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Pre-polished pre-cast walls – a tilt-up first

South African Builder visited Pan Mixers South Africa (PMSA) at their Jet Park premises last month to find out more about the design and construction of their unique and innovative new showroom.



From left to right: Quintin Booyesen – sales and marketing manager; Gerrie Bouwer-architect from EAD; Robert Ebeling-joint managing director; Walter Ebeling-joint managing director and Michael Dörner-general manager



Use of an existing steel structure on the premises to create the PMSA showroom using pre-cast and pre-polished tilt-up concrete inner walls

This R3,8 million project was designed not only to showcase the company's products and capabilities, but the end result as well – namely highly polished concrete in a creative application. The two-storey 700 m² showroom also houses a sales and marketing office and training facility.

"Our brief was to create an open, modern and inviting environment in which clients will experience and feel the professionalism of the PMSA operation pervading the area," said designer Gerrie Bouwer of EAD Architects. "The showroom is smart, clean, neat and tidy and well presented, encouraging clients to look, see and touch."

Quintin Booyesen, PMSA's sales and marketing manager said: "We made use of an existing steel structure on our premises and created the showroom using pre-cast and pre-polished tilt-up concrete inner walls."

The pre-cast walls, constructed using different aggregate types and coloured concrete, were polished on site in the horizontal position, by PMSA using their own product – the HTC floor grinding machines and accessories – before being tilted up into position. "This provided many

challenges," continued Booyesen. "Positioning the rebar in the formwork was a particularly delicate task, as was the safe handling of the wall slabs during the lifting and positioning sequences."

"The modern, minimalistic and aesthetically-pleasing building is constructed almost entirely out of concrete, and in so doing, dispels the common misconception that concrete is a cold, grey and ugly material suited mostly for industrial purposes," said Booyesen.

New roof sheeting and roof insulation form the core of the building's green efficiency aspects, and maximum use is made of natural light through the application of translucent roof panels. All offices have also been individually insulated for thermal stability and sound reduction. Offices have an open and airy appeal created through the use of glass curtain walling, which also has good sound insulation properties.

During construction PMSA operated as project manager and builder, using their own contractors. Formwork was supplied by Peri; the showroom flooring is HTC Superfloor by PMSA; and all insulation material is St Gobain, supplied and installed by Sagex. ■