

## Soccer City Stadium, Johannesburg, South Africa

The Soccer City Stadium in Johannesburg (formerly known as FNB Stadium) was identified to be upgraded as the main stadium for the 2010 FIFA World Cup (hosting, among others, both the opening and final matches). The calabash, or 'African pot', was selected as the most recognisable object to inspire an architectural design representing the African continent.

One of the biggest challenges of the project was the structural integration of the existing western stand into the new stadium. The stadium now has a capacity of 89,000 seats.



**Location** Johannesburg, South Africa

**Client** City of Johannesburg

**Contractor** Joint venture Grinaker LTA/BAM International bv (formerly known as Interbeton)

**Contract period** March 2007 – March 2010

**Contract sum** € 315 million

*'Technicolour calabash takes fifth place on the world capacity rankings for football stadiums.'*

### Scope of work

The scope of work comprised the upgrading and extension of the old FNB stadium into an 89,000-seat modern stadium, including a partial demolition (75%) of the existing stadium. New offices and changing rooms were built, as well as a new players' tunnel and a basement. The new roof was added with cladding all around and the installation of state-of-the-art lightning, Public Address systems and replay big screens were included in the contract.



### Façade and roof

The façade of the stadium is made up of glass fibre reinforced concrete panels. With an arrangement of panels in eight different colour shades and two different textures, the façade reflects the shades and textures of the calabash.

The upper roof is cantilevered from an enormous triangular spatial ring truss and covered by a PTFE membrane in a similar colour to that of the sand in Johannesburg's old gold mines. A perforated mesh membrane covers the bottom of the trusses, providing an appearance of a smooth underslung ceiling.



### Training centre

Due to the critical skills shortage in the construction industry, the Soccer City project embarked on an extensive training initiative, which not only catered for the immediate needs of the project but also contributed to the development of skills levels in the local population. The training took place in a self-sustaining training centre nearby the site, which was set up in conjunction with a black economic empowerment (BEE) training provider and the Ministry of Labour.

