

## **BACKGROUND: J.A. CRAFFORD**

**JAN ABRAHAM (ABRÉ) CRAFFORD: B ARCH 5 (UP) PR ARCH, MIA- SAIA MEMBER # 4338, PIA MEMBER #CR0031. SACA MEMBER #3234 BORN 26/02/55**

### **Membership in Professional Societies and Office held:**

- Corporate Member Of South African Institute of Architects (SAIA)
- Registered Architect with the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP)
- Founding Member of the Pretoria Institute for Architecture (PIA)
- Founding Member of the Southern African Association of Tourism Professionals. (SATAP)
- Past Chairman of the SAIA Internet Committee ArchiWebSA
- Member of the SSW Executive Committee 2000 -2007
- Member of the Africa Dream Project.

### **KEY QUALIFICATIONS and RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:**

Abre has been intensely involved in the development and planning of tourism destinations throughout the Southern African and international locations in Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, India and the Gulf States like the UAE since 1992. He also acts as consultant, often in association with a network of specialists if the project requires multi-tasking or specialised skills.

He has 27 years experience in the architectural field of which 17 has been as a partner in private sector practices and 16 in the eco and tourism specialist fields.

His clients have included: SANParks, Southern Sun Hotels, the Peaceparks Foundation, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the Regional Spatial Development Unit, the Saudi Arabia's Supreme Commission for Tourism, India's Kerala Provincial Tourism Authority, a number of regional and domestic Lodge Operators as well as numerous communities, private land owners, hotels and private lodge owners. He is active in his academic field of Architecture and has delivered guest lectures at the University of Pretoria & Cornell University in the USA.

### **Education:**

- 1972 : Afrikaans Boys High School, Pretoria, Matric with 2 distinctions  
1979 : Completed Bachelor's degree in Architecture at University of Pretoria (UP)  
Was awarded the Fulton Concrete Award: Best Student Entry in the "Innovative Use of Concrete" for final year thesis on a "Hardened" Centre for Civil Defence  
2003 : Completed the advanced education course "Sustainable Building Design" at UP

He also acts as an ecotourism and macro planning consultant, often in association with a varied network of specialists.

### **Employment record:**

- 1980-1981 : Van Rensburg & Claasens Architects – Junior Architect  
1981-1983 : Gerrit Brink Architect –Design Architect  
1984-1986 : Grobler & Steyn Architects & Engineers/Planauteurs- Associate Architect  
1986-1992 : Abre Crafford Architect – Principal Architect  
1992-present : Crafford & Crafford Architects – Founding Partner

### **Partners:**

JA (Abre) Crafford B Arch (UP) Pr Arch MIArch (PIA) SACA reg. # 3234  
[abrec@ccarchitects.co.za](mailto:abrec@ccarchitects.co.za)  
DP (Niël) Crafford B Arch (UP) Pr Arch MIArch (PIA) SACA reg. # 3475  
[nielc@ccarchitects.co.za](mailto:nielc@ccarchitects.co.za)



**Specific experience** (a selection of recent projects listed BELOW)

## **EXPERIENCE RECORD**

He has been actively involved in the development and planning of tourism destinations throughout the Southern African and international locations in Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, India and the Gulf States.

### **EXPERIENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA (shortened list)**

- Madikwe game reserve – Was appointed to provide the Site analysis and Master plan for the whole of the New Madikwe Game Reserve. It involved the identification and survey of 10 sites for lodge development as well as infrastructure planning to ensure the lodges can be built to ecologically viable criteria. This involved both aerial and ground surveys over most of the 60 000ha reserve.
- Manyeleti Game reserve – was appointed as marketing agents to secure private sector developers and operators.
- SAFCOL commercialisation – Redevelopment of old state-owned infrastructure to access Ecotourism market.
- Songimvelo game reserve – On invitation from the Mpumalanga Parks Board, developed a complete Commercial Development Plan for the Reserve as part of Footsteps, a company consisting of Crafford & Crafford, Darryl Lombard of Lorton Consulting, Willie Boonzaaier of Contour. The proposal consisted of a unique theming concept whereby all products and activities would have complied with a specific theme reflecting the “African Safari” experience.
- Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative, A SDI to determine the regional development in the Lubombo Mountain region of KwaZulu Natal and Swaziland. Proposed a variety of lodges and resorts that were linked to a group of different activities in the region.
- SANParks manual – a joint appointment with Quadrisir Architects and Stauch Vorster MOM Architects to compile a comprehensive Development manual for use in all our National Parks.
- Shangana Traditional village – Hazyview – a tribal owned cultural venue with a highly successful nightly “kraal” revue
- Satara Camp, Kruger National Park – A study to rationalize this hugely popular Rest Camp in the Kruger National Park. Master Planning of the rest camp was done to ensure responsible future development, where after detail design for the upgrading of the caravan park and rondavels was done. A new day visitor’s centre is being developed.
- Poverty relief projects for SANParks - a total rethink and renovation of most of SA’s well known but ageing National Park Tourism Infrastructure as well as some brand new Transfrontier & Heritage Parks. The projects are being funded the Department of Environment and Tourism via the Special Public Projects fund that stipulates rural social empowerment and advancement. These projects allowed us to implement some of the most challenging designs to date for ecotourism. Designs were geared towards enriching the direct and authentic experience of nature and culture through innovative materials and climatic responses. The designs varied from sandbag, dung, clay, wattle and daub walls , tented safari units, to Alpine log cabins and partially buried structures to deal with the extremely varied climates found on the 4 corners of SA as well as at sea level to as high as 2200m above sea level.
- Cape Vidal, KwaZulu Natal – Master planning of a major beach resort in the World Heritage Park of St Lucia wetlands in KwaZulu Natal. The master planning consists of the development of a 300 bed Resort, chalets and camping facilities on this famous beachfront.

### **EXPERIENCE IN NAMIBIA**

- Erindi Private Game reserve north of Windhoek
- Sossusvlei Karos Lodge
- Namibia SDI projects.

### **EXPERIENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE**

- “Paradise Island” – the redevelopment Masterplan for Santa Carolina Island’s renovations.
- Masterplanning of several other development initiatives including the Parque Nacional do Limpopo
- Master plan for a Private development in the South of Mozambique to develop 3 wilderness camps and a lodge on the forested coastal belt.





## **EXPERIENCE IN ARABIAN PENINSULA & GULF STATES**

- Master Plan/Tourism Study - Development concept for Dubai Desert Kingdom, United Arab Emirates- a proposal to develop 2,000 ha as the five desert biomes of the world. The Sahara, Namib, Arizona, Mongolian and the Sinai Deserts would have been simulated and stocked with animal species indigenous to the different regions. Tourism products reflecting the traditional building styles of the area were designed to develop the theme fully
- Masterplan proposal for a National Park & Marine Reserve on the former Royal nature reserve of Sir Bani Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, UAE – full Masterplan with concepts of ecotourism developments with an unique Arabian theme suitable for this unique destination.
- Member the International team put together by the Zuhair Fayez Partnership in Riyadh. The project consists of the masterplanning for 3 different environments in Saudi Arabia – Desert, Mountainous and Coastal.

## **EXPERIENCE IN INDIA**

- Tourism Study – A study in conjunction with the University of Pretoria Wild Life Unit (Prof. Wouter van Hoven) to provide Kerala Provisional Authority with a long term planning model to further develop its tourism market. The study focused on the Forestry Departments' Sanctuaries located around all their major dams in the Mountainous vicinity in the South of India.
- International Competition – finalists in the competition for a new Corporate Hill Resort of the Brigade Group of Companies based in Bangalore.

## **CONSERVATION AREAS & NATIONAL PARKS WORKED IN:**

- Kruger National Park
- Mapungubwe National Park & World Heritage Site
- Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park
- Ai-Ais / Richtersveld Transfrontier Park
- Golden Gate Highlands National park
- Agulhas National Park
- Marakele National Park
- Pilanesberg Game Reserve
- Madikwe Game Reserve
- Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve
- Nylsvlei Nature Reserve
- Songimvelo Game Reserve
- Welgevonden Game Reserve
- Sabi Sand Wildtuin
- Klaserie Game Reserve
- Manyeleti Game Reserve
- Cape Vidal St Lucia Wetlands
- Mlilwane Game Reserve
- Hlane Game Reserve
- Namib Naukluft Park
- Central Kalahari Game Reserve
- Parque Nacional do Limpopo
- Lower Zambezi National Park
- South Luangwe National Park
- Kerala Plantation Sanctuaries - India
- Cochi, Periyar, Neyyar, Parambikulam, Sanctuaries - Kerala India
- Sir Bani Yas Island Conservancy - UAE

