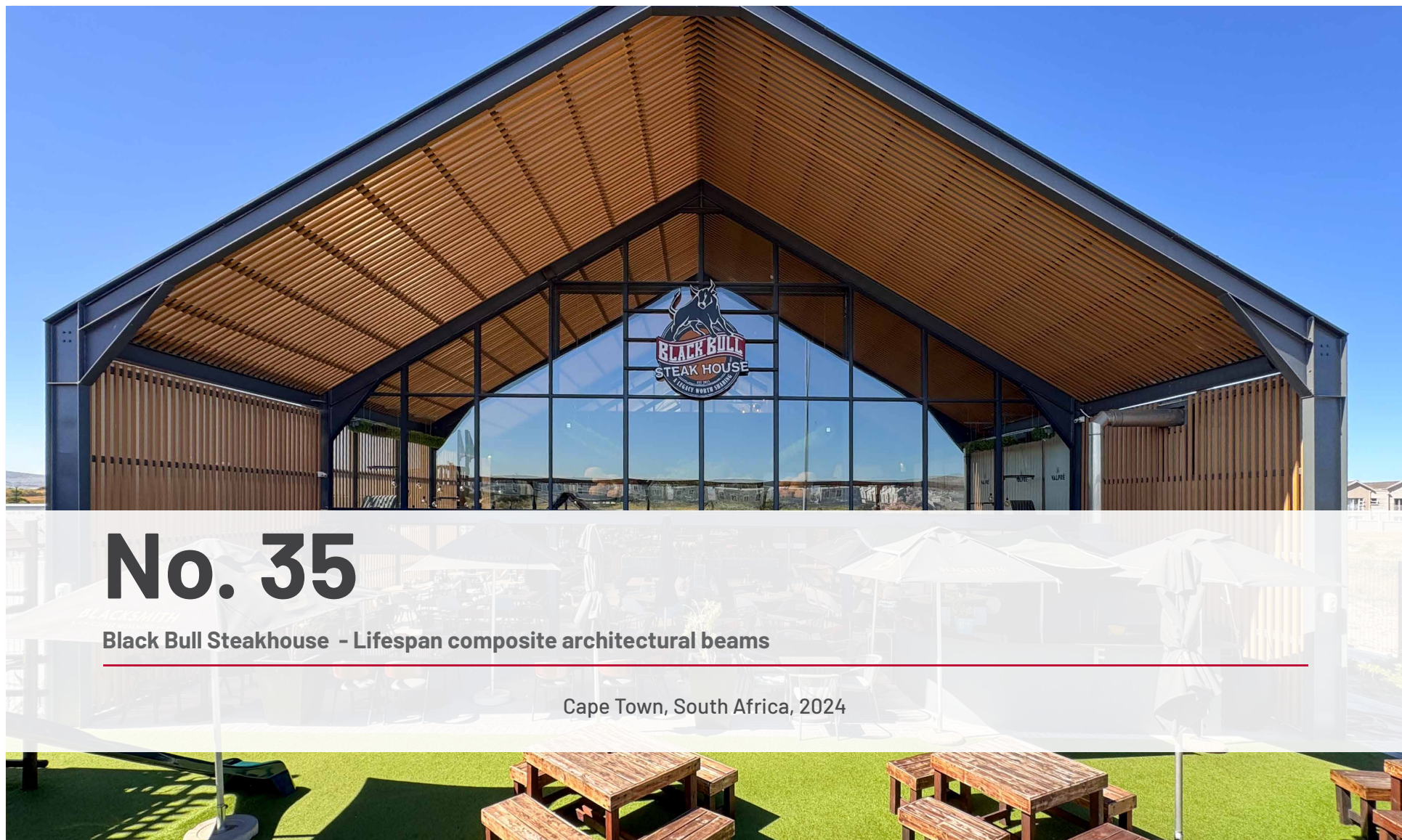




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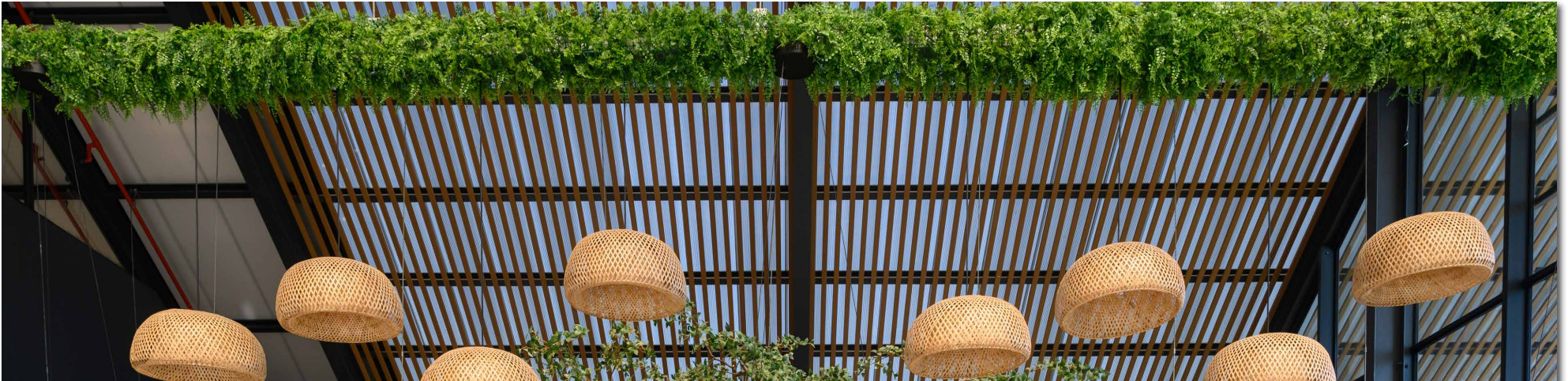
Black Bull Steakhouse - Lifespan composite architectural beams

Cape Town, South Africa, 2024

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PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name

Black Bull Steakhouse

Project Type

Hospitality/Retail - Shopping Centre & Restaurant

Description

Exterior façade cladding

Date of Installation

August 2024

Main Developer & Quantity Surveyor

Garden Cities, Nazlie Abrahams & AMPSQS

Architect

Rachael Gilbert, Jakupa Architects & Urban Designers

Size

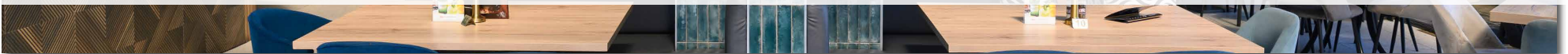
2115m²

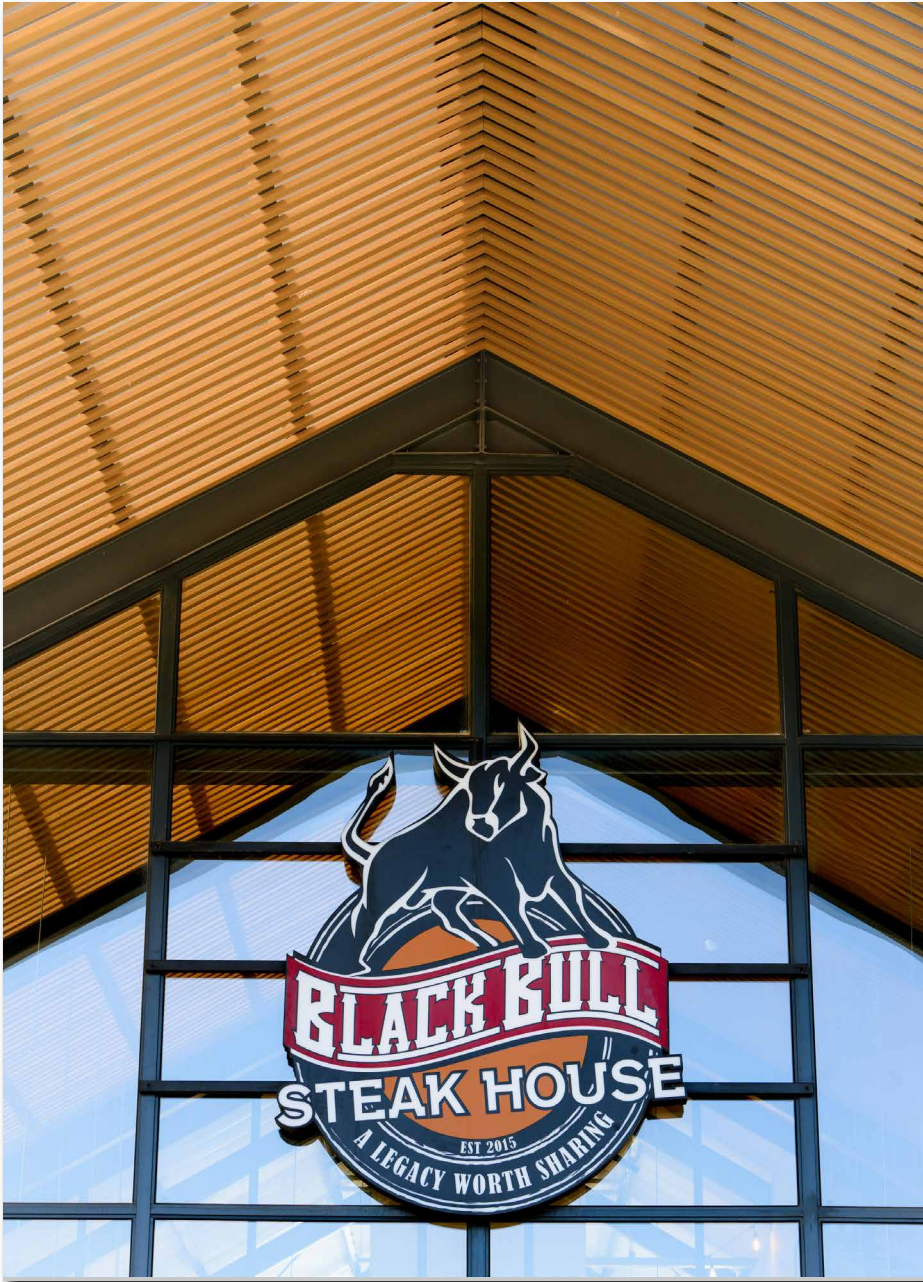
Project Location

Cape Town, South Africa

Product Used

Lifespan composite architectural beams in Savanna





BLACK BULL STEAKHOUSE, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

The Black Bull Steakhouse is a striking A-frame dining establishment set to become an architectural landmark at the new Wood Drive Lifestyle Centre just north of Sunningdale, Cape Town. Wood Drive is a contemporary convenience centre – conceived by Garden Cities developers as an attractive, pedestrian-friendly facility to service the shopping and entertainment needs of the community while enhancing the natural surrounds. It forms part of the greater urban design framework linking the windy West Coast to the developing northern periphery of Cape Town.

Given the strong prevailing offshore winds and salty seaside air, coupled with predominantly winter rainfall, the structure needed to provide adequate protection from the elements to invite shoppers to support its tenants and stay to enjoy its unique ambience.



CANTILEVERED CONVENIENCE MEETS CLEVER COMPOSITE DESIGN

Rachael Gilbert from Jakuba Architects and Urban Design conceptualised the project from creative concept to completion, literally envisioning an Instagram-worthy “garden city” incorporating natural materials, plants and palettes that enhanced the environment while withstanding the climate.

Gilbert designed a contemporary L-shaped building with cantilevered ceilings linked by airy walkways and decorative screens featuring white walls, dark galvanised steel and concrete, clear polycarbon ceilings combined with bamboo composite and natural timber accents.

The result was maximum architectural impact with intuitive flow, clever natural lighting and built-in protection from the wind, rain and sun.

An elevated conference centre with a sloping roof and decorative slatted screen welcomes visitors off Wood Drive on the western entrance. An attractive covered walkway featuring polycarbon roofing and wood-look rafters leads shoppers into the centre allowing natural light and ventilation. The Lifespan bamboo composite beams together with the timber-trim trusses provide shading and structural interest to draw the eye skyward, enhancing the natural aesthetic and providing a definite sense of direction.



A big block building with a cantilevered roof was constructed for the primary anchor tenant, Spar, on the corner of the northern-western façade, fringed by another decorative slatted bamboo composite Lifespan screen.

The Black Bull Steakhouse, one of two secondary anchor tenants together with their Events Box neighbour, was erected as a centrepiece on the northern façade facing Berkshire Boulevard as a mono-pitch 'greenhouse'.

Black Bull Steakhouse's double-volume barn-style A-frame shopfront features gigantic wood-look timber trusses and rafters made from Eva-Last's lightweight Lifespan architectural beams, fixed to tinted polycarbon sheeting, and an enormous 15m double-stacking glass door.

Not only does the Black Bull Steakhouse serve as family-friendly restaurant, complete with a 5 x 50m outdoor pergola for the children's playground, but it stands as an imposing, visible landmark for passing traffic and tourists from afar.

This architectural masterpiece beckons diners and shoppers to savour the structural ingenuity, stunning décor and gastronomic delights of Black Bull Steakhouse while simultaneously enjoying the surrounds. Hanging gardens, woven baskets, cladded bar counter and naked copper globes complement the building's organic materiality, while a cheerful cherry blossom and gorgeous green indoor tree add to its authentic ambience.

Tinted polycarbon siding and Eva-Last's Lifespan beams placed vertically create a skylight effect that maintains thermal stability throughout the year (and satisfies XA regulations). This lends a fashionable feel to the exterior whilst allowing patrons to enjoy the scenery or starlight no matter what the weather.



LIFESPAN FOR 'LIFT', STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY AND DESIGN FLEXIBILITY

The restaurant and retail centre were the perfect showcase for the versatility and design flexibility of Eva-Last's Lifespan architectural beams and balusters in Savanna where different lengths were used together with custom-made rafter clips, U-brackets, cross-connector plates, perpendicular splicing and 90- degree short and long mitres connectors, ensure a secure but hidden fixing system that can be attached to the galvanised steel struts for support.

Lifespan's hybrid aluminium bamboo composite beams and composite balusters were used in combination for the trusses, vertical screens and walkways, pergola and cladding on the bar counter.

Lifespan's hollow-aluminium core provides the structural strength and extended span required for Black Bull Steakhouse's double-volume pitch and the Lifestyle Centre's cantilevered ceilings and walkways while being light and easy to install overhead. Their composite outer coating offers an attractive wood look texture and tone engineered to deliver a low-maintenance, scratch-, sun- and water-resistant surface that's guaranteed for 10 years. Finally, the connectors created a clean, concealed finish.

The various timber-trim accents were not without their challenges and careful consideration was given to the recommended spans and load-bearing capacity of the composite installations: -



THE COMPOSITE CEILING TRUSSES AND RAFTERS

Given the wind loads of the area and the limitations of the polycarbonate sheeting, the 5.8m Lifespan beams were specifically spaced at the maximum span recommended in the installation guideline, attaching each beam to the galvanized steel structure at the recommended 2.5m intervals. Special short- and long- 90°mitre connectors and concealed cross-connector plates were used to hide joints and fittings on the support structures.



THE RESTAURANT CENTRE SCREENS

It was envisaged that various creepers or plants could grow on the bamboo composite screens to add to the garden-city theme. 150 x 30mm Lifespan beams were bolted to galvanized steel beams using concealed U-brackets and cross-connection plates for a clean, natural finish. Various spacing permutations and lengths including the 150 x 50mm beams were tested to achieve the desired look.



KEY INFLUENCER QUOTE

"Simple solutions to complex problems"

I was very pleased with the outcome of this project as we were able to realize my design intention within budget for both Wood Drive centre and the Black Bull Steakhouse," said Rachael Gilbert of Jakuba Architects & Urban Design. "The technical input of Eva-Last's Project Manager Jean Kuyper also allowed us to find simple solutions to complex problems," she added. She explained that costing constraints were addressed by testing various spacing and sizing permutations for the planned screens before construction, and that the team also customised the connector brackets to achieve the clean, refined aesthetic envisioned for the project.



SUMMARY

The Black Bull Steakhouse and Wood Drive Lifestyle Centre are set to become landmarks of architectural excellence showcasing the design versatility and creative potential of Eva-Last's modern composite building materials.



ABOUT US

Eva-Last is a globally reputable brand that utilises a solution driven business model to create innovative, sustainable building materials and systems that add value to customers' lives. At the heart of Eva-Last is a team of highly capable, creative specialists united by a passion to promote environmental consciousness through eco-friendly building products and operations. By embracing low environmental impact manufacturing and cutting-edge composite technology, Eva-Last is revolutionising how building can be done. We design and deliver beautiful, long-lasting green alternatives that make our customers' lives easier, healthier, and just plain better.



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