

MONDAY JUL 15, 2013

### Emira's Podium at Menlyn wins coveted award

Emira Property Fund's Podium at Menlyn has been announced as the winner of the Fulton Awards Innovative Construction prize.



*The Podium at Menlyn, Pretoria.*

Emira chief executive Jame Templeton says: 'We strive for innovation in our properties and developments and it's satisfying to be formally acknowledged for this with a Fulton Award for Innovative Construction for this A-Grade office building.'

Emira owns a diversified portfolio of 146 office, retail and industrial properties. Its properties are valued at R9.1 billion and listed investments at R600 million. It has a market capitalisation of R7.7bn.

The 9 000m<sup>2</sup> first phase of the 16 000m<sup>2</sup> Podium at Menlyn development was completed in May last year, and tenants include Safcol, Waymark, Hatch and Zurich.

The building is at the intersection of Atterbury Road and Lois Avenue, opposite Menlyn Park Shopping Centre, in Pretoria. Its design takes advantage of this prominent corner in Menlyn, which is becoming an A-Grade business hub with more than 300 000m<sup>2</sup> of mixed-use development planned, including retail, offices, hotels and residential units.

As the gateway to the Menlyn node, Emira's overall brief for the building was simple: a timeless, classic design that was cost-effective to maintain.

Architects Boogertman and Partners credit the success of the project to combining creative design talent, technical and project management expertise and the support of its dynamic interior architect department.

'This standout business address uses triangular geometry in a union of glass curtain walls and off-shutter concrete. It's partly inspired by ancient engraved artworks found in the Blombos Caves on the Southern Cape coast, creating a bridge between a 77 000-year-old culture and the future. Inspiration was also drawn from the ancient Chinese Tangram dissection puzzle.

Says Templeton: 'Even the basement and lift lobby artwork make use of these triangles to create a 'geometric garden' in an urban space, giving the impression of a digital landscape. The artwork transforms the basement into an exciting space through which to enter.'

'We would like to thank the professional team, contractor and Emira staff who contributed to the project.'

Saturday Star