UMNGENI RIVER ESTUARY GREEN HUB

Address: 31 Steibel Place, Blue Lagoon, Durban
Ward: 27
Client: Parks, Leisure & Cemeteries Department; Environmental Planning & Climate Protection Dept.
Contract Period: March 2010 – August 2010
Contract Value: R3,97million

The uMngeni River Estuary Green Hub anchors an R18million precinct upgrade. The architectural brief was to provide space for education on climate and habitat protection, eco-tourism bookings, and a base for nature cycle tours and canoe trips.

The building was made possible through carbon offset funds linked to Durban’s hosting of the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

The estuary was adopted for investment in ecosystem enhancement because of its biodiversity, and that fact that it is a highly utilized and pressurized natural environment. The building had to demonstrate environmentally-friendly construction - it generates its own power from solar voltaic panels, harvests rainwater and uses occupancy sensors and LED lighting.

Passive architectural design informed the long north-facing plan to optimise cross-ventilation and daylighting and building materials were chosen for their low-embodied energy.

The building is operated by the Durban Green Corridor Project and is open to the public every day. Telephone 031-3038476 for updates of events.