



Indigenous plants run alongside & cover the blocks

Terraforce wins CMA Award for "most sustainable installation"

Once again, Cape Town based precast block licensor, TERRAFORCE, managed to take home a prestigious trophy at the CMA AWARDS and 40th anniversary celebrations staged in Johannesburg.

The Concrete Manufacturers Association (CMA) has held the first Awards for Excellence presentation based on its new awards category format. The black-tie gala event included the CMA's 40th

anniversary celebrations and was staged at the Indaba Hotel in Johannesburg on November 3rd.

The judging of this year's Awards competition took place in August when 77 entries were critically assessed by five judges at the CMA's Midrand premises.

Out of 6 Trophy winners Terraforce was awarded the 'Sustainability' trophy for the installation of retaining walls and Terracrete hard lawn pavers at Cavalli Stud Farm in the Western Cape.



Jeremy and Gail Leighton, SP and Gina van Blerk and Holger Rust with the Award

Cavalli Wine and Stud Farm was inspired by a family's love of saddle horses, but also a passion for providing fresh energy, work opportunities and inspiration to current and future staff, as well the neighbouring communities.

Alongside this passion runs a remarkable commitment to sustainability. All architecture and design is driven by a dedicated initiative to be sustainable and to establish a benchmark for environmental and energy efficiency.

While retaining an agricultural component, Cavalli still aims to rehabilitate the ecology of the land to promote bio-diversity in the Stellenbosch region.



Paddocks with P.V.C. fencing and Terracrete permeable ecosurface roads

The first impression on entering Cavalli Wine and Stud Farm is an incredible sense of space, with views of Cape Town to the West and the Helderberg mountains to the East.

This is partly facilitated by the estate gardens that echo the strong geometric



Details of permeable drainage measures around all the paddocks

lines of the access roads, paddocks and buildings (which include a barn housing stables and indoor arena, a manager's house and pavilions on either side of an outdoor arena with bleachers).

Their statement is functional and their relationship to the landscape is enhanced by the natural plantings of fynbos and the mountain range.

The buildings on the farm required the construction of a level platform, as well as road access to this area and the rest of the farm. The resulting cut slopes and roads needed to be retained.

Hannes Bower of Bower Architects specified Terraforce retaining walls as a stable, low maintenance and long term solution to prevent soil erosion:

"The rock face blocks, supplied by Cape Retaining Systems, blend with the natural environment, their sandstone colour matching the surrounding soil.

"Installed by Terraforce approved contractors, Dassenberg Retaining and Decorton Retaining Systems, the blocks are plantable and permeable, allowing the landscapers free reign."

The result is a balance of large trees, mainly indigenous shrubs, perennials

and groundcovers that swathe and run alongside the retaining walls, roads and paddocks.

According to Keith Kirsten Horticulture International (Pty) Ltd, a leading horticultural company, the overall feel of the landscaping is very natural and fresh:

"No expense was spared to remodel the indigenous terrain; indigenous plants were chosen to meld in with the endemic vegetation and seed harvested from the prevalent species pool to be incorporated



Semi-formal indigenous landscaping

into hydro-seeding new planting areas.

The main background planting consists of carefully constructed fynbos groups - colour coordinated with particular detail to texture and variety.

The existing fynbos lands are interspersed between the working vineyards, dams and waterways, farmland, paddocks and abound with a large diversity of wild flowers, wildlife and atmosphere."

Between the paddocks, permeable



Utility store incorporated into Terraforce L11 rock face retained terrace

by the main civil contractor, Power Construction.

These pavers, manufactured and supplied by Mobicast in George, are designed to handle storm water runoff and add a park-like or pastoral feel to areas normally needing hard paving or tar.

Says John Mellish of Mellish Paving:

"Because the construction of impermeable barriers on the surface reduce the rate of groundwater replenishment, permeable hard lawn pavers were installed between the paddocks, to return storm-water back to the ground and to prevent the grass becoming a mud bath at each gate.

"In this case, the pavers are placed on 150 mm layer of sub base with coredrains at strategic locations. Topsoil in the Terracrete blocks allows for easy establishment of grasses and plants."

This, and a commitment to planting thousands of species which will attract and feed more wildlife species endemic to the Cape Region and Floral Kingdom, make Cavalli a leading example of an estate willing to contribute to a sustained



Stables and indoor arena behind Terraforce wall and steps

future of the Botanic Biosphere of the area.

Taco Voogt, CMA president and acting director, presented the awards:

"The CMA has always advocated the maintenance of high standards in the manufacture and application of precast concrete products and our Awards for Excellence competition reflects this."