

BOMAX

Name of company Bomax Architects Pty (Ltd) **Address** 2nd Floor 71 Shortmarket Street, Cape Town, 8001 **Email** info@bomax.co.za
Website www.bomax.co.za **Senior partner** Dion Max Walters (BBldg Arts, BArch, PrArch, MIArch, CIA)

What kind of projects do you specialise in? We do commercial, residential and retail work.

Flagship projects? The Swakopmund Waterfront sectional title housing estate; House Barwell at Khyber Rock in Johannesburg; and Diamond SA at The Clocktower, V&A Waterfront.

Do you incorporate 'green' design? Bomax takes green architecture to heart. It is important for architects to educate clients as to what it means for a building to be both sustainable and energy efficient. 'Green' architectural features are proposed and incorporated into projects wherever possible. Simple features like rain water harvesting for buildings must be taken more seriously in the Western Cape especially.

What is your favourite building internationally? The Lloyd's Building in London, which was designed by Richard Rogers.

Whose work do you admire? Santiago Calatrava, Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers.

What inspires you to design? At ground level I am inspired by the order and structure of nature – this can always be seen in the symmetry and rhythm of buildings. Creating simplicity and beauty out of complex design issues is the real challenge in achieving successful architecture. Design fashions go through cycles and this applies to architecture. Predicting these outcomes and being able to interpret the styles into the form colour and textures of buildings is most inspiring.

What is the biggest challenge facing architects in South Africa? South African architects need to maintain our identity and help forge our own architectural language. Our world is becoming increasingly globalised with contemporary architecture now seen as a global style. Our buildings are statements of our culture and we need to use them to express our nation's personality, South African architects need to reflect on our nation when designing and give up on style imports.

