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3 Point Architects' design of Sinoville Corner.

The construction of a new R50-million retail complex in Sinoville is one of several new contracts that have helped keep leading Pretoria building contractor, J.C. van der Linde & Venter Projects, busy despite the slump in the construction sector.



Massive boulders were encountered while engaged in piling foundation operations for Sinoville Corner.

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J.C. van der Linde & Venter Projects is a member of Master Builders Association North, and the company's MD, Charl Venter, is currently the vice-president of MBA North.

Sinoville Corner, which the company is now completing in the Pretoria North suburb, Sinoville, is a R50-million contract secured from developers, Sinovich Investments. The 9 500 m² retail development has Woolworths as anchor tenant with several major national brands also trading from the low-rise development on which work started in July 2013.

According to Charl Venter, the company's 'Sinoville team' consisted of his brother Pieter Venter (contracts director); Hermann Post (site manager); and Bob Kreder (senior foreman).

Pieter Venter says: "The challenges we encountered on this project included, firstly, piling operations which were severely hampered by the presence of some unexpected, enormous boulders underground.

"The boulders – some of which were about 3 m in diameter – had to be laboriously excavated from a depth of between 4 m to 6 m before the soil could be re-compacted for piling to commence. But we have learnt to expect the unexpected from piling and managed to stay on schedule despite this setback.

"Secondly, the unusual persistent rain in March led to work suspensions and disruptions of almost a month in total – but again the team commendably managed to stay on schedule," he adds.

The architects for Sinoville Corner is 3 Point Architects, the civil engineers are civil concepts, Aecom are the quantity surveyors, DJJ Conradie & Partners are the electrical consultants, and DFR the mechanical consultants.

J.C. van der Linde and Venter Projects was founded in 2006 following a management restructure of the family business which was established in 1953.

The current board consists of Johan Venter (CEO), Charl Venter (MD), Jacques du Preez (financial director), and Thomas Joubert, Pieter Venter, Steven Brown, Stefan van Wyk,

J.C. van der Linde & Venter Projects management members pictured on site at Sinoville Corner. From left: Charl Venter (MD), Hermann Post (site manager), Bob Kreder (senior foreman), and Pieter Venter (contracts director).

and Arrie Venter (all contracts directors).

"All eight directors are active shareholders and very much involved in the day-to-day operations and management of the company. The company concentrates on the medium to large-size construction market of greater Tshwane, with the infrastructure and management capacity to complete contracts to an annual turnover of R300-million," Charl Venter explains.

"One of our top priorities is to improve the lives of our staff and the community in which we operate. We believe this focused 'hands on' approach gives us a financial – and personal – edge over local competitors as well as bigger, listed companies.

"In February 2011, 31% of the company was donated to the Thandiwe Trust which was formed in partnership with the Participate Empower Navigate (PEN) Pretoria City Centre Organisation. The beneficiaries of the trust are disadvantaged young women based in the Pretoria area."

Charl Venter says the company regards its membership of MBA North as significantly important. "By being a member of MBA North, we have always managed to keep the training of our employees up to standard, and the help and guidance we receive from the MBA North Health and Safety department is immeasurable.

MBA North is also helping us to stay on track with the constant changes in legislation and regulations in the construction industry," he added. <

