

Eco-sensitive residential project starts in pristine KZN wildlife habitat

WORK has begun on a new eco-sensitive development project in a pristine Kwazulu-Natal wildlife habitat just north of Howick in the Nottingham Road/Balgowan area.

The Reeds at Balgowan consists of nine homes designed by architect Stan Field of California. Field is a past winner of the SA Institute of Architects' Award of Merit and The Reeds at Balgowan has been recognised for concept innovation by the American Institute

of Architects.

"Optimum congruency with the natural environment is what I'm striving for in this project," Field says.

"The Reeds project embodies the spirit of Ubuntu-style living with homes sited and built in harmony with nature and constructed to preserve resources and protect sensitive wildlife habitats as well as native flora and fauna.

Locally sourced construction materials, water recycling,

energy efficiency, solar technology and wetlands cultivation are central to The Reeds's unique EnviroLiving appeal and character.

"Spacious, free-flowing homes with the latest conveniences are designed to retain energy, conserve water and have a low profile in the surrounding geography.

"The development uses building materials from the vicinity and construction methods that optimise the skill

and craft of local labour.

"Each structure has been conceived of as a clam, capable of being opened or securely closed at will. Rock walls form the spine of the outer shell and sliding wooden shutters control the level of exposure.

"At the core of the house is the kitchen, with its intermittent glass roof letting in sunlight that is absorbed by the rock bed below the floor, radiating heat back into the house."

Developer Donovan Neale-

May, a South African now living on Monterey Bay, California, says the location lends itself to extensive outdoor sporting opportunities.

The natural environments around each home will be created by Patrick Watson, a South African landscape designer known for his work at Sun City.

Five erven are nestled in a valley overlooking two trout dams. The other four are located along the crest of a hill

with Drakensberg mountain views.

Prices range from R1.5 to R2 million, and buying the land is conditional on building within 18 months and using Field as the architect, as well as The Reeds project management, construction and landscaping teams.

For more information, call Heather Burger at Meander Real Estate on 033 266 6456 or visit www.ReedsEnviroLiving.com