

Controlling temperature and saving energy



Rodwell House in St James, Cape Town, where Eco-Insulation was installed to stabilise demand for heating and cooling.

Rodwell House is an upmarket guesthouse in St James, Cape Town. Being close to the sea and east facing, the building receives an early morning dose of sun but goes into the shade by early afternoon when the sun slips behind the Kalk Bay mountains that form part of the Silvermine section of Table Mountain National Park.

Heating and cooling – and an efficient means of managing the internal temperature fluctuations – has always been a concern for the management of Rodwell House. During a recent refurbishment programme it was decided that insulation – appropriately placed in the ceiling under the large pitched roof – would be the best solution to reduce

the establishment's escalating energy costs.


Richard Ellis, a trained Eco-Insulation agent and installer was called on to do the job and Eco-Insulation was pumped into the ceiling space over the 800 m² guesthouse. Ellis is one of a professional group of trained subcontractors who represent Eco-Insulation nationwide and are available on call.

Eco-Insulation was selected for the Rodwell House project based on the fact that Ellis was able to provide a turn-key solution with immediate effect and the installation could be carried out within the workflow programmed by the main contractor.

Eco-Insulation is produced from recycled

cellulose fibre. The manufacturing company, Eco-Insulation, is the recipient of the Southern Africa Energy Efficiency Association's 'Company of the Year Excellence Award 2008'. Company founder and chief executive, Cecil Homan, says the enterprise has grown rapidly and the eco-friendly insulation already complies with major national building and quality standards. It is fire-rated 'no spread of flame' and, among other benefits, provides long-term resistance to wet and dry rot and does not contain asbestos, glass fibre or any toxic materials.

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Responsible Care in the che

Sika's commitment to health, safety, enviro-care and sustainability is a global endeavour, in line with the Swiss group's mission of constantly striving for new levels of excellence in the field of speciality chemicals. Sika SA recently reinforced this undertaking by signing the Chemical and Allied Industries' Association (CAIA) Responsible Care pledge at its head office in Westmead, Durban.

Louise Lineque, manager of Responsible Care, applauded Sika's continued commitment to the initiative, which the company first signed in 1997, saying, "Re-signing the pledge demonstrates Sika's commitment to complying with the guiding principles of Responsible Care."

"It's great to see all of Sika's staff in attendance at the ceremony to listen to this talk about the fundamental principles of the Responsible Care pledge, as it involves all members of a company and everyone must be



Niall Wylde, MD of Sika and Louise Lineque, manager of Responsible Care at signing ceremony.

aware of what it takes to uphold the pledge."

Responsible Care is a worldwide initiative funded and supported by the chemical industry. Launched in South Africa in 1994, it encourages members to work together to improve their safety, health and environmental performance, thereby raising industry standards, addressing negative industry

Fire protection for airport control tower

Micon Coatings, a supplier of a range of fire protection products for the building and mining industries, recently saw its Intusayf intumescent coating used in the air traffic control tower at Durban's new King Shaka International Airport.

Micon supplied over 2 500 litres of Intusayf for the project and the application was carried out by Durban-based Gillmar Projects. The Intusayf coating is applied to the structural steel

used in the construction of the control tower.

At temperatures higher than 200°C, Micon Intusayf first softens and then expands up to 20 times its applied thickness to form an insulated foamed carbonised char that reduces the rate of temperature increase in steel, so prolonging the steel's load bearing capability in the event of a fire.

"The air traffic control tower is always one of the key installations at any airport complex as its safety is critical," says Michael Howard of Micon Coatings, "hence the specification of Micon

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