

Cellulose fibre insulation at Capetonian nightspot



Removing individual roof sheets to allow access into the roofspace

Club Vaudeville in Cape Town's fast-redeveloping Foreshore district is a different kind of Capetonian nightspot. It is snug under a blanket of highly efficient cellulose thermal insulation.

Located in a redecorated building that dates back to Cape Town's early days, it offers a supper club with nightly live entertainment. The venue provides theatre-cabaret seats for 340 diners, with the opportunity of a late-night retreat into a Moroccan-themed bar and club on the mezzanine level.

The venue is located underneath 700 m² of corrugated steel roof and has since been retrofitted with an extensive airconditioning system to keep the 340 patrons comfortable – cool in summer and warm in winter. Of course, air-conditioning an extensive open venue such as the supper club is a highly expensive exercise. Therefore much thought was given to passive measures to keep the premises climate-controlled. Ease of access, quick turnaround and a professional turnkey service was therefore the requirement by the designers and owners of the Club.

Cape Town-based Eco-Insulation installer Richard Ellis provided the solution that the designers were seeking and quickly moved on site. Working in temperatures of over 40°C on the roof, the Eco-Insulation team removed panels of corrugated roof sheeting in order to gain entry to the roofspace below.

"We were the veritable cats on a hot tin roof," said Ellis. The method of installation of Eco-Insulation makes it highly possible to work efficiently in difficult-to-access areas of the roof. In the case of Club Vaudeville, the roofspace was large, but movement across this area was difficult owing to the absence of roof purlins. Product was hence pumped across the void between the trusses. In this way the product flowed across the top of the ceiling quickly and distributed itself into every recess, giving 100% coverage.

Eco-Insulation demonstrated the unique strengths of fire-rated cellulose fibre insulation in this job, as well as the specially developed delivery system for installation. The team was off site in time for the Club's grand opening just prior to the Christmas holidays.

According to Eco-Insulation founder, Cecil Homan, architects and project managers should give more consideration to using cellulose. The product is fully approved by the SABS and is fire-rated as "no spread of flame" above the ceiling. "Architects often forget about the sound-insulating benefits of the product, as well," he says. This is very important for the hospitality industry, where levels of noise need to be controlled and sonic absorption is required for effective acoustics inside the building. "Was the job of thermal insulation successful?" we asked Mr Homan? "Temperature conditions inside the building are anything from 5°C to 10°C cooler this summer without the aircon, depending on the time of day. This is what we mean by natural climate comfort," he answered.

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go passive

Passive: "Not active but responds when acted upon." Dictionary



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