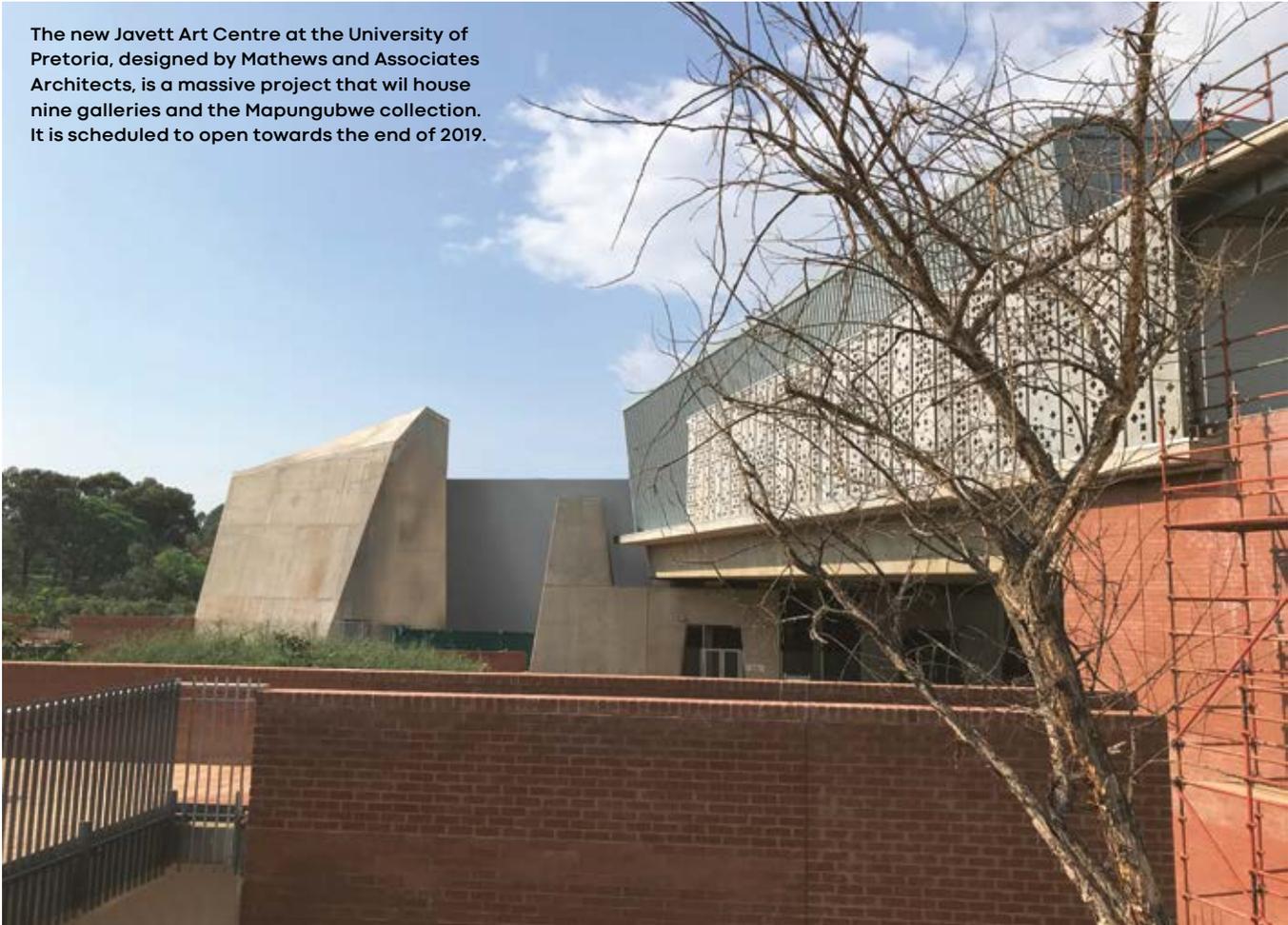


NO
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CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Architect Pieter Mathews took the formerly fuddy-duddy administrative capital of South Africa and made it cool with an uppercase "C".

The new Javett Art Centre at the University of Pretoria, designed by Mathews and Associates Architects, is a massive project that will house nine galleries and the Mapungubwe collection. It is scheduled to open towards the end of 2019.



"My first shoot with VISI feels like yesterday," says Pieter Mathews, founder of Mathews and Associates Architects in Pretoria and, as it turns out, raconteur

of note. "It was of Summit House in Centurion. Pretoria was still enchanted by the Tuscan aesthetic, and concrete and raw materials were taboo. At the shoot, one of the estate tannies saw me and the photographer, not knowing I had designed the house, and enquired why we were photographing this 'ugly' house when we could photograph her new and bigger Tuscan-style house just a few blocks away. I replied that we

were doing a special feature on ugly homes for an obscure magazine with a small print run! Summit House is still one of my favourites."

Times have changed since VISI's early days, when photos were shot on film and Pretoria's architectural landscape was not nearly as captivating as it is today. It was with the goal of drawing South Africans' attention to the revival of the city and the Tshwane Metropole that Pieter spearheaded the wildly successful Cool Capital Biennale in 2014 and 2016. And when he curated the first ever South African pavilion at the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale that was published in the official Biennale

catalogue, he ensured its recognition went global.

Pieter's firm is currently changing Pretoria's skyline with the construction of the new Javett Art Centre at the University of Pretoria. He has just submitted a practice-based master's degree thesis to the University of the Free State's School of Architecture and, as an external examiner for the UFS's architecture final-year students, he is more than optimistic about where South African architecture is headed. "The class of 2018 just blew my mind," he says. "There are names we're going to be hearing a lot of in the future."

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