

# DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

460 Soutpansberg Road, Pretoria, South Africa  
(Design and Construct with the Environment)

**PROJECT TYPE:** Construct new government ministry head office

**CLIENT:**  
Dept. of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO)

**PROJECT DURATION:**  
24 months

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**  
Close co-operation between design and construction teams was required to resolve challenges associated with the manufacture, transport and erection of structural elements into a functioning environment.

**CONTROLS:**  
Completed in 24 months, this project involved bringing an unusually asymmetrical design to reality.

The structures aesthetic appearance meant that innovative engineering solutions had to be developed for even simple structures.

- Numerous complex spiral staircases necessitated the use of out-of-plane forces.
- The spider column design throughout was achieved by fixing structural steel onto cast-in-situ concrete columns with precast concrete to achieve the unusual vertical and horizontal curved shapes.
- The blockwork was done in stack bond instead of a stretcher bond and alternative methods were used to connect the external stack bonded blockwork with the standard brick modules on the inside.
- The landscape included an indigenous focus to enhance the local biodiversity.
- Storm water was diverted at several points into a perennial stream, bio-swales, attenuation ponds and reed beds and ultimately fed an irrigation storage lake.

**South African Property Owners' Association Building of The Year Winner 2012:** This project was the overall winner for Innovative Excellence and joint winner in the New Office categories.

