

# Space for busy people

Photographs: Natalie Payne.



Entrance with back-lit marble.



Stair from ground floor.



Green lounge.



Entrance and reception desk.



Bistro.



Typical work booth.



Basement lounge.

'SLOW in the City' is located opposite the Gautrain Station in Sandton. Modelled on the 'SLOW Lounge' concepts at the Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg airports, it is a space where busy people can rest, think or meet up with other people to do business. It is described as a place where calm meets capability and where every business requirement is inconspicuously catered for.

These days, people are not confined to doing business in an office and SLOW in the City provides an environment where people can work remotely from anywhere on the globe, allowing them to be productive when away from their usual place of work. The new and different concept of this lounge seeks to fill a gap in business services not provided by hotels in the area – well serviced individual work spaces, catering and small scale conference

facilities for members and other eligible guests and business people.

Services and facilities include:

- A range of meeting rooms and workspaces including private lounges, boardrooms, function rooms, signature meeting spaces, library desks and private studios.
- PC workstations, WiFi and printing facilities.
- Video conferencing suite.
- Power sockets throughout the facility.
- A bar offering specialty teas and coffees, wine and cocktails.
- A bistro serving breakfast, lunch, evening bites and a 'Wine and Cheese' room.

The interior décor and design of SLOW in the City was by Tonic Design, a group of interior designers who won a Loerie Award for their work on the

domestic airport lounges. They were asked to translate the airport lounge concept, tailored specifically for the convenience of travellers passing through, to a lounge that would function differently in an urban environment. They have created a holistic focus using natural materials and colours, combined with manmade elements associated with the city and complemented by local art work. Their simplistic design with rich furniture textures and organic colours creates a serene ambience.

'Time and space for extremely busy people – welcome to a calmer world, a place to celebrate pleasure over pressure, quality over quantity, mindfulness over mindlessness, SLOW is the equivalent of a long deep breath.' Tonic engaged Paul Pamboukian Lighting Design as specialists to evolve their look and the atmosphere for the SLOW in the City for conditions that went beyond

their normal scope. As much of the space is below ground level, many areas with added changing daylight, Tonic was concerned to control the quality of light throughout.

The spaces were identified by Tonic's accent lighting – decorative features in key points, while the ambient lighting by the lighting designers had to cultivate the idea of 'a long deep breath.' The architectural lighting is comprised of a few elements used with discretion, and sometimes as soft articulation, to make the spaces felt. For example, the strip lighting either in the floor or at floor level is minimalist and applied selectively for specific mood as well as being a business-like, yet relaxed space.

The aim was to create contrasting spaces, some dark and moody and others bright with deep shadows – each area having its own particular light quality.