

# Landscape artist and sculptor to transform outdoor space of Willow Wood Office Park

Heartwood Properties has partnered with landscape artist and sculptor Strijdom van der Merwe to transform the outdoor space of office block Willow Wood in Fourways, Gauteng.



Van der Merwe is famous for his installations using nature as his core theme using only the natural materials found on site, from wood and rock to sand and stone. At the forefront of environmentalism in art, Van der Merwe creates work that resonates with the meditative quiet that one finds in the natural world. His goal for Willow Wood is to highlight the fragile balance between human existence and nature, giving employees the opportunity to take a break from their busy day and just breathe.

Much research has been done on how to improve employee productivity while at work. Landscaped outdoor spaces, especially within the city limits, is ideal for employee wellness. Interacting with nature several times a day let's employees recharge their brains and helps to maintain a healthy focus on daily tasks.

## Promoting cohesion and positivity

CEO of Heartwood Properties, John Whall says: "It is one thing to construct a beautiful building, but a person's imagination and sense of creativity is really ignited when they are outdoors in a natural environment. However, most jobs mean sitting at a desk indoors all day. We recognise Strijdom's unique ability to create a space that inspires and promotes cohesion and positivity, which is why we are so excited about his ideas for Willow Wood."

