

Natural Glitz

Markon Organic Chemicals, Pretoria

INTERIOR DESIGN

Mathews & Gerber Architects

PHOTOGRAPHS

Franci Cronjé

RIGHT: In the shared reception area, red is used as an accent colour to contrast with the muted shades of the salon and offices.

BELOW: The convex shelving is adjustable, and has sandblasted glass edging for definition.



A new headquarters for hair products gives both its administrative and training facilities a thorough grooming

These custom built premises were designed with the needs of two sister companies in mind. Sunglitz SA holds the agency for a range of imported organic hair products, while the International Image Institute provides training and updates product knowledge for professional hairdressers. The challenge for Mathews & Gerber Architects lay in planning the layout so that each company has sufficient workable space, while sharing common areas like the reception, waiting room and canteen.

The training salon is situated on the ground floor and is fitted with state-of-the-art equipment. Here hairdressers are exposed to the latest organic hair products, and to facilities such as hi-tech dryers that simulate a real salon environment. Work stations are designed to accommodate both lecturer and student, and each station has twin mirrors in this area revolved around the number of workstations and amount of equipment required, with the emphasis on efficiency and functionality. A row of washbasins lines the rear wall, with wooden shelving units placed above these for storage of hair products.

The soothing and predominantly neutral colour scheme in the salon was specifically chosen to





Carpeting: **Belgotex**
 (0331) 71 445
 Tiles: **Marley SA**
 (011) 680 3560
 Sofas: **Pago**
 (011) 837 8941

LEFT: Curved, mobile desking in the training area can accommodate individuals or groups of students.

BELOW: Workstations in the training salon have twin mirrors and dual seating, and are designed to simulate a real working environment.

complement hair colour - particularly those shades in the red spectrum. It also reflects the organic nature of the products. Soft turquoise chair backs and putty-coloured walls create a soothing environment, and neutral ceramic tiles are resistant to the various chemical dyes. The lighting at each station was designed to be free of shadows, and to resemble daylight as closely as possible.

Sunglitz SA's requirements were chiefly administrative, requiring standard offices and a training room for sales consultants. The turquoise chair backs and neutral wall finishes were continued into this area, with rust-coloured herringbone carpets added for texture. Shared by both companies, the reception area comes alive with touches of bright red in the roomy armchairs, main desk and shelving.

The resulting design is deceptively simple, and the interior has a distinctive personality which remains completely functional. A bad hair day is simply not an option.

TESS PATERSON

