

Revamp for Nottingham Road Hotel

THE LANDMARK 154-year-old Nottingham Road Hotel on the picturesque KwaZulu-Natal Midlands Meander tourist route is set to get a R25 million makeover ahead of welcoming guests for the 2010 Fifa World Cup sporting spectacle, now less than a year away.

And Durban-based architectural designer Eloise Myburgh, of Planprint Design Studio, has been given the exciting task of breathing new life into the century-and-a-half-old gem.

Using "computer-generated visualisations" or designs, Myburgh has delivered on the brief by the hotel's Zimbabwe-based owners to bring the aging hotel into the 21st century, while retaining its character and without compromising its signature Cape Dutch style.

Located in Nottingham Road off the R103 (Old Main Road), the popular four-star hotel has accommodated guests on the busy Johannesburg-to-Durban route for many decades. It also serves as a base for parents visiting children boarding at the prestigious Michaelhouse Boys' College, and is a regular destination for tourists on the Midlands Meander.

The Nottingham Road Hotel's R25m facelift will see the establishment increase its accommodation offering with the construction of 25 self-contained cottages on the 15 000m² site. It also includes modernising the hotel, relocating the entrance, adding an office, games and function rooms as well as laundry facilities.

Myburgh, virtually computer illustrate 12 months prior to receiving the Nottingham Road brief, used new design software to create visualisations of the project. Prior to the introduction of the software,

smaller firms, unable to afford high-end visualisation programs, had to outsource the task to specialists.

"I'd never had the luxury of access to quality visualisations before and had always found it difficult to communicate design intent to a client. Now, not only had I created my own visualisations, but I'd used them to make a project more tangible for my client.

"Despite being thousands of kilometres away, my client could experience the project before it was built and I could reassure him that the look and feel of the project would be consistent with the original hotel," said Myburgh.

Eliminate

She said it also helped to eliminate long and expensive planning meetings and paved the way for quicker decision-making about the project.

According to AutoCAD, the building information modelling (BIM) technology that underpins the software allows architects to quickly and inexpensively create digital models of their project.

From this computer-assisted design they extract all the graphic and text-based information they require, including conceptual images, floor plans, sections, elevations and window and door schedules. Concurrent creation of documentation eliminates the duplication of effort involved in creating preliminary designs, then detailed designs and finally construction documentation.

"Visualisations of the Nottingham Road Hotel were also used to support applications to authorities at the National Heritage Council, reassuring them that the look and feel and original structure had been preserved and contributed to accelerated granting of permits," said Myburgh.





**AN ARTIST'S
impression
of what the
154-year-old
Nottingham
Road Hotel
in the KZN
Midlands will
look like
after its
R25 million
upgrade.**

