

## SHOWCASING INNOVATIVE CONCRETE PANELS

The common perception that concrete is cold and aesthetically unpleasant, is being challenged by Pan Mixers South Africa (PMSA) – one of the largest suppliers of concrete, brick, block and paving-making machinery and technology in Africa – which is currently in the process of constructing a modern, cutting-edge showroom almost entirely from concrete.

PMSA's marketing and sales manager, Quintin Booysen, says the company began construction of the new two-storey 700m<sup>2</sup> showroom in May 2012, which will also house a sales and marketing office in order to fully highlight the endless creative possibilities that concrete offers in modern-day construction.

"The showroom flooring will be completed with HTC Superfloor – an easy-to-maintain polished concrete flooring system that provides the highest shine to the floor surface by making use of a range of HTC floor-grinding machines and accessories," he explains.

According to Booysen, PMSA is working closely with contractors to ensure that the necessary quality and precision are met to ensure a world-class facility. "With



A wall panel in place and the light reflecting off the panel from the window opening, as well as an unpolished panel alongside the polished panel.

conventional grey concrete pull-up panels, the perception is still that these panels are generic, grey and ugly, and only fit for purpose in industrial applications," he continues.

As a result, PMSA will be using these panels for display purposes to highlight the potential beauty of precast concrete, by simply polishing or adding colour aggregates to it. Booysen adds: "Our main objective is to show architects, engineers and contractors that a polished precast panel can serve as a stylish and modern finish in a home, office or shopping environment."



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In addition to being aesthetically pleasing, Booysen points out that polished concrete provides further benefits that include ease of cleaning, due to a smooth surface, and a reduction in lighting bills, due to the fact that the panels reflect more light into the building. "What's more, concrete flooring can have a lower lifetime and installation cost, when compared to traditional products such as epoxy and tiling."

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