

ADJ ARCHITECTS  
OF  
JUSTICE



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# 01

THE COMPANY

Architects Of Justice (AOJ) is a progressive Johannesburg based architecture and design practice, formally established in 2009 by Mike Rassmann, Kuba Granicki and Alessio Lacovig.

Guided by the principles of best practice we strive at AOJ to create bespoke architecture that is not only interesting, sustainable and innovative, but architecture that also preserves the integrity and functionality of every build.

While there is no limit to the type, scale or complexity of projects that we tackle, our specialities lie in new builds and extensive additions and alterations in the commercial, residential and education sectors. In addition to this we also have a passion for micro projects, or small builds, which have a focus on attention to detail.

Our emphasis on professionalism at AOJ ensures efficiency and constructive collaboration with fellow professionals and consultants involved on all our projects.

“Architects of Justice is the brainchild of long-time friends Mike, Kuba and Alessio who decided to take a leap of faith and bring their dream of owning their own practice to life. AOJ combines not only their wide-ranging and unique architectural talents but also their individual passions for design, form, function, construction and life.”

At the same time we are cognisant of the fact that each of our clients has different needs and wants. We take this seriously, which is why we support and guide our clients throughout the design, build and hand over process. It is this commitment and professionalism that has led to strong and long lasting relationships with all stakeholders, most importantly our clients.

On any project there are many factors to consider and this is the reason why AOJ not only offer a standard architectural service but also additional design and investigative focussed services, which include site selection and analysis, interior architecture, space planning and custom furniture design.

AOJ is a member of the following professional bodies:



# 02

## CLIENT PORTFOLIO

Our client portfolio includes:

University of the Witwatersrand

Afriski Ski + Mountain Resort Lesotho

The MAL Foundation / #Network BBDO

Edenvale City Improvement District (ECID)

Letsopa Project Managers and Consulting Engineers

Verbal Images / SEDIBA / Anglo American

Benteler Automotive South Africa

ROLAG Property Investments

Bongani Rainmaker Logisitcs

Edenglen Primary School

Various Private Clients



# 03

## AWARDS & MEDIA

### International Awards

**Young Architects In Africa Competition**, one of three winners/ laureates chosen from 194 projects submitted by candidates from 26 African countries. Work exhibited at the CA'ASI at the Biennale di Venezia, 14th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice Italy. Exhibition formed part of 21 Collateral Events, identified by the Biennale curator, Rem Koolhaas, which ran alongside the main Biennale exhibitions.

### Local Awards

**Commendation Award**, Afrisam - SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture, 2014

**Award of Merit**, South African Institute of Architects, 2014

**Nomination**, SAISC Steel Awards in the Architectural Category, 2014

**Award for Architecture**, Gauteng Institute for Architecture, 2013

**Silver Loerie Award** in the Category of Three Dimensional and Environmental Design, Loerie Awards, 2013

### Radio Interviews

**Space and How it Affects Your Life**, Mix FM's Buildaid Show, 28 January 2015

**Sustainable Architecture and the Afrisam SAIA Awards**, Mix FM's Buildaid Show, 29 October 2014

**Award for Sustainable Architecture**, Alex FM, 13 August 2014

**AOJ & Architecture in Johannesburg**, Classic FM, 15 July 2014

**Micro SEED Library Tshebidisano Primary School**, Talk Radio 702, 18 July 2013

### Publications

**SEED Library**, SA Building Review Issue 3, 2015

**Residence Close**, SA Building Review Issue 3, 2015

**Architect Of Justice**, Officina, N. 03 Novembre - Dicembre 2014

**Reinventing the School Library**, African Design Magazine, October 2014

**Multicolor Recycled Shipping Containers Provide a Bright Learning Environment for Kids in South Africa**, Inhabitat, 30 October 2014

**Young Architects in Africa**, Officina, N. 02 Settembre - Ottobre 2014

**Thinking Inside The Box**, The Times, July 10 2014

**Brighter Future**, House and Leisure, May 2014

**The SEED**, Digest of South African Architecture, 2013 Volume 18

**Gondola Cafe**, Digest of South African Architecture, 2012 Volume 17

**Edenglen Primary - Resource Centre**, Architecture South Africa, September/October 2011

**Edenglen Primary Resource Centre**, Leading Architecture, January/February 2010

### Web Video

**MWEB Entrepreneur Interview**, 6 August 2013

### Television

**The SEED Project**, Espresso Breakfast Show SABC 3, 21 June 2013



# 04

## ALESSIO LACOVIG

Alessio was born in Italy and emigrated with his family to South Africa in 1992. He began his tertiary studies in 1999 and completed his undergraduate degree, a Bachelor of Architectural Studies, at the University of the Witwatersrand in 2001.

Alessio's early architectural experience is vast and comprises time spent on numerous construction sites as well as an internship at well renowned architectural practice, TPC Architects. This exposure strengthened his first-hand knowledge of construction. It also gave Alessio crucial insight into the day-to-day running of a serious architectural practice.

It was during his postgraduate degree, which he completed in 2004, that Alessio really came into his own. He developed and fine-tuned the way he thought about and approached design. At the same time the notion that being an architect meant he could turn his ideas into a reality, fuelled Alessio's passion for architecture.

And while his father is a builder and Alessio loved playing with Lego as a child, he does not necessarily place these as the main motivating factors for his choice in career, although they might have pushed him, at least a little bit, in that direction.

Alessio's final-year thesis, titled "Healthy Architecture, A Model to Promote a Sustainable Culture", culminated in the further nurturing of his skills.

It was towards the middle of 2009 when Alessio realised that friends Mike Rassmann and Kuba Granicki held similar thoughts and views to him with regards to the architectural industry and how they might positively contribute to this very fluid profession. This resulted in their partnership and ultimately the start of Architects Of Justice.

"To this day I believe that unless you have completed a thesis, you cannot call yourself an architect. It is one of the most challenging and frightening things I have ever done, along with skydiving and running a company."



# 05

KUBA GRANICKI

Kuba was born in Poland but moved to South Africa with his family just shy of his sixth birthday. The influence of growing up in a country that was fighting for a new identity based on equality and democracy, while being raised speaking a foreign language with different cultural traditions to those of his peers has had a lasting impact on Kuba's own identity and his perception of the world. His love of sculpture, literature and photography, which formed an important part of his childhood, also have a great bearing on his work.

With his father being a dedicated engineer, both technical drawing and construction became familiar and later a major influence on Kuba's career path.

In 2004 Kuba completed his architectural studies at the University of the Witwatersrand. His final-year thesis was the research and design of a multidenominational crematorium.

After graduating Kuba worked at several architectural firms along with Mike Rassmann and Alessio Lacovig before he started his own practice, Zeitgeist Architecture.

A subsequent two-year foray into joinery and shop fitting however, helped Kuba develop his skills in furniture design, alternate materials and assembly techniques. It was this process of manufacturing and production that re-awakened his passion for architecture and big, permanent structures.

In 2009, together with Mike Rassmann and Alessio Lacovig, Kuba co-founded Architects Of Justice. Kuba is currently the Convenor for Professional Practice at the Gauteng institute of Architecture, a position he has held since 2008.

"When not playing in the realm of the built environment, I like to unplug, step off the grid and relax in nature."



# 06

## MIKE RASSMANN

Mike was born and raised in Johannesburg. His father is German but settled in South Africa after meeting Mike's mother here. Although his German is not perfectly fluent, Mike makes every effort to ensure that he doesn't lose touch with his German heritage.

Mike graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of the Witwatersrand Architecture School in 2004. Mike's final-year thesis titled "Skatescape" was centred on the skateboard as a tool for reimagining the Johannesburg Inner City and its architecture – a subject and concept that he is still passionate about today.

Following his graduation Mike worked at Leslie Pon Architects with Kuba Granicki. After one and a half years he joined Alessio Lacovig at Giannini Loizos Architects. By late 2011 Mike was ready to make a permanent move to Architects Of Justice (AOJ) – which he co-founded with Kuba Granicki and Alessio Lacovig in 2009.

While working at Leslie Pon Architects and Giannini Loizos Architects Mike attended several project-management, property law and building contract orientated courses at the University of the Witwatersrand giving him a more solid understanding of the inner-workings of the building industry. Mike also has a keen interest in industrial design and over the past few years he has designed a number of household items using various mediums, which he has either self-made or had manufactured.

Mike, who loves the outdoors and extreme sports, is actively involved in the South African snowboarding scene. Not only does he snowboard, he is lucky enough to combine this passion with another – film. Mike has contributed greatly to the development of the sport in both South Africa and Lesotho by documenting it through film. Between 2005 and 2011 Mike made three feature length films and numerous short films. His expertise has been incorporated into AOJ's skill set where Mike documents certain projects on film.

"I am at my best when I can indulge in one or a combination of my favourite activities namely architecture, design, skateboarding, snowboarding or mountain biking."








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