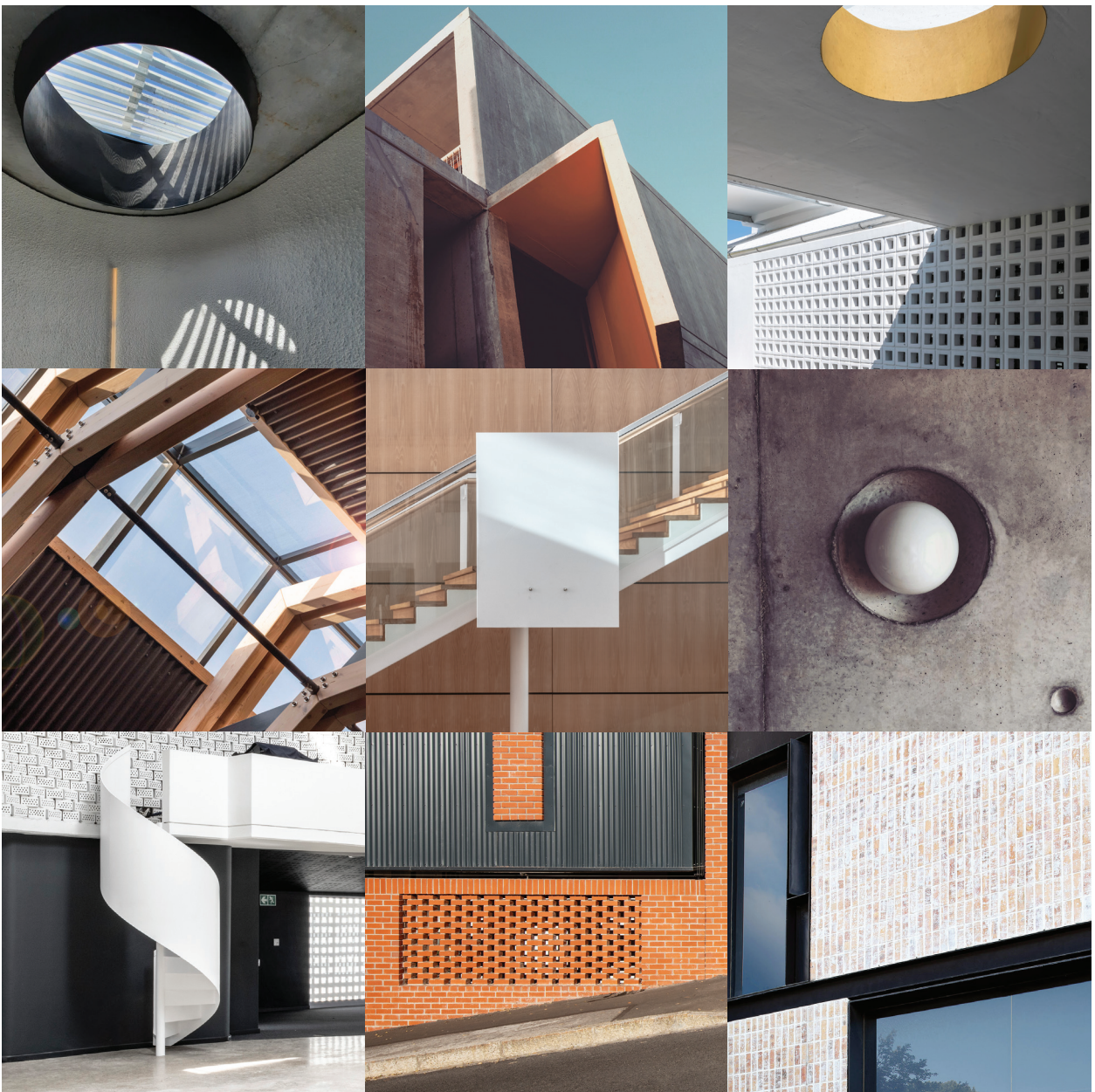


HOUSE AND LEISURE

# LOOKBOOK

*House and Leisure* and the Cape Institute for Architecture (CIa) have teamed up to highlight the incredible architectural work of several local firms who were honoured at the Awards for Architecture 2021

by LOOKBOOK Studio



# Moya Meaker Winery

Here, through simple forms and careful detailing, the architect celebrates the wine-making process as intrinsic to the built form

Architect: **Onyx Architects**  
AWA 2021 commendation

As one approaches the winery from a meandering path through a fynbos garden, the symmetrical glass facade of the cellar is framed by two beautiful mature oak trees. Just one of the sensitive ways that the building is shaped around the constraints and opportunities of the site.

The building is both intensely pragmatic and robust, yet elevates the function through its celebration of form, to create an almost cathedral-like quality. This is mainly achieved through the detailing of the timber scissor trusses, which allows natural top light to illuminate the double-volume structure of the fermentation cellar. This distinguishes itself from the traditionally dark and cave-like typology of a wine cellar.

The backdrop of the oak trees on the glass facade become an intrinsic element of the internal spatial experience of the cellar. Elevated large wine storage drums create a balanced symmetry along this axis, becoming inherent to the architecture. The lightness of the fermentation cellar leads into the Malolactic room, which is in contrast a dark space, but where visual connections with the orchards occur in unexpected moments. These visual connections serve as a constant reminder of the wine-making process from fruit to final product.

Moving through the building allows the visitor a unique view into the inner workings of this process, which ends the journey in the wine tasting room.

This project is the joyful product of an architect who has taken pleasure in understanding the complex practical requirements of the brief, yet elevating the function through form making and detailing, making the building well worthy of a commendation.

[onyxarchitects.com](http://onyxarchitects.com) @onyxarchitects



SOMERSET WEST

# Christ Church

Balancing old and new – the highlight of this subtly choreographed sequence is that it screens-off without shutting out, accommodates without prescribing and holds without constraining

Architect: **Noero Architects**  
AWA 2021 winner

This brief called for an extension to an existing complex of church buildings, to accommodate an expanding congregation in Somerset West.

The immediate context of the site is suburban in form and programme. The approach, off of Old Stellenbosch Road, meanders up a narrow street that is shared with a medium-sized shopping centre, its parking lot and a Tudor-styled gated-estate. The incline, together with the facade of the centre, effectively diminishes the scale of the new church building, which in its cylindrical form and industrial detail, recalls the language of the concrete reservoirs that it joins on the slopes of the Helderberg.

The complex is accessed through a gently sloping ramp, screened in white breeze block, modulating light whilst softening the banality of its immediate context. One exits the ramp into a courtyard around which the new and existing structures are arranged, with the old and new church buildings aligned axially, parallel to the slope.

The new church building, a cylinder set into a cube, allows for fluctuations in capacity and programme. It succeeds in creating a space that is non-hierarchical, austere and doctrinally appropriate, while maintaining a sense of the sublime.

Light pours in from above, through the central clerestory that crowns the drum-like structure. The cylinder is clad with carefully articulated courses of air-bricks, modulating acoustics while subtly animating the largely unadorned interior with a play of light and shadow. The exit is through the same door as the entry to the church, where you find yourself under the heavens once more.

Across the courtyard, the old building is newly painted in white and is linked to the new church along the north-eastern boundary by a strip of cellular spaces (accommodating kitchens, storage, creches, and more) and to the southwest by the screened brick wall enclosing the ramp.

Covered walkways finished in white concrete and supported on galvanised steel posts flank the courtyard, providing shelter from the sun and rain.

This carefully deployed material language of brick, concrete and steel unifies the disparate elements of the scheme, creating a continuity that recedes gently as it frames the world beyond.

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