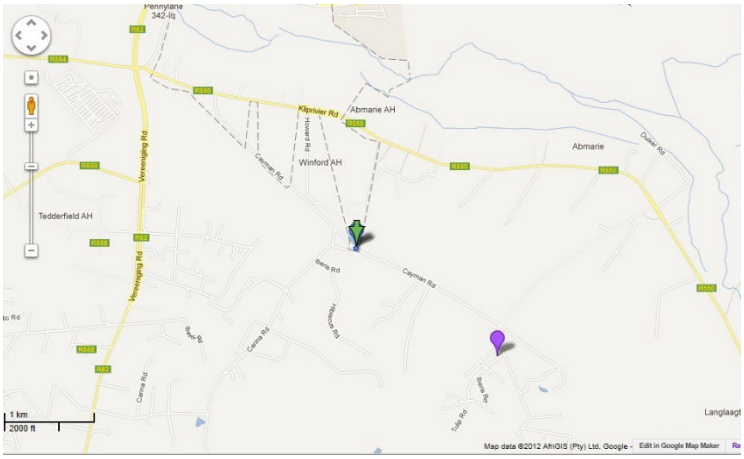
Eye of Africa

From ABLEWiki

Unchecked

Jump to: navigation, search

GISKEY	n/a
Condition	Good
Date of origin	(Input date)
Previous names	n/a
Place	(Physical location)
Street	33 Cayman Road
Town	Eikenhof
Magisterial district	(Data here)
Province	Gauteng
Country	South Africa
GPS coordinates	26°21′36″S 28° 01′27″E.
Planning authority name	Johannesburg Municipality
Landscape Architect	Uys and White
Project architect	Co-Arch International Architects
Commissioning owner	Eye of Africa Golf estate
Current owner	Eye of Africa Golf estate
Current occupant	Private residential estate
Previous uses	None
Current use	Private residential estate and golf course
Classification/Typology	Private residential estate and



golf course
and su

rounding
landscape

Contents

[hide]

Significance

Uys and White won the 2011 CorobrikILASA Award of Excellence in the category Planning & Design of Eye of Africa phase 1.

"This design project's appropriate response to the natural landscape and the infrastructural fabric of the residential estate is exceptional. This seemingly effortless integration of park scape and functional aspects – for example, storm water channeling - creates a serene setting for outdoor living . the selective introduction of elements in a vast landscape is successful in its attempt at place-making which relates to the residential environment. The graphic quality of hard landscape elements and the reflection of the site's heritage are applauded. Overall, the landscape intervention complements the natural setting while ensuring a quality living environment." - Panal Citation

Current known heritage status

The project has no heritage status.

Possible interested and affected parties

ILASA – Institute of Landscape Architecture South Africa

SAIA – South African Institute of Architecture

SAGA – South Africa Golf Association

Prospective home buyers

History

The original farm ALEWYNSPOORT was made up of a number of erven dating back to the part of the early development period of Johannesburg that followed the Anglo Boer War. A number of Afrikaner settlers lived on the property under british Colonial rule. The British built a School House which was intended to serve the growing community. The School House was constructed of natural stone and had a corrugated iron roof. The school principal lived on the premises. A short distance south of the School House, a manor house was built halfway up the rocky outcrop of the poort that was well known for the wild Aloes that grew there from which the name Alewynspoort was derived.

The community derived their water from 2 sources: A natural spring in the Kloof above the house of the school principal. The spring was accessed by a long ditch and tunnel that was dug by the community. The second natural spring was more to the west and this water source was channelled in a paved furrow that ran in a northerly direction past 4 homesteads with an agreement that each home could have one day's water per week.

The most northerly piece of Alewynspoort was purchased in 1937 by Otto Thaning. He came to South Africa as a representative of a Swiss company . He became fascinated by the beauty of the hills that now lie centrally on the "Eye of Africa" development. He built a manor house and called it Karise – after the small Danish village where his grandparents lived. The name means "loved one".

In order to make provision for the erratic water supply, a large reservoir was built to receive the water that only came on a weekly basis in the water furrow that served the 4 other smallholdings. There was no electricity in the area, and MrThaning built a generator plant that supplied electricity until the area was eventually electrified many years later by EscomLittle by little, as the adjoining farms and smallholdings became available, the Thanings bought and consolidated the farm until it reached a size of nearly 700 Ha.

The weather conditions of the Alewynspoort area were always considered by the original Afrikaner farmers to be cyclical. They believed that a 7 to 15 year period of high rainfall was followed by another equivalent period of drought and poor rainfall.The years between 1950

and 1970 were marked by an incredibly verdant and green farm where there was an abundance of growth – a hugely productive fruit orchard and large crops of maize, barley and lucerne.The period 1970 to 2000 was very dry and the local farming communities suffered during this drought-like cycle. This seems to have changed again for the better. The area south of Johannesburg is mainly verdant and green.

The development of the “Eye of Africa” has perpetuated the beauty of a very special area. The splendid golf course and the manner that the housing plans have been created will ensure that the entire project will hopefully be a vision of its original name.

Description of site and/or structures and/or interior spaces

Eye of Africa is a residential Golf community in the south of Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa. The whole development consists of three phases. This article discusses phase one of the development. Uys and White landscape architects were responsible for the landscape development and Co-Arc international architects were responsible for the architecture.

Phase one consists of 220 erven, 12 group house erven, eight parks (6ha) and 10,8 ha of park-like road services. The urban design was done by V2i-Autralia, but refined by Uys and White Landscape Architects.

One of the major chalenges was to create a coherency between the vastness of the open spaces. This was solved by developing an open space system with a variety of uses and facilities. Assigning specific uses to specific parks, each serving a certain residential demography and then linking all the parks with a neighborhood recreational route as part of a multi-purpose road surface. At Eye of Africa Golf Estate, they aim to minimize the impact on the natural environment and to maintain the rural ambience of the Highveld. Each residential unit was issued with the following guidlines regarding private landscaping to further contribute to this theme:

- Minimize water use within community and private land
- Attract local fauna
- Blur the boundries between your property and the golf course.

- Provide a relaxed and refined country character
- Integrate the built environment with the natural environment

Large clusters of exotic trees were incorporated into the design , significant tree clusters were identified and protected. These dictate the specific park or streetscape design by meandering roads or pathways through clusters of mature trees.Natural dolomite rock was also identified and intergrated into the design. Pre-developed Highveld landscape features were identified and protected. These became design generators which embraced and integrated natural landscape features into the designed environment.The grassland emblem integrated into the custom made street scape furniture, symbolizes the Highveld environment in which it is found. All stones and rocks used in the creation of street furniture were sourced on site.One way of preserving and integrating historic features and sites into the public open space was by collecting and storing stone monoliths, which were originally used as farm fence posts and re-using them as land art in various parks in the development. Furthermore, it embraces and restored an historic family graveyard and classroom building by incorporating them into the open-space systems for interest and contemplation.

Responsible water management, as set out in design brief, was incorporated into the design. Storm water harvesting is in the pipe line to harvest and re-use grey water. This will further reduce the reliability on ground water. Large areas of natural vegetation and existing zones of deep rooted drought-tolerant grass allow for certain focal spaces of evergreen lawn as well as flowering species.A cost effective and environmentally friendly stormwater-management system was established. The local natural aquafer will be replenished by employing sheet flow and bioswales to maximum extent.The use of conventional curbed and paving methods were avoided to minimize run-off .Most of the run-off is absorbed into the grass swales and natural vegetation. Excess run-off is stored and used for irrigation.

Sources

GREENinc Landscape Architecture, 2011. Preservation and Integration. *Urban Green File: ILASA Awards of Excellence magazine*, 16(2): 8-10..