, which is a sustainable energy source that is used to heat all the water in a house. A bio-box turns black water into grey water for irrigation purposes, eco-heat infrared heaters provide warmth in the winter and photovoltaic systems convert sunlight into electricity for all the lights in the house.

Horizontal and vertical sunscreens were manufactured from a wood/plastic composite, and a roof garden provides a thermal mass which aids insulation. The orientation of the structure also makes the most of what nature has to offer in terms of thermal efficiency, and raising the containers above the ground allows for natural cooling airflow.

Sally Stromnes, Safintra's marketing manager, says: "As a company we pride ourselves on being cutting edge in the use of steel roofing, particularly for its eco-credentials. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to engage with this pioneering project that also happens to be a very worthy cause."

"It is incredibly exciting to work with talented South African designers such as 4D+A, who literally elevates great South African architecture to the next level, and this project is a worthy new theme in our 'Great South African Architecture' marketing campaign. The New Jerusalem Children's Home can count on Safintra Roofing's support going forward."



Safintra Roofing & Steel

Tel: 011 823 4027

Fax: 011 823 4288

E-mail: [info@safintra.co.za](mailto:info@safintra.co.za)

Blog: <http://safintraroofting.wordpress.com>

Website: [www.safintra.co.za](http://www.safintra.co.za)