

SOUTHERN AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF STEEL CONSTRUCTION

Tass Engineering (Pty) Ltd

### **MOTHER OF MERCY SHRINE**



# THE PROJECT BRIEF

### **CLIENT: CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG**

## **ARCHITECTS: PERCEPTION ARCHITECTS (PTY) LTD**

## MAIN CONTRACTOR: GAUDI CONSTRUCTION (PTY) LTD





### Perception Architects and Interior Design

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27 June 2024

Overview by Perception Architects re Mother of Mercy Shrine project in support of Steel Award presentation by Tass Engineering Pty Ltd

### Mother Of Mercy Shrine, Cradle Of Humankind, Kruitfontein

The Shrine of the Mother of Mercy is to be a sacred place for the Catholic Church in South Africa and a place of pilgrimage and meditation for its patrons. The design includes a chapel and multi-purpose hall. It is positioned on a natural, mountainous site in the Magaliesberg which invites a special style of architecture using Biophilic design principles (where nature becomes part of the building) to allow the building to blend in with and respect the surrounding environment.

### The concept

The multi-purpose hall design was in truth a heavenly inspiration. However, the challenge and complexity of the design of the building was to achieve a large open interior space housing approximately 1500 people which could embrace the surrounding natural environment.

The spacious open plan interior therefore needed to be column free which necessitated a bold engineering approach.

Perception Architects ( Jocelyne and Jason Mazaham ) and THS and Associates ( Late Keith Trowbridge) Structural and Façade Engineers worked together to create a structure consistent with the design conceptualised by the architects. The roof design is composed of 3 layers:

- 1. centre roof ;
- 2. glazing window petals; and
- 3. the lower roof of the main heptagon structure.

along the perimeter of the walls the final product.

The number Seven is dominant in the Catholic Liturgy, symbolising the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Seven Sorrows and Joys of Mary. This symbolic number is the driving aspect behind the design of the multi-purpose hall with its floor plan, designed in the shape of a heptagon, a seven-sided polygon and roof, creating a flower with seven petals (a Symbol of our Mother Mary). Each of the seven walls has large sliding folding doors with ventilated glass panels above. The roof is made of lightweight material with seven large clerestory windows beneath each leaf and is structured to rest on a large ring beam holding the Seven Petals. The petals are linked to a central smaller heptagon rooftop with additional smaller clerestory widows.

Porte Cohere at the entrance

The Mother of Mercy Shrine is a beautiful tribute to Our Lady and it is most admirable that the Catholic Diocese, under the inspirational leadership of His Grace, Archbishop Buti Tlhagale .O.M.I, had the vision and courage to undertake such a noble project which embodies and reflects the proud and time honoured characteristics of the Catholic Church and its people.

Perception Architects [Jocelyne and Jason Mazaham PR- Arch (MIA)

Perception Architectural and Interior Designs C.C. Reg. no CCCK 90/26785/27 Established 1990

- In order that the structure should conform to the column free design conceived by the architects, Keith Trowbridge boldly accepted the daunting engineering challenge of providing a steel roof structure with a massive concrete ring beam
- The architects and the facade engineers worked harmoniously together to achieve

- While in the hall one will experience the presence and effect of the Magaliesburg Mountains all around the building from all angles.
- Natural light illuminates the building through the glazing on the leaves which is strategically designed such that the light subtly enters the building and creates only minimal areas of harsh direct sunlight.
- Around the perimeter of the building is a large tensile covered patio with a circular



# THE PROJECT OVERVIEW

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## STRUCTURAL STEELWORK

Project Completed: June 2024 Steelwork Completed: July 2023 Tonnage: 72.8 tons Profiles used: UB, UC, CHANNELS, ANGLES, CHS, RHS & PLATE



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## STRUCTURAL STEELWORK

Structural Engineer: THS CONSULTING ENGINEERS (PTY) LTD BSM BAKER CONSULTING ENGINEERS (PTY) LTD Steelwork Contractor: TASS ENGINEERING (PTY) LTD Steel Detailer: 3D CON STEEL DETAILING (PTY) LTD Steel Merchant/s: BSI STEEL (PTY) LTD, TUBECON (PTY) LTD CLOTAN STEEL (PTY) LTD, STEEL BANK (PTY) LTD ALLIED STEELRODE (PTY) LTD GK STEEL (PTY) LTD, MACSTEEL TUBING (PTY) LTD STEWARTS & LLOYDS (PTY) LTD



PCOLOK 700

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## METAL CLADDING AND ROOFING

Project Completed: JUNE 2024

Cladding Completed: JUNE 2024

Cladding Material Used: 0,50 ARCELORMITTAL CHROMADEK FISH EAGLE WHITE

Cladding Profile: PROLOK 700=1246,81m2 + ULTRALOK=871,38m2

Cladding Area Coverage: 2118,19m2 (ROOFING SQUIRES)

Cladding Tonnage: 11,249tONS



### PCOLOK 700



# STRUCTURAL FRAMING

1<sup>st</sup> STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: THS & Associates (Pty) Ltd The Late Keith Trowbridge as the structural steel roof façade designer. 2<sup>nd</sup> STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: BSM Baker Consulting Engineers(Pty) Ltd - Geoff Baker

**STEELWORK CONTRACTOR:** Tass Engineering (Pty) Ltd

STEEL DETAILER: 3D Con Steel Detailing (Pty) Ltd



### DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS

- Unprecedented Spans: The
  structure achieves a remarkable 44meter span with no internal
  supports, a testament to the
  innovative use of steel and
  exceptional engineering expertise.
- Dynamic Roof Design: The multistepped roof adds a captivating
  visual element while also offering a practical solution.
- Open to the Elements: The design bravely embraces the wind load, creating a sense of openness and connection with the surrounding mountains.
- Luminous Ambiance: The uplighting on all seven sides of the structure not only illuminates the building but also highlights its unique geometry, creating a truly breathtaking spectacle.





# SITE PROGRESS







### STRUCTURAL STEELWORK NOTES

BERS REVISED.			8.0	21/09/2021
R CONSTRUCTION.			8.0	03/08/2021
IR APPROVAL			8.0	01/09/2017
AMENDMENTS			NAME	DATE
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IEW - LOWER ROOF STRUCTURE				
CATHOLIC ARCH DIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG PROPERTY.				
PERCEPTION ARCHITECTS				
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DELEVENTION E-MAIL :ADMIN@TROWBRIDGE.CO.ZA				
DESIGNED	к.т.	PROJECT No.	т49	586
DRAWN	8.0	DWG. NO.	04	
TRACED				
TRACED		REVISION	1	





![](_page_16_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_0.jpeg)

# METAL CLADDING/ ROOFING

**CLADDING MANUFACTURER:** ARCELORMITTAL CHROMADEK

CLADDING ROLL FORMER / PROFILER: PRO ROOF PRETORIA

CLADDING/ ROOFING SUPPLIER: PRO ROOF PRETORIA

**CLADDING/ ROOFING CONTRACTOR:** PA STEEL STRUCTURES

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# FABRICATION

### STEELWORK CONTRACTOR: Tass Engineering (Pty) Ltd

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![](_page_26_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_1.jpeg)

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# ERECTION / CONSTRUCTION / INSTALLATION

**CONTRACTOR:** Gauteng Structural Erection

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# CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The structure presented a small challenge in terms of getting the spiral members to maintain a vertical plane for the façade. With the use of Tekla Structures and Trimble connect it allowed for an easier understanding of the complexity of the structure.

The connections of all the interconnecting members were "workshopped" with THS & Associates and 3D Con Detailing which resulted in details which were practical and efficient.

![](_page_38_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_1.jpeg)

# THE BENEFITS OF STEEL IN THIS APPLICATION

Benefits of Steel Usage:

- Structural Integrity: Steel offers exceptional strength and load bearing capacity, allowing for creative and daring architecture.
- Durability: Steel is resistant to corrosion, weathering and pests, ensuring the buildings longevity and reduced maintenance costs.
- Flexibility: Steel's malleability facilitates intricate designs, enabling architects to experiment with complex shapes and forms.
- Sustainability: Steel is recyclable, promoting ecofriendly construction practices and reducing the building's environmental footprint.
- Fast Construction: Prefabricated steel components speed up the construction process, minimizing project timelines.
- Fire Resistance: Steel's non-combustible properties enhance the building's safety and compliance with fire codes.

![](_page_41_Picture_7.jpeg)

# WHAT WE'RE PROUD OF

- Aesthetics: Incorporation of the steel elements into the style and aesthetics.
- The Team: The team and all people involved to bring the vision to life.

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We take great pride in Mother of Mercy Church, a testament to cutting edge engineering and design. The use of steel as the primary building material has not only ensured exceptional durability and structural integrity but has also granted us freedom to create expansive volumes within this building.

The versatility of steel allowed us to design soaring ceilings that foster a sense of grandeur. This achievement stands as a celebration of human ingenuity and showcases the remarkable possibilities that arise when technology and creativity converge in the realm of construction.