

Crossroads community project

Somerset West based structural and civil engineering consultancy, Moroff & Kuhne, has recently been involved in the engineering of the Emavundleni Centre for HIV Research in Crossroads, Cape Town.

The Centre which was established by the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation (DTHF), is a non-profit organisation comprising a team of over 100 dedicated doctors, nurses, researchers and community-trained field workers all of whom are involved in the research, training and treatment of HIV and related diseases.

Moroff and Kuhne attended to all the engineering requirements for the project including the foundations, first floor and the roof slabs. The architects on the project were the Cape Town based firm, Anesa & Barbosa.

The construction was supervised by

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Moroff & Kuhne and local labour was used throughout the project. A group of women were also enlisted to make sure that the men on site were working at a regular pace and not slacking off.

"It was quite funny to see these ladies with their hard hats checking up on their husbands to make sure they were working and doing their jobs properly!" laughs Mike Kuhne, who was involved in the project.

In order to facilitate the process and flow of activities associated with vaccine trial participation, the layout of the ground floor was very important. The foyer area is double volume and provides a major source of light for the building. Some sections of the building require constant temperatures (the laboratory, pharmacy and phlebotomy) and are airconditioned but the rest of the building is naturally ventilated with corrugated canopies over the windows. A generator was also provided for emergency power.

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