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## Campus Creative

Two striking new buildings at the University of Pretoria manage to both blend into the rest of the campus and make bold design statements.



### JAVETT ART CENTRE by Pieter Mathews of Mathews & Associates Architects

A public arts centre on a university campus that spans a public road, Javett Art Centre's design is dominated by a bridge that stitches the two campuses together. It comprises nine impressive gallery spaces: two that house the seed donor's collection, two learning galleries earmarked for students, and five others for rotating curated exhibitions. A faceted concrete vault is the structure's standout feature, and contains South Africa's crown jewels, the Mapungubwe Collection, with the golden rhino as the star attraction.

To fit into its context, the building had to respond to various conditions. "The aim was to create a new building without bling that sits comfortably within the constraints of the various existing buildings," explains architect Pieter Mathews. It had to appear as if it had always been part of the campus landscape, and to age well. To achieve this, a neutral grey palette was created with honest materials such as galvanised steel, concrete and brick. In addition to the bridge, the canopies are a unique feature and a popular Instagram composition. Constructed from lightweight concrete, the fibre panels tell the narrative of Shweshwe cloth. By placing a gallery on the bridge, art and architecture serve to embrace the city and its inhabitants. [javettup.art](http://javettup.art) | [maaa.co.za](http://maaa.co.za)