

# DESIGN ART OF VILLA 豪宅设计典范

深圳市艺力文化发展有限公司 编

大连理工大学出版社



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# PREFACE

Architecture has become exposed to a whole new form of International media with the introduction of the internet, and during the past decade architects have been able to display their work instantaneously to a worldwide audience, thereby receiving comments and enquiries within days. This has led to an internationalization of architecture and a far broader interest in the works and designs of architects around the globe than previously exposed and shown. This form of media has also given fantastic exposure to people who could never afford to purchase books and access information which is now readily and freely available.

Anyone interested in architecture can research the internet to compare work done in countries worldwide, and if required compare sustainability with countries of similar climatic conditions such as Australia with California or South Africa. This has expanded the views and thought process of architects, engineers, town planners and landscape architects who can immediately look at alternatives and share ideas across the globe, opening up a whole new thought process.

The impact of global warming and peak oil production has started to have a dramatic impact on people's outlook, and a new epoch seems to be in the making, whereby the carbon footprint and impact on the environment is as important as the actual accommodation required.

Centre of this stands the villa, which for thousands of years was the predominant shelter of mankind. It is still the most sought after 'as built' building typology around the globe, due to urbanization and the increase of middle class income families in Third World countries.

With the use of new 3D drawing design packages and more interesting and innovative use of materials such as a variety of steel, stone cladding, etc has brought about a whole new range of responsibilities incorporating thoughts of energy analysis, sustainability and energy usage which all have an impact on the way designers ap-

proach their projects. This can be seen as much in villa design as in other typologies, although the influence of Frank Gehry and Zaha Hadid is yet to be seen in mainstream villa design.

The open plan conceptual design has been in place for the past 50 years, but has been vastly improved on with the advent of frameless sliding/folding glass doors, creating magnificent indoor living areas that blend with the outdoors without the restriction and visualisation of bygone thick frames that restricted views and a feeling of freedom. Combined with double volumes truly exhilarating spaces are created.

The design of a villa is an art form in itself, combining a client's personal wishes and budget with practicality while lifting the spirit of both the casual visitor and the regular inhabitants. In contrast to office or public buildings, a client is much more involved in a villa he commissions where we as architects are expected to respect their requirements and take into account their perceived status and sensibilities to a far larger extent.

When well executed, the design of a villa can be timeless - as can be seen in the work of the "old masters" like Frank Lloyd Wright's "Falling Water", Le Corbusier's "Villa Savoye" or Gerrit Rietveld's "Schroeder House", all of which were designed in the early parts of the 20th century.

On the other hand the wholesale copying of so-called "Tuscan" or "Mediterranean" architecture descended on the architectural landscape like a Biblical plague and can only reflect a lack of originality and a smugness in the comfort of the well travelled road, rather than taking risks and creating original work. These buildings seem to be dated even while continuously being built.

Similarly, this collection of new works by some fairly unknown but innovative architects reflects risk-taking and supreme originality, as opposed to being a reference to classical styles or representing the mediocre - a task that can only be accomplished by true champions of the architectural landscape.

Written by Nico van der Meulen

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# Nico van der Meulen Architects



As an architectural practice that is well renowned throughout the African continent, Nico van der Meulen Architects supplies creative solutions that are customized to suit each client's personal requirements. Through working closely with all its clients to ensure optimal satisfaction, the practice has accomplished astounding success in the design of upmarket residential homes. The company's innovative architectural vision is evident in its ability to continuously produce outstanding and artistic architectural designs that are personalized in accordance with the homeowners' lifestyle requirements.

1. Glass House



2. House Moyo



3. House Jocelyn



4. Serengeti House



5. Aboobaker



6. Brian Road



7. Lambada



8. The Villa Castelleone



9. Calaca





# Glass House

Design Agency:  
Nico van der Meulen Architects

Title:  
Glass House

Location:  
South Africa

Area:  
2,500 m<sup>2</sup>

Materials:  
glass, marble, cherry wood, stainless steel

The owner requested a modern, glamorous, open plan, light-filled house with views from all rooms into the garden. Designer created a horseshoe shaped building, with all rooms facing a central raised glass koi-pond as a focal point in the open northern side of the horseshoe. This water feature starts at the north side hall and leads through the centre of the horseshoe to the "penthouse for koi", with a two-storey high signature beam framing this view, while supporting a large part of the building and making other columns unnecessary. The house is to a large extent see-through, and from the south parking area you have a full view through the building to the north.

The building was designed according to passive energy principles, and on the warmest day the chimney effect of heat rising is used to make it possible to cool the house without air conditioning as the airflow over the indoor and outdoor pools cools the air sufficiently. At the same time the indoor pool absorbs heat from the north sun and stores it to heat the space at night. By using massive walls and other shading devices allowing only winter sun into the house, with the floors and walls absorbing the heat, releasing it at night. The indoor pool is heated by a heat pump, which uses an input of 1kW to release 3kW of heat into the water.































