

# THE YEAR THAT WAS...

WE'VE INVITED A PANEL OF INDUSTRY INSIDERS TO TAKE AN IRREVERENT, WITTY AND SERIOUS LOOK AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN YEAR THAT WAS...

OUR PANEL



**Gary Cotterell**  
– editor of  
*Wanted*



**Imraan Coovadia**  
– author and  
UCT lecturer



**Heather Moore**  
– editor of DECO  
blog, designer  
behind  
Skinny laMinx



**Munyaradzi Chanetsa**  
– marketing  
manager,  
Putumayo Music



**Sean Weldon**  
– head of  
ID Solutions



**Jane Visser**  
– architect



**Justin Nurse**  
– Laugh It Off

## THE BEST CITY INNOVATION

- Gautrain – Gary Cotterell (GC) and Munya Chanetsa (MC)
- The free bicycles in Paris and Amsterdam – Jane Visser (JV)
- Cape Town's CID (city improvement district) model – Sean Weldon (SW)
- The widening of the road where the N1 joins the M5 in Cape Town, hopefully putting an end to the drivers' moral dilemma of whether or not to push in some time soon – Justin Nurse (JN)

## THE MOST TALKED ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

- The 2010 soccer stadium in Green Point (JV and GC)
- Wolf and Wolf's great compact home. You can get them made out of hemp, they're cheap, and they're the future (JN)
- New Market Junction in Woodstock, Cape Town (MC)

## THE WORST BUILDING IN SOUTH AFRICA

- The series of fortress-like buildings in our cities that create self-contained internal worlds, at the expense of interacting and improving the city environment. Bad architecture is such a waste of money and is ultimately unsustainable (JV)
- The year was darkened by the need for temporary shelters for the victims of xenophobic attacks. Plus, I've just driven past the worst domestic building I've ever seen in Hyde Park – it's Never-Never-Land meets Emperor's Palace meets Disneyland. I didn't think things could possibly get worse than Monte Casino. It takes up an entire block (GC)

## THE BEST 'ECO-FRIENDLY' CHANGE/ITEM

- Load-shedding (GC)
- The tide has turned where clients now request sustainable buildings instead of us trying to persuade them (JV)
- The Ford Explorer Hybrid. Not that I'd drive one (IC)
- Heath Nash's new recyclable lamps (SW)
- The high cost of petrol forcing us to car pool (JN)

## THE MOST POPULAR HOMEWARE ITEM

- Expensive bed linen, such as Anichini, and a personal chef (GC)
- The Magis 'Puppy' (SW)
- The calculator for downsizing your shopping budget (JN)
- The Sony 52" Bravia! (MC)
- Wallpaper (HM)
- Beautiful paintings by young, up-and-coming South African artists such as Hanneke Benade, Caryn Scrimgeour and Mary Visser; a freestanding fire dish; anything by Patricia Urquiola (JV)

## THE INTERIOR TREND THAT WENT WRONG

- Will people stop writing soothing words in bland typography on their walls already? (HM)
- 'Feature' walls (JV)
- Plastic grass (SW)
- Lumo (JN)





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**WHAT WERE PEOPLE COOKING?**

- Fresh food, grown and made by small-scale producers, and bought from the neighbourhood market (HM)
- Simple old favourites at home: steak and chips, salad Niçoise, roast lamb, apple crumble, fruit salad. And the great South African braai (JV)
- They weren't. They dined out on extended credit. The rest were given cake. Next year, they'll stay at home and experience molecular cuisine (courtesy of the Spanish) (GC)
- Less meat, which is a crime in my book! (MC)

**WHAT WERE THEY DRINKING?**

- Good coffee from vida e caffè and lemon cordial from Woodstock's Neighbourgoods Market (JV)
  - Very dry martinis (GC)
  - Jack Daniels and lime (MC)
- Something in Spanish: mojitos? (IC)
  - Not Amstel! (SW)

**WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?**

- That starchitects' ego monument buildings don't respond to their users (JV)
  - Nothing (IC)
  - They weren't! (GC)
- 'You know, I really should start a veggie patch...' (HM)
  - What would Brangelina name their twins? When would Britney make her comeback? (JN)
    - How much it costs... (SW)
- If South Africa will turn into the new Zimbabwe (MC)

**THE MOST EXPECTED EVENT/HAPPENING/THING THAT NEVER MATERIALISED**

- Complete economic and political meltdown (JV)
- The Currie Cup Rugby final in Cape Town (SW)
  - Ubuntu? (GC)

- Doesn't Robert Mugabe have a date with HELL? (IC)
- Jacob Zuma being convicted (MC)

**THE FASHION TREND THAT WENT WRONG**

- Everything highly trend-orientated. What a waste! Where are the beautifully crafted clothes in quality fibres cut to fit in forms that won't date? That's sustainability (JV)
- I still don't get jeans at half-mast (GC)
- Skinny jeans... (five seconds of silence for effect) for MEN! (MC)
- I didn't realise there were trends any more. I guess I don't know what people are wearing. But, in general, people wear too many layers of fabric (IC)
- Low, low jeans with waaay too much underwear showing (HM)

**THE HOTTEST TRAVEL DESTINATION**

- Dubai. North of 40°C on a cool summer's day. Not that I've been (IC)
- Abu Dhabi (maybe ID Solutions will have a new showroom there in 2009...) (SW)
- Mdumbi on the Wild Coast in the Eastern Cape (JN)
- Pezula in Knysna (MC)
- Royal Livingstone, Victoria Falls, Zambia. Got to love a place that remembers what you drink every time you visit. Pimm's at the pool with zebras roaming around you and the thunder and spray of the falls a few metres away. Martinis late afternoon and into the evening. It's heaven (GC)
- Singita Lebombo (JV)

**OH SO TIRED...**

- Pessimism about South Africa (JV)
- Of how long it's taking us all to catch a wake up and start fixing our planet (JN)
- Chinese copies (SW)
- Faux chandeliers (GC)