Introduction to Alchemy Architects

Originally founded as AC Designs in 1995, founding member Amândio Castanheira’s track record spans 12 years during which his reputation and innovation in dealing with a multitude of architectural and branding projects lead to the establishment of Alchemy Architects cc in July 2003. This young architectural practice specialises in commercial developments in and around Gauteng. The practice has grown steadily since its inception and has already built up a portfolio of high quality work across South Africa.

The practice provides a full range of design services including architectural design, interior design and spatial planning. All aspects from initial planning and briefing, through to detailed design development and technical documentation to on-site administration is completed as well as post completion analysis.
About Alchemy Architects – Design Philosophy

Alchemy Architects have always been guided by a belief that the quality of our surroundings has a direct influence on the quality of our lives, whether it’s in the workplace, at home or in the public realm. Further, we acknowledge that architecture is generated by the needs of people, which are both material and spiritual, maintaining a concern for the physical context and sensitivity to the culture and climate of place.

The central drive of the practice is to create elegant, rigorous and innovative design solutions that respond to each developments site constraints, operational, financial and program requirements of the client. The design and management of all projects, regardless of scale, complexity or building typology is approached on the same basis with the following core values of simplicity, efficiency and legibility being its driving force.

As professionals we have a dual responsibility firstly to our clients we serve, but also to the public domain who ultimately become the many users of our designs. The design of each new project is reviewed regularly, both formally and informally, so as to meet the projects initial objectives.
Amândio Gomes Castanheiro – Principal Architect

Education
1991 - 1994 Technikon of the Witwatersrand JHB
National Higher Diploma in Architecture - NH Dip Arch.

2000 - 2001 University of Johannesburg JHB
Bachelors in Architectural Technology - B Tech Arch.
Specialised in Design and the metamorphosis of culture.

2002 - 2003 University of Pretoria PTA
Magister in Architecture - M Arch [Prof].
Pass with distinction, focused on cremation and the emotional aspect of cremation and how these influence the architectural form and intern inform the viewer emotionally and spiritually.

Memberships
South African Council for the Architectural Profession - 7034
South African Institute of Architects - 7284
Gauteng Institute of Architects – CAFF02
Association of Arbitrators (Southern Africa)
Green Building Council of South Africa

Alchemy Architects cc [Architecture & design]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Client</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Izingwe Head Office Building</td>
<td>R32 mil</td>
<td>Izingwe Property (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>East London – CBD</td>
<td>Re-zoning Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medscheme Office Upgrade</td>
<td>R15 mil</td>
<td>Medscheme (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>Johannesburg – Sandton</td>
<td>Feasibility Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project Portfolio - Community

- **Project**: Old Age Community Centre  
  - **Value**: R33 mil  
  - **Client**: Portuguese Association  
  - **Location**: Johannesburg – North Riding  
  - **Status**: Fund Raising

- **Project**: Old Age Day Centre  
  - **Value**: R10 mil  
  - **Client**: Private Investor  
  - **Location**: Johannesburg – Bezvalley  
  - **Status**: Feasibility Study
Project Portfolio - Community

Project: Saint Ives community School Hall
Value: R7 mil
Client: Department of Public Works
Location: Johannesburg – Klipspruit West
Status: Under Construction

Project: Lusito School
Value: R23 mil
Client: Lusito Association
Location: Johannesburg – Regents Park
Status: Built 1995 - 2005
Alchemy Architects CC  [Architecture & design]

**Project Portfolio - Industrial**

**Project**: Linbro Warehousing  
**Value**: R15 mil  
**Client**: Guiricich Bros Construction  
**Location**: Johannesburg – Linbro  
**Status**: Re-zoning Land

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**Project**: Valcania South Mini Factories  
**Value**: R38 mil  
**Client**: Metalogic (Pty) Ltd  
**Location**: Johannesburg – Springs  
**Status**: Re-zoning Land
Project Portfolio – Leisure & Sport

- **Project**: Kinetic Health Gymnasium  
  **Value**: R11 mil  
  **Client**: Kinetic Health (Pty) Ltd  
  **Location**: Johannesburg – Boksburg  
  **Status**: Built - 2002

- **Project**: Dube Boxing Gymnasium  
  **Value**: R8 mil  
  **Client**: Department of Public Works  
  **Location**: Johannesburg – Soweto  
  **Status**: Built - 1998
Project Portfolio – Motor Retail

Project : Volkswagen Centre Hatfield
Value : R15 mil
Client : Hatfield Ventures (Pty) Ltd
Location : Pretoria – Hatfield
Status : Built - 1998

Project : Audi Centre Hatfield
Value : R35 mil
Client : Hatfield Ventures (Pty) Ltd
Location : Pretoria – Hatfield
Status : Under Construction
Alchemy Architects CC (Architecture & design)

Project Portfolio – Petroleum Retail

Project: Nationwide Corporate Application
Value: R58 mil
Client: Afric Oil South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Location: Nationwide – 51 Locations
Status: Built - 1996

Project: Sasol Vereeniging
Value: R9 mil
Client: Sasol South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Location: Vereeniging
Status: Built - 1997
Project Portfolio - Religious

Project: Crematorium & Chapel Complex
Value: R78 mil
Client: Stone Bridge Memorial Park (Pty) Ltd
Location: Pretoria – Irene
Status: Feasibility Study

Project: UCKG Khayelitsha
Value: R25 mil
Client: Universal Church of the Kingdom of God
Location: Cape Town – Khayelitsha
Status: Council Approvals
Alchemy Architects CC [Architecture & design]

Project Portfolio – Residential Domestic

Project: Allen Road Residence
Value: R3 mil
Client: Private Investor
Location: Johannesburg – Bedfordview
Status: On hold

Project: Dunvegan Avenue Residence
Value: R2,5 mil
Client: Private Investor
Location: Johannesburg – Dunvegan
Status: Council Approval
Alchemy Architects CC [Architecture & design]

Project Portfolio – Residential High Density

Project : Amazonas Apartments
Value : R75 mil
Client : Lushaka Investments (Pty) Ltd
Location : Johannesburg – Sandton
Status : Built - 2005

Project : Hatfield Towers
Value : R210 mil
Client : Red Developments (Pty) Ltd
Location : Pretoria – Hatfield
Status : Feasibility Study
Alchemy Architects CC [Architecture & design]

Project Portfolio – Residential High Density

**Project :** Vodacom Golf Centre  
**Value :** R3,5 mil  
**Client :** Proshop (Pty) Ltd  
**Location :** Johannesburg – Bedfordview  
**Status :** Built - 2006

**Project :** Kopi-Kat Retail Outlet  
**Value :** R5 mil  
**Client :** Kopi-Kat (Pty) Ltd  
**Location :** Johannesburg – Edenvale  
**Status :** Council Approvals
Conclusion

Alchemy Architects cc is a practice geared with a high ratio of qualified young professionals ensuring a dynamic professional approach to all levels of design and project executions.

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