



Radisson Blu Johannesburg

Information and images courtesy of ESP Communications



Timescale: 24 months
Budget: Undisclosed

MAIN SUPPLIERS:

- Carpets:** Crossley
- Wallpaper:** Ulf Moritz
- Furniture:** Wunders, B&B Italia, Porada.
- Fabrics:** Kvadrat, Home Fabrics, Coral Stephens
- Lighting:** Limelight Design
- Artwork:** Dale Helman, Red Hot Glass, Shoote Images

The Radisson Blu Hotel Sandton is 15 floors of truly original design in a newly built tower with a large independent spa below and two floors of penthouses above. It is a hotel that breaks the mould of the city's previous hotel design in its youthful and confidently hip interpretation of cosmopolitan tastes today, creating a connection for its guests with modern Europe while offering a feast of city views on all sides.

Maria Vafiadis of MKV Design explains: "Our brief was to design a first class international hotel that would stand out among the city's hotels because it had a genuinely modern European essence and it was to appeal, in particular, to the younger generation of well travelled business people who expect new experiences and visual stimuli in their hotels but without the loss of familiar contemporary references and comforts."



through the upper levels of the space like moons, capturing and converting the lighting into ever changing shadows across the entire space.

The main lobby lounge is a large multi-functional space with intentionally exaggerated and vivid furniture - with eye-catching allsorts of seating and occasional tables, from large, organically shaped sofas to oversized wing-backed chairs and neat seating pods. The lobby is designed to meet today's preference for an informal and inclusive lifestyle but it cleverly avoids the risk of one group disrupting another by creating "corners of activity". A wall of specially designed banquette seating, for example, helps determine a quiet area for sitting and working. The banquettes are divided into sections by glass bookshelves and each section has a small



From the lobby level upwards, The Radisson Blu Sandton wraps around a central atrium that soars up all 15 levels of the hotel with guestrooms accessed from atrium-side corridors. MKV played with the basic square design of the atrium, skillfully layering it to great dramatic effect.

One of the facades has been clad with a mirror that curves in incremental steps upwards and over the height of the space. Runs of concealed lighting circumvent the atrium at each level sending out regularly changing beams of coloured light that transform the mirrored wall into a glittering sculpture presiding over the lobby area below. A galaxy of spheres, suspended from the ceiling, appears to float



The first of two Radisson hotels to be designed by international hotel interior design company, MKV Design, for the business centre of Johannesburg has just been officially opened.



pod table suited to laptop working. The effect is a sense of privacy without complete separation from the theatre of the atrium. Another "corner" offers the focus of a fireplace and an area for quiet conversation.

South Africa is famed for its wine, and at The Radisson Blu Sandton, the wine display is an entire glass room leading from the atrium lobby and providing passage to the Vivace Restaurant. Here, the use of the bold colours of Africa against a neutral background continues with fiery tones of red and orange predominating in the upholstery and accessories.

The restaurant provides all-day dining and its use of varied shapes, artworks and lighting work as well at breakfast as at night-time.

Notable features include a striking moulded white corian breakfast buffet table and specially designed glass sculptures, like dancing flames, inset into the wall.

The conference and meeting rooms, comprising two ballrooms and eight private rooms, span an entire floor. The Radisson Blu Sandton is primarily a business hotel, and there is every bit as much attention given to the design of this floor as to the public spaces. Here, the design is functional but not utilitarian; it is sleek and contemporary with a combination of geometric and organic shapes and striking original artwork. Imposing full height banquet seats with integral down lighters line the corridor walls – an innovative, and very practical, feature providing additional soundproofing as well as a place to sit and compare notes.

The design of the 290 guestrooms, including 33 suites, follows two schemes, one of which is more youthful and the other with a quieter décor and more conventional styling. Both room types celebrate the fabulous cityscape outside as the layout of the room naturally draws guests to the view through the window.

The hotel also has one of the loveliest outdoor pools in Johannesburg, with more stunning views and a large deck and graceful pool bar alongside.

All of the many pieces of art throughout the hotel were commissioned locally and comprise a mix of media – black and white photography, printed canvases and bronze sculptures, as well as the glasswork in the restaurant.