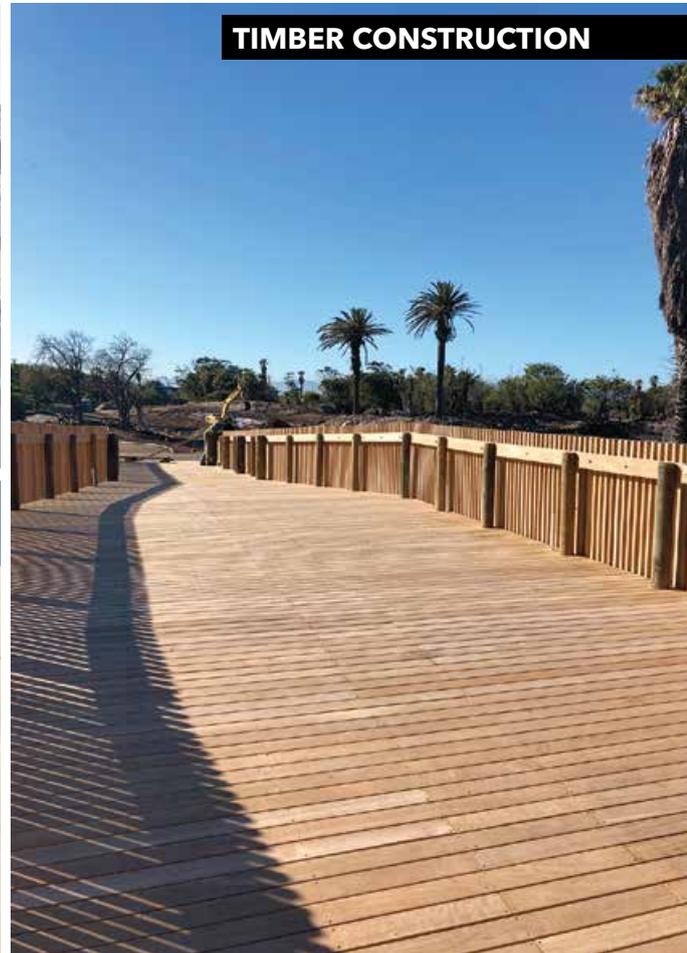


Ratanga rises again

A striking timber walkway and pedestrian bridge construction forms part of the landscape development for an exciting new development at the old Ratanga Junction site in Century City outside Cape Town.

📷 Robin Schultz





After the former Ratanga Junction theme park shut down in May 2018, Rabie Property developers has been on site to redevelop the area into a vibrant mixed use precinct with apartments, offices, convenience retail, and restaurants and hotels.

The areas where the Cobra and Monkey Falls and other rides once saw queues of fun seekers, will become a public park with an extensive water body and a series of bridges over the canals. These will link up with the existing Century City waterways, adding a second large habitat for the amazing birdlife currently seen at Intaka Island.

Site contractors, Power Construction, appointed a Cape Town company, Contour Decks, to erect timber bridges over the waterways.

Cladocalyx decking timber, with planks measuring 40mm thick by 100mm wide, is being installed onto steel frames using stainless steel fasteners and fixings supplied by Fastenright. This species of hardwood originated from the Eucalyptus in South Australia but has been planted in South Africa since the 1800s. It is exceptionally durable and ideally suited to use in the Ratanga bridges. Universal Timber is

the main supplier of the timber and the stainless steel fasteners are supplied by Fastenright SA.

The Island pedestrian walkway bridge spans over 40m and extends from 3.5m wide at the ends to 6m wide in the middle. The design is 3m above the water level and will have a façade with railings, also of cladocalyx. The support posts are pine poles sunk into a concrete base platform in the water.

Another bridge is the Bridgewater pedestrian bridge which is steel clad in the cladocalyx timber by Contour Decks. This is 35m long.

There are several other bridges planned for installation over the waterways.

“The decking and façades are Eucalyptus Cladocalyx, specially selected out of the heartwood of the trees. This is a Class One hardwood that supports sustainable development, having been harvested from alien forests on the Lourensford Wine Estate in Somerset West. It is a large and challenging project, but our experience of over 20 years with similar projects has boosted technical competence on the ground”, says Robin Schultz, CEO of Contour Decks. 📌