

Wallpaper*

NOVEMBER 2011

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*DESIGN INTERIORS FASHION ART LIFESTYLE

TOP 20
REASONS
TO BE IN...

ARGENTINA

THE NETHERLANDS

CANADA

UAE

SWEDEN

FRANCE

SOUTH AFRICA

USA CHINA

PORTUGAL

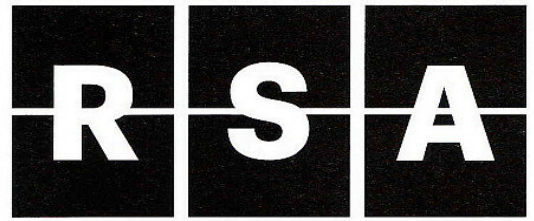


SOUTH AFRICA

It's a long way from Camps Bay to Soweto, but across South Africa there is a push to remap the old geographies and build new communities, creative and otherwise

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Light design, set design, art direction
and image by Thierry Dreyfus
Assisted by Mathias Wendzinski

'Crystal' coat, £2,385; jacket (worn as a top),
£2,670; 'Crystal' trousers, £820; sandals,
£110; necklace, £875, all by Lanvin,
tel: 44.20 74911839 (UK), www.lanvin.com

Fashion: Mathew Stevenson-Wright. Hair: Mark Hampton for Radio Hair Salon using Bumble and Bumble. Make-up: Martina Luisetti using MAC. Model: Gwen Loos at Premier Models. Lighting assistant: François Beuchot. Light supplies: JLT Paris, thanks to Fred Crasnier. Production: Laura Holmes Production

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Soccer centre

A future-focused football academy in Soweto

PHOTOGRAPHY: JULIAN ABRAMS

The Nike Football Training Centre in Soweto, designed by Canadian firm RUF Project, is a study in contrasts. The impressive 1,300 sq m facility, recently shortlisted for a World Architecture Festival award, is the first of its kind in Africa. Intended as a community resource that would have a life beyond last year's World Cup, the centre sports two full-sized artificial pitches and a clubhouse, yet its location meant that the safety of the young players it hosts was a primary design consideration. Working to a tight FIFA deadline, RUF directors Alyssa Schwann and Sean Pearson pushed the project from design to construction in eight months and, using a palette

of local materials that included sandstone and Saligna (the Soweto version of Douglas fir), they hoped the building would become part of a new architectural language, as well as a symbol of a new, unified South Africa. And their design has largely succeeded in evoking this sense of unity. There is an absence of any dark, hidden spaces, and sight lines are everywhere. 'In Jo'burg, it's all about fences and gates,' says Pearson. 'But we wanted the centre to be about the kids that were using it. We wanted to create a sense of fluidity, but we had to respond to security issues. The challenge was to make it secure, yet open.' www.rufproject.com





SPORTING CHANCE
Soweto's Nike Football Training Centre was conceived as a solid block with a light wrap of timber – articulated slices allow sunshine to penetrate at key points