

# *Graham Jacobs: Brief Professional Profile*

October 2013

Graham Jacobs has approximately 27 years experience as an architect and heritage specialist, originally with the Cape Town City Council's City Planner's Department where he became head of its Urban Conservation Unit before going into private practice in 1999. He has a Bachelor's Degree in architecture from the University of Cape Town (1979), and a Master's Degree in Conservation Studies (Built Environment) from the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, University of York, UK (1986).

He is in private practice specializing in architectural heritage, cultural landscape spatial analysis and heritage impact assessments. This work has, amongst others, involved heritage projects with significant land use implications within both urban and rural areas within the Western Cape Province and further afield. He has worked on various local, provincial and national heritage sites ranging from individual buildings to extended cultural landscapes, in the Western Cape primarily, but also in other parts of the country.

Over the last 6 years, Graham has been lecturing part time at the University of Cape Town (UCT). During 2011 and 2012, this included acting as course convener for the Heritage Impact Assessment module of the M Phil program in Conservation Studies at the School of Architecture. He has also been involved in the Continuing Professional Development course in Architectural and Urban Conservation in the faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, UCT.

Graham is married with two children and operates from the Swartland town of Darling.

## *1. General Experience*

- **Architectural Projects:** Involvement in a wide range of architectural projects for which more information can be provided on request. This has included the restoration of the early 19<sup>th</sup> C water mill at Mamre, the restoration and rehabilitation of historic rural mission houses at Wittewater near Piketberg, and work on the historic Mamre church complex, which dates back to the Dutch East India Company. All, apart from the Wittewater houses, are Provincial Heritage sites. More recent projects have included serving as architectural heritage consultant on the restoration and refurbishment of the late 18<sup>th</sup> C Hexenberg homestead in Wellington, the mid-19<sup>th</sup> C Melkboschplaas homestead, Melkbosstrand, the historic Old Bethlehem Farm within the Boschendal/Dwarsrivier area near Pniel, and, more recently, an early 19<sup>th</sup> C farmhouse on Amandalia Farm in the AgterVinkrivier area near Robertson. Graham also serves as architectural advisor to the Church Council of the Rhenish Church (a Provincial Heritage Site) in Stellenbosch, and to the City of Cape Town for conservation and repair work to the historic stone Lourens River Bridge (also a Provincial Heritage Site) in Somerset West.

- *Conservation Management Plans (CMP's)*: These include the CMP for the Cape Town Parliamentary Precinct (as part of a specialist team commissioned by the Department of Public Works in 2007). Other CMP involvements included the Grand Parade Management Plan for the City of Cape Town (with Melanie Attwell: completed: November 2005). He is currently working with Melanie Attwell on the heritage impact assessment for the proposed Inner City Hub, Cape Town CBD.
- *Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA's)*: Extensive experience in spatial heritage analysis in both urban and rural areas, having undertaken heritage survey work for the City of Cape Town since the mid-1980's, and heritage impact assessments since 2000. He is a pioneer in this field. He has worked extensively throughout the Western Cape including along the West Coast, Overstrand and Garden Route. Examples of HIA's include: The One and Only Hotel, V&A, Cape Town, the proposed new Parliamentary Banqueting Hall, Cape Town, the historic 'Herbert Baker' Precinct' on the former De Beers dynamite factory, Somerset West (with Melanie Attwell), the Glen Dirk Estate, Constantia, Basse Provence Farm, Franschhoek, the Old Mutual Building, Cape Town CBD and the West Coast Fossil Park (with Melanie Attwell) to name a few.
- *Heritage Surveys*: Extensive heritage survey work including surveys of the Drakenstein, Swartland and Overstrand municipal areas (with Melanie Attwell, Nicolas Baumann and Sarah Winter) as well as a number of smaller heritage surveys along the West Coast including historic Steenberg's Cove Village, St Helena Bay, and Stofbergfontein (Churchhaven) within the West Coast National Park. Some of these surveys have included the identification and management of heritage areas through statutory land use mechanisms and the National Heritage Resources Act.
- *Other Projects*: Development of heritage criteria for various proposal calls for the City of Cape Town and SANParks, and historic fabric analyses and repair strategies for a number of Provincial Heritage Sites including the Old Granary near the Castle, Cape Town, and the Round House, Camps Bay.

## *2. Community-based Work Experience:*

- Various community projects involving conservation work in historic mission settlements and other under-resourced areas where heritage work has been used as a mechanism for employment and community empowerment. The restoration of the mission cottages at Wittewater, the rescue restoration of the fire gutted Mamre water mill (already mentioned), the rescue restoration work on the VOC barracks building within the historic church 'werf', Mamre, and supervision of restoration works for the Mamre Church building all constituted such empowerment projects, doubling as on-the-job skills training programs for unemployed locals. In 2009 Graham was interviewed on Cape Talk Radio to discuss some of these projects as a means for empowering local communities. He is a strong believer of conservation as a catalyst for community development and upliftment.
- Design & construction supervision of the Darling Focus Community Center (services provided pro bono). This landmark building in Darling North offers adult literacy

classes, craft classes, catering classes and social services for the aged. The building also houses the offices of the local community social worker. He has recently been involved in the reconstruction of a ruined house in Mamre for use as a craft centre for disabled residents (monitoring services provided pro bono) and is currently supervising the reconstruction of the historic 'Akkerhuis' in Mamre (services provided pro bono). He recently prepared proposals (pro bono) for a small resort development outside Mamre designed to include a museum commemorating an underground MK transit camp that had existed on the site during the 1970's and 1980's.

- Advisor to a number of local authorities on design review matters, both as an individual and as member of the former Simon's Town Design Review Committee.
- Past Trustee of the Cape Town Heritage Trust and a former member of the National Monument's Council's Committee for the Built Environment.
- Serving member of the Cape Institute for Architecture's Heritage Committee.

### *3. Client Base*

Graham Jacobs has a wide and varied client base that includes corporate, religious institutions, educational institutions and national and local government institutions. These include the City of Cape Town, the Department of Public Works, Drakenstein, Overstrand Swartland and Breede River Municipalities, Eskom, the SA Heritage Resources Agency, SANPARKS, Kerzner International, the International Pentecost Holiness Church, the Moravian Church of South Africa, the Rhenish Church, Stellenbosch, Old Mutual Properties, the University of Cape Town and the Montebello Trust.