

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



GILLIAN GERNETZKY
Editor

Back in 2007, 'green' was a vague concept reserved for tree huggers and hippies. The first 'environmental activist' documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, had been released the year before and the seemingly irreversible damage we'd done to our planet left us feeling either hopeless or unwilling to face the myriad changes we would need to make to halt the destruction.

Fast forward 10 short years and green, sustainability and environmentally friendly are household words. Building green has become a mainstream concept, to the point where it's standard practice for new commercial developments to be designed and built to Green Star specifications; each and every municipality in South Africa is a GBCSA member; and more than 10 000 South African homes have been registered for EDGE certification.

This book has been carefully curated to tell the stories of the stakeholders who have been willing to turn the African built environment around and change the way we do business. It gives a voice to the people and organisations that have played a pivotal role in transforming the built environment, and breathes life into the buildings that have raised the bar and set a new standard of green building on the African continent.

The WWF outlines the importance of a green building movement from an environmental point of view on page 12, while the

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story of the first decade of the GBCSA is told through the eyes of the key people involved from pages 16 to 26. WorldGBC CEO Terri Wills and GBCSA CEO Dorah Modise cast their eyes forward to the next 10 years and beyond from page 27, while the WorldGBC recounts the progress of the extension of the green building movement into Africa on page 30.

In our efforts to understand what exactly constitutes better buildings, we identified nine key themes. Green Star certified buildings were selected which exemplify design and innovation under these themes, and they are explored from the perceptions of the professionals involved in the projects in the pages from 36 to 77. We then review 6-Star Green Star buildings from a completely different perspective from page 78: this time from the top down, through interviews with the CEO's who commissioned these world-class green buildings.

We wrap up the book from page 108 by exploring green building from the perspectives of government, financiers, architects, developers and tenants, before delving into the important work that key suppliers are doing in making green building more accessible and cost effective in our industry innovation and case study sections on page 118 and 126 respectively.

We hope you enjoy reading the book as much as we enjoyed compiling it, and that it inspires you to continue to aspire to ever higher standards in the pursuit of building better buildings.

2007 - 2017

**TEN
YEARS OF
INSPIRING
BETTER
BUILDINGS**

