

Graeme Kerr

Building Contractors cc

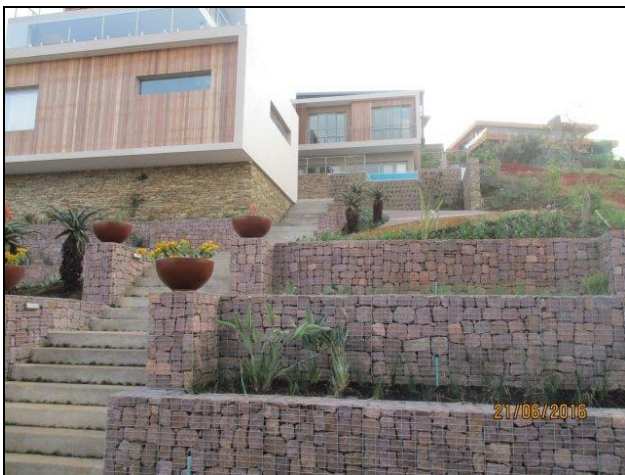
167 Moore Rd, Umbilo, Durban, 4001

Tel 3049351, 3048630 Tele Fax Ans 3072580

Email: graeme@graemekerr.co.za, Cell 0825523338

HOUSE ANDERSON

19 South Valley Rd, Executive Estate, Umhlanga Rocks



We would like to thank the professional team for a job well done and the faith they had shown in us.

Jacques Grobler of CA Architects 032 946 3830 jacques@caarchitects.co.za

Jim Martin from Martin and Associates 031 266 0755 jwm@martinjw.co.za

The Executive Estate land is expensive and the sites are extremely steep, which leads to extensive piling and even contiguous piling - extensive retaining walls are the order of the day. The client was quite upset that they had paid out nearly a million rand and we were still no closer to a house.



Due to the steep slope of the land and having cut our platforms during the rainy season, we had to pull out all the stops to try and contain storm damage / controlling storm water on site with temporary storm water pipes, damming and sand bagging.



Concrete retaining walls were under construction. Due to the limited quantities of concrete being able to be cast at a time, concrete was mixed and placed on site. These materials were transported up onto site by hand and using two conveyor belts





The larger bulk concrete pours to surface beds and slabs were pumped up onto site. This operation was hampered by the Estate's restrictions, allowing only one truck access into the Estate at a time - this meant the truck would have to drive out before the next could enter which was frustrating.



Jacques Grobler convinced the Estate to accept the gabions as landscaping and retaining walling, which worked out far better structurally and more aesthetically pleasing than anything else



The driveway is concrete with exposed aggregate, with the exposed stone being sourced from the same quarry as the gabion stone and provided to Metier concrete for the concrete mix.



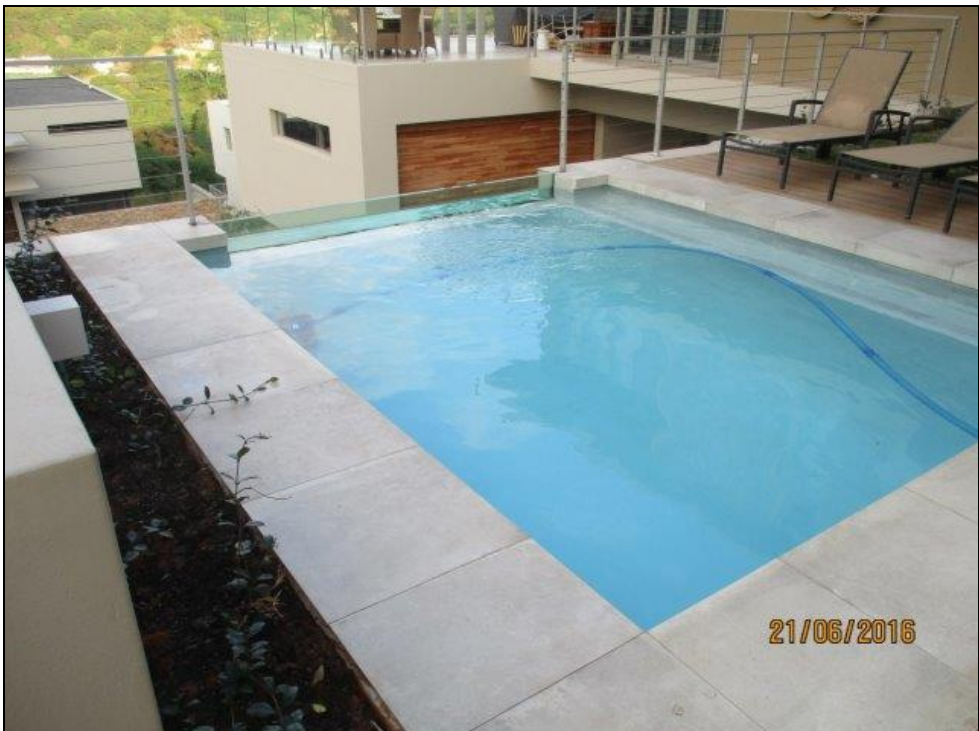
The scaffold support work was extremely tricky due to the slope of the land and the height required in some areas, particularly making plastering and painting the external façade even more difficult.



The elevated position of the house has provided a stunning view of the city, the sea and harbour mouth.



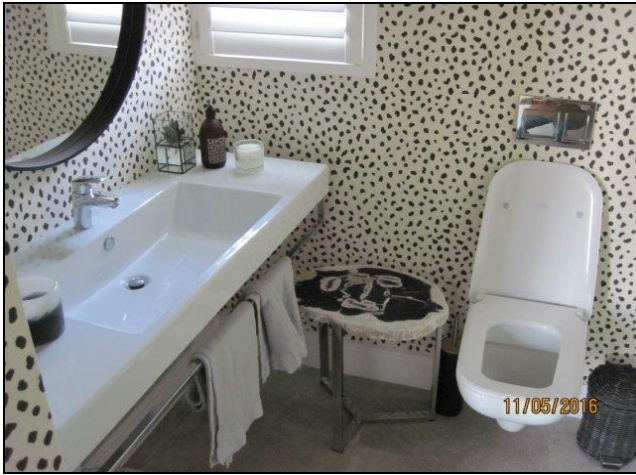
The swimming pool has a glass side which proves quite an impact, especially set off against the vertical garden below



The finishes are of the highest quality, with each tile being 1.8 m long x 0.6 m wide. This created a challenge for the tilers who broke one tile while laying them, which had to be replaced at our cost. Floating steel treads mounted off the spine wall were wrapped in timber resulting in a spectacular main staircase.







Still nothing detracted from the architectural merits, with everything blending in as a modern seamless bespoke house.

