



Van Gogh Road – Somerset West

A newly cut driveway into a relatively stable shale slope made these retaining walls necessary. Space restrictions ruled out the over-excavation that would be required for composite retaining.



Contractor: Terrafirma cc



Engineer: Cape Town City Council

The engineer designed gravity walls, 6.5m high below and up to 8m high above the driveway. Two L13 blocks, back to back with the inside block filled with mass concrete and the facing block filled with topsoil, were built to full height on the usual mass concrete foundation.

A comprehensive drainage system was also specified behind the total wall area, complete with a surface drainage channel above the wall. Face brick and wrought iron fencing with cobble pavers rounded off this tricky undertaking, fulfilling all aesthetic expectations.