

Objektbericht *Project Report*

Nelson Mandela Capture Site Centre and Museum – Howick (South Africa)

Unique museum

The "Nelson Mandela Capture Site Centre and Museum" is located about three kilometres north of Howick in the South African province of KwaZulu-Natal. The façade cladding of titanium zinc gives the building a powerful and imposing appearance.

Nelson Mandela (1918 - 2013) is regarded worldwide as a symbolic figure for freedom and justice. He began his political activities in his early 20s and from the 1950s onwards campaigned against South African apartheid laws and white supremacy. For this he was banned, charged with treason and acquitted in 1961 after a trial that lasted five years. Even after his acquittal, Mandela was put out for arrest and lived underground. On 5 August 1962, while driving on the R 103 highway about three kilometres north of Howick, he was stopped, arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964. Mandela was released on 11 February 1990 and was South Africa's first black president from 1994 to 1999.

A building with a powerful aura

As a tribute to this extraordinary man and to keep his memory alive, the KwaZulu-Natal Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Department has built the "Nelson Mandela Capture Site Centre and Museum". It stands on the exact spot on the R 103 where Mandela was stopped in the Austin Westminster and welcomes visitors with a replica of this car. The tour of the museum offers comprehensive insight into Mandela's life and the world that shaped him and his struggle against apartheid, including virtual 3D tours, videos and photographs. The museum is rounded off by a visitor centre with conference rooms as well as educational classrooms.

This is the first exhibition of its kind to be realised in South Africa with the "Nelson Mandela Capture Site Centre and Museum". The architecture and exterior design were also to express the special nature of the building. The goal was to create a building with an impressive and powerful appearance that would express the significance of this place, while withstanding the stresses of wind, sun and rain for years to come. All these requirements are fully met by the titanium zinc from RHEINZINK GmbH & Co. KG, Datteln, which was used to clad the façade and cover the roof.

Robust material

This noble and at the same time very robust material forms a zinc carbonate layer through natural weathering, which reliably protects the surface from corrosion and also regenerates itself instantly in the event of damage. The development of this protective layer is a natural process that occurs slowly and unevenly and depends, among other things, on the frequency of rainfall and the orientation of the house. RHEINZINK has developed a special staining process to give the material the same colour tone in the factory, which is created by natural weathering.

The material's ability to develop the lifelong protective patina is fully retained. RHEINZINK titanium zinc is available in three surface qualities: prePATINA graphite-grey, prePATINA blue-grey and CLASSIC bright rolled. For the "Nelson Mandela Capture Site Centre and Museum", the quality prePATINA graphite-grey was used for the façade and roof surfaces.

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Double standing seam system

The panels on the gable roof were installed using the double standing seam system. This technique is suitable for flat pitched roofs and can already be used from a roof pitch of 3°. It particularly stands out due to its filigree seams and reliably protects the building from wind and weather. The installer used panels up to 16 metres long for the roofing of the "Nelson Mandela Capture Site Centre and Museums", which are connected to each other from one slope to the next via upturned seams.

Several skylights direct daylight into the interior of the building. The flashings required for this were manufactured separately by the fabricator and soldered in place on site. A ventilated ridge serves as the upper termination of the rear-ventilated roof covering. The lower roof termination is made up of an interior rain gutter with integrated slope steps and drainage via appropriately arranged flat roof gutters and downpipes, which are led down in the space between the façades. The cover of the gutters also serves as the upper finish of the façade cladding.

The angled standing seam technique was used on the façades. This technique enables a concise and at the same time very variable façade design through different panel lengths and widths. This lets architects and planners structure and design small and large areas in a prominent and distinctive way. In addition, installation can take place vertically as well as horizontally.

At the Nelson Mandela Capture Site Centre and Museum, the panels were laid vertically on a ventilated substructure in widths of 300, 400 and 500 millimetres. Further structuring was achieved with the staggered cross-folds, with which the panels were connected along their length. The building cut-outs with the entrances and delivery gates contrast with the vertical lines, as the installer particularly emphasised these by laying the panels horizontally with widths of 400 millimetres.

Long walk to freedom

Apart from a few purposefully arranged openings, the façade is completely closed in order to draw visitors' attention to the exhibition. At the end of their visit, the visitors exit onto a path that is meant to symbolise Mandela's long journey to freedom and leads them to a sculpture that can be seen from afar. It was created by the artist Marco Cianfanelli and consists of 50 steel columns – each between 6.5 and 9.5 metres high. It stands very close to the R 103 – at the very spot where Nelson was stopped in 1962. It is only when you have followed the "Long walk to freedom" for a while that you begin to recognise the special feature of the sculpture: when you look to the west, the steel columns come together to form the portrait of Nelson Mandela.

Construction panel

Client: Umngeni Municipality, Howick KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Architect: Mashabane Rose Associates, Johannesburg, South Africa

Execution of the Rheinzink work: Rohde Roofing, Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Technical data: Roof - 1818 m², RHEINZINK-prePATINA graphite-grey, double standing seam system

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Façade - 4172 m², RHEINZINK-prePATINA graphite-grey, angled standing seam system

Nelson Mandela Capture Site Centre and Museum on the Internet:

www.thecapturesite.co.za

Photos: RHEINZINK



The "Nelson Mandela Capture Site Centre and Museum" with its virtual 3D tours, videos, photographs, etc. offers a comprehensive insight into Mandela's life. In the foreground, the symbolic "long walk to freedom" begins.



The panels of different widths (300, 400 and 500 millimetres) divide the façade vertically. The installer emphasised building recesses by installing them horizontally.



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For the roofing, the installer used panels up to 16 metres long. The roofing frames for the skylights were manufactured separately and soldered on site.



The lower roof termination is formed by an internal rain gutter. The covering of the gutters also serves as the upper finish of the façade cladding.



Aerial view of the museum; the "Long walk to freedom" leads from the museum to the sculpture (right) that forms the portrait of Nelson Mandela.

HISTORY

Nelson Mandela first attended a Methodist school and later the boarding school Clarkebury Boarding Institute. After qualifying at Healdtown Wesleyan College, Mandela enrolled at the University College of Fort Hare in 1939. Fort Hare and Healdtown were centres of opposition to white political supremacy in South Africa at the time. Mandela graduated from college with a BA and went on to study law at Witwatersrand University. As a young law student, Mandela fought in the political opposition against the white minority regime. He joined the African National Congress (ANC) in 1944, which called for

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the abolition of all discriminatory laws against blacks. The National Party came to power in South Africa in 1948 and enacted laws classifying South Africans by "race". In 1952, Mandela developed a concept of resistance to apartheid (Mandela Plan). He was banned several times and was ordered to leave the ANC. Nevertheless, he participated in the Freedom Charter, which formed the basis of anti-apartheid activities. In December 1955, Mandela was arrested and charged with treason in 1956. The trial ended in 1961 with his acquittal. Being banned again from February 1956, Mandela lived underground and continued to be politically active. On 5 August 1962, he was arrested once again and sentenced to life in prison in 1964. Mandela was released on 11 February 1990 and was South Africa's first black president from 1994 to 1999. Mandela received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

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