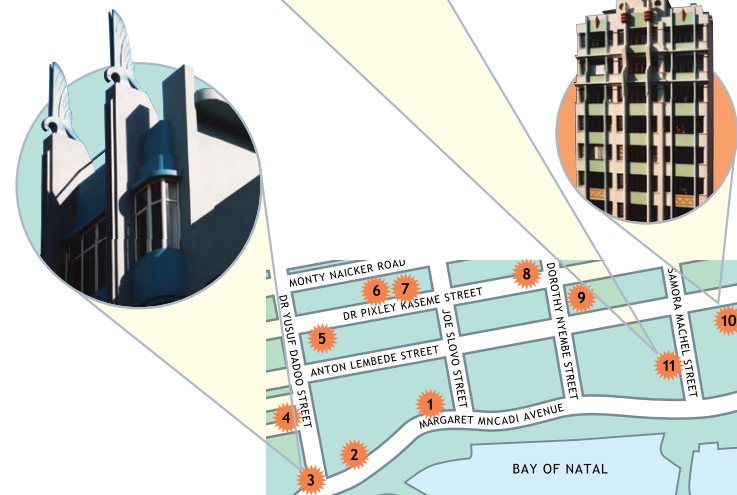


ART DECO



A selection of details from the stock of over one hundred Art Deco buildings in the Durban area.

CENTRAL AREA



The Central Area exhibits several examples of high quality, classic Deco elevational treatments, richly adorned with a unique array of animal forms.

- 1. **VICTORIA MANSIONS**
124 Margaret Mncadi Ave. Nelson Secombe, 1935
- 2. **WILLERN COURT**
159 Margaret Mncadi Ave William Barboure, 1937
- 3. **BROADWINDOR**
7 Dr Yusuf Dadoo St. & Margaret Mncadi Ave. W C Moffatt & Hirst, 1935
- 4. **MANHATTAN COURT**
11 Dr Yusuf Dadoo St. A G Frolich, 1937
- 5. **McINTOSH HOUSE**
455-457 Dr Pixley Kaseme St.
- 6. **PREFCOR HOUSE**
398 Dr Pixley Kaseme St.
- 7. **CLICKS**
390 Dr Pixley Kaseme St.
- 8. **COLONIAL MUTUAL**
330 Dr Pixley Kaseme St. Elsworth, Hennessy & Hennessy, Sydney, 1931-33
- 9. **THE CENOTAPH**
Dorothy Nyembe St.
- 10. **HOLLYWOOD COURT**
197 Anton Lembede St. Hobbs & Bonieux, 1937
- 11. **ENTERPRISE BUILDING**
47 Samora Machel St. A A Ritchie McKinley, 1931

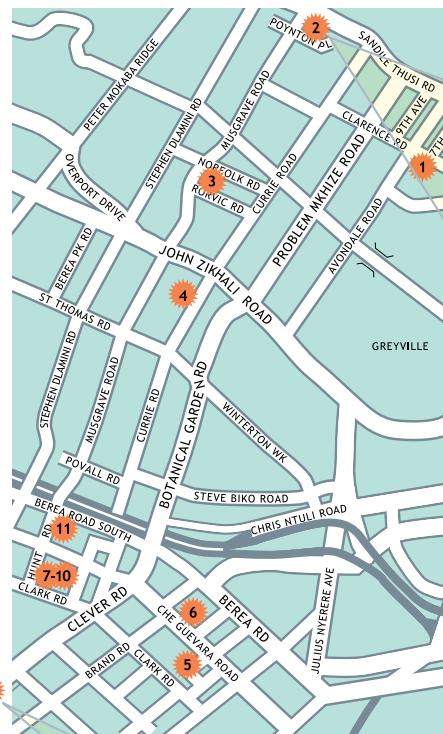
DR YUSUF DADOO STREET AREA



- 1. **MOOSAS BUILDINGS**
148 152 Dr Yusuf Dadoo St.
- 2. **ABOOBAKER MANSIONS**
Cnr Dr Yusuf Dadoo & Dennis Hurley Streets. 1937
- 3. **JENNA'S CENTRE**
162 Bertha Mkhize St. WJ Cornelius, 1927.
- 4. **ESSOP MOOSA BUILDING**
129 Dr Goonam St. 1935
- 5. **ABAD COURT**
125/127 Dr Goonam St. Cornelius & Partner
- 6. **N M EBRAHIM BUILDING**
15-21 Cross Street
- 7. **EBRAHIM COURT**
49-55 Dr Goonam St.
- 8. **ARBE MANSIONS**
102 Dr Goonam St.
- 9. **69/71 CHARLOTTE MAXEKE ST.**
B Jeet. 1939.
- 10. **EMPIRE COURT**
256 - 260 Dr Yusuf Dadoo St.
- 11. **DOMINION COURT**
55 - 61 Charlotte Maxeke St.
- 12. **51 VEL -VET MANSIONS**
51 Carlisle Street W.Cornelius

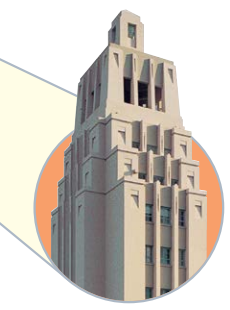


The Deco buildings in the Dr Yusuf Dadoo Street area have unique decorative features where a wide range of architectural motifs combine to make a unique style locally termed 'Indo-African Deco'. Beautifully scaled streetscapes are framed by buildings of wry individuality.



BEREA NORTH BERE A AREA

- 1. **JUBILEE COURT**
63-93 Clarence Road
- 2. **CHEVIOT COURT**
Cnr Musgrave Road & Poynton Place. 1940's
- 3. **ST AUGUSTINE'S MANSIONS**
440 Musgrave Road Geoffery le Seuer. 1929
- 4. **SURREY MANSIONS**
323 Currie Road. Langton & Barboure-William B Barboure, 1937.
- 5. **BEREA SOUTH**
- 6. **MOORLANDS**
158 Che Guevara Road. Obel and Frolich. 1937
- 7. **SANTA MARIA**
187 Che Guevara Road. Hobbs & Bonieux. 1951
- 8. **PAYO COURT**
15 Woodburn Place. 1940.
- 9. **ALDER COURT**
17 Woodburn Place. 1940.
- 10. **DEO VOLANTE**
5 Woodburn Place. DJJames 1939-40.
- 11. **ELLAN VANNIN**
62 Bulwer Road. boarding on Woodburn Place H F Sparks.
- 12. **BEREA COURT**
399 Berea Road. Langton & Barboure, 1937
- 13. **MEMORIAL TOWER**
UKZN, Mazisi Kunene Road. Powers & Powers. 1946



The Berea has a good range of apartment blocks with streamline forms and rich stucco detailing. Of note is Surrey Mansions in Currie Road which stands out as a truly great Art Deco building.

AREA MAP



ART DECO AND ALL THAT JAZZ The Art Deco movement that spread throughout the world between 1925 and 1940 embraced all the plastic and graphic arts. When Art Deco came to Durban, it placed its unique stamp on the character of the city, adding a decorative flourish to a previously staid colonial town. It was the sophisticated demonstration of new wealth, non-conformity, fast living and jazz music. Proponents, here as elsewhere, tended to be both anti-establishment and anti-intellectual; the former in resentment of the snobbery and class consciousness of the colonial mindset and the latter in reaction to the pretentiousness that was a perceived characteristic of the Modern Movement.

Durban, a sub-tropical city on the south-east coast of Africa, responded with a robust tradition of construction that favours strong, straightforward materials like concrete, brick and plaster, all admirably suited to the demands of the Art Deco movement.

CONSTRUCTS OF THE IMAGINATION Stylistically, Art Deco was manifested in strong geometric shapes and novel combinations of form and colour. It used decorative motifs shamelessly, drawing on whatever source seemed topical at the time.

Durban's architectural response to the Art Deco movement was rich with idiosyncrasies and touches characteristic of the region. These were eloquently demonstrated in details and adornments.

BACK IN THE 30's A NEW AND RADICAL MOVEMENT PLACED ITS UNIQUE STAMP ON THE CHARACTER OF DURBAN, ADDING A DECORATIVE FLOURISH TO A CONSERVATIVE COLONIAL TOWN. THIS CHANGE MARKED THE ARRIVAL OF

ART DECO

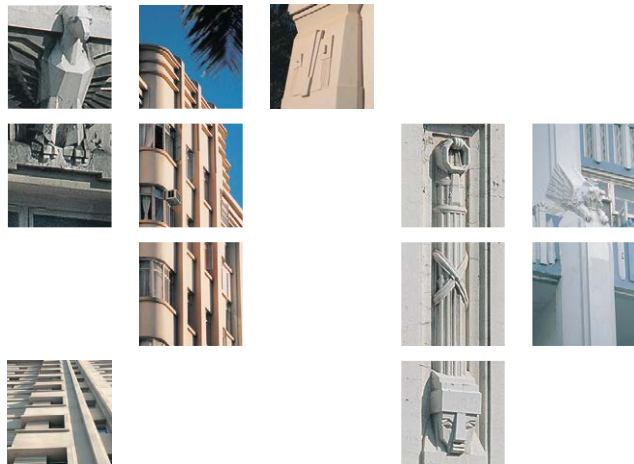


FINDING DECO IN DURBAN

ANIMALS IN THE ARCHITECTURE There was a fascination with African fauna and this stimulated the appearance of a unique range of animal forms that cropped up as stucco enrichment to the deco geometry on many buildings.

ORIENTAL OPULENCE Then there was the cultural infusion introduced by the rapid development of the Dr Yusuf Dadoo Street precinct, an area geographically settled by people of Indian descent. This has enabled the definition of Durban Deco to include the vital addition of voluptuous forms and eclectic detailing that resulted. Traces of Egyptian, Classical, Hindu, Islamic and Imperial motifs mingle happily on spandrels and balustrades, and sunburst patterns illuminate from above.

LANDMARKS AND OBSCURITIES The expression of Art Deco buildings in Durban differs from area to area. For ease of categorisation we have divided the city into three distinct precincts, namely the Central area, the Bera area and the Dr Yusuf Dadoo Street area.



Victoria Mansions



HUNTING FOR HERITAGE

The Durban Art Deco Society runs regular tours exploring aspects of Durban's Deco Heritage, and may be contacted through Helen Labuschagne on 031 301 1951.

Or go to: <http://www.bit.ly/dbn-ad>

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