

NEWS

South Africa



5-7

Ark Angels Educare Kindergarten

8-9

The Hout Bay House Project
in Cape Town

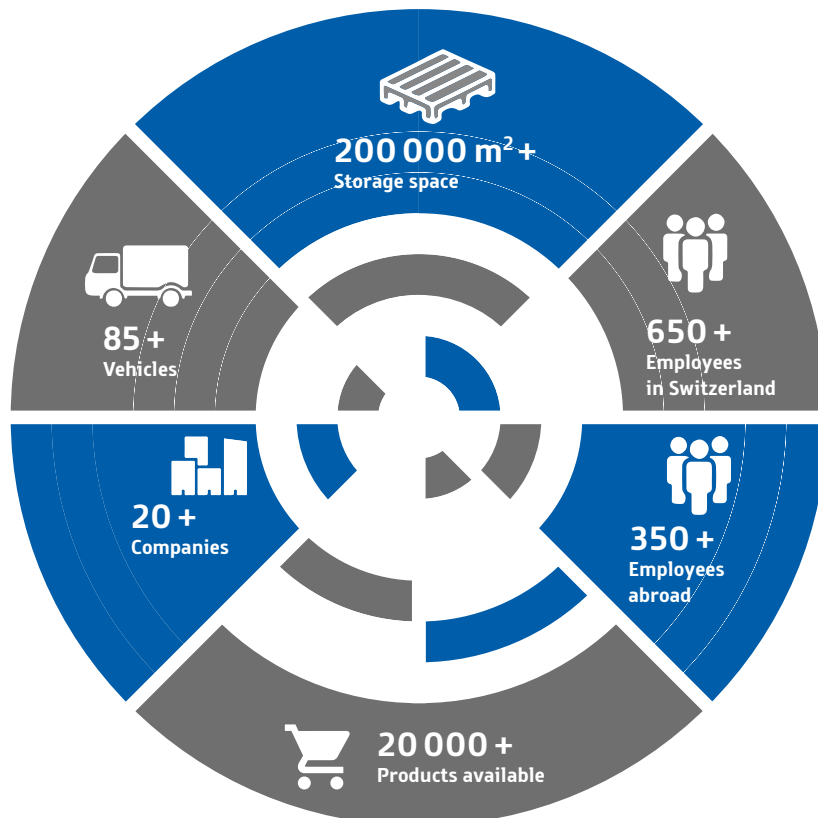
10-11

News from the Wood Student
Foundation Cape Town



About us	3	Reference object	8 – 9
Editorial	4	The Hout Bay House Project in Cape Town	
Welcome to the 13th Wood Conference		Commitment	10 – 11
Reference object	5 – 7	News from the Wood Student Foundation Cape Town	
Ark Angels Educare Kindergarten		Save the date	12

Facts and figures about Kuratle Group's comprehensive solutions revolving around wood



More about Kuratle Group



About us

HWZ International South Africa is a division of Kuratle Group, a Swiss company which is active all over the world. With its comprehensive network of experts and its long-term experience, the Kuratle Group and its partners intend to promote wood construction and green building in South Africa.

The range of services and products includes different types of wood, construction materials, i.e. plywood, sawmill timber, finger joint beams, and glue laminated beams, flooring, facade covering, systems for insulation and sealing and building boards.

The Kuratle Group founded 1955 is an international family-run company, led in 3rd generation, based in Switzerland. The enterprise comprises a number of companies, which combines construction materials and timber products, transport, logistics and services.

In the national and international timber market, the **Kuratle Group** is a dynamic, innovative ecosystem providing comprehensive solutions around wood – competent, reliable, sustainable. Based on this vision and the goal of establishing long-term business relationships in South Africa, a partnership has been formed with **Universal Plywoods**.

In cooperation with Universal Plywoods we offer premium products, unique solutions and long-term experiences in South Africa.

The first **Wood Conference** took place in 2010 after George Kuratle recognised the opportunity and the potential for timber construction in South Africa. Bringing together professionals in the sector to gather and learn more about timber. The aim of the conference is to support local architects and students in the promotion of wood in sustainable construction, the exchange of ideas, information, and inspiration on the topic of wood.

Today, the Wood Conference Cape Town is an internationally recognized knowledge platform promoting sustainable wood construction in South Africa.

The **Wood Student Foundation** (WSF) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation engaged in promoting in South Africa. Promoting the wood construction industry, to teach the students the art and techniques of woodworking and making an artwork with and through their work. To enable them to have a skill for life.



More about
**HWZ International
South Africa**



More about
Universal Plywoods



Welcome to the 13th Wood Conference

More than 14 years ago, we started our business activities in South Africa and it has been 13 years since the first Wood Conference took place. Both the business and the conference have developed positively. The conference has become a definite highlight of the wood industry in South Africa.

The idea of the founders, who gave the presentations at the first conference, have kept the promise not only to initiate a conference on the technology and aesthetics of wood, but to initialize it and establish it as part of the wood industry in South Africa.

The founder, George Kuratle handed over his company to the third generation in 2020. The successor, CEO of the Group, Roger Kuratle, will also further develop business in the South African market and the conference as well. In order to provide the platform for architects, engineers, students, and all those interested in timber construction.

With the cooperation and assistance of the South African partner "Universal Plywoods", wood products that are not produced in South Africa would be covered locally by them. This gives the projects a new dimension that can be used by all interested parties and construction professionals.

As the conference continues to grow, there is huge potential for the event to have an impact on timber construction and sustainable construction in South Africa. One of the goals would be to raise awareness for a broad general understanding that wood is a valuable and sustainable building material. An entire industry, with all its stakeholders needs to understand that the overall goal we need to achieve is to create a sustainable market for timber construction and improve our contribution of CO₂ sequestration.

The positive progress of both projects reaffirms our long-term commitment in South Africa.

We are pleased to provide insight into our company, its vision and already realized projects in this first edition of News South Africa.



George Kuratle
Initiator
President Kuratle Group



Roger Kuratle
CEO Kuratle Group



Ark Angels Educare Kindergarten

Ark Angels Educare is a registered South African Non-Profit Organisation and a Public Benefit Organisation. It's an Early Childhood Development centre in the informal settlement of Overcome Heights / Vrygrond in Cape Town.

100 children from 1 – 6 years by taking them off the streets and providing them with two warm meals per day and early childhood education. It also empowers women to find employment in the area.



Founded in 2015 by Prosper Torchere, Pastor of Ark Chapels Ministries, the Educare cares for about

The Ark Angels Educare is supported by the Wood Student Foundation.









The Hout Bay House Project in Cape Town

The collaboration between professionals from Europe and South Africa has led to the creation of the Hout Bay House Project in Cape Town. This endeavour brings together skilled builders, innovative material manufacturers, and emerging scientists. The primary objective of this research initiative is to devise tailored solutions for wooden constructions in Africa through international cooperation. Rigorous testing is conducted to assess the physical and technical characteristics of the buildings, aiming to identify the most suitable options for the South African market. Special sensors integrated into the structures gather crucial data on thermal properties, including the overall heat transfer coefficient, surface temperature, and humidity. These measurements are taken continuously during operation, allowing for ongoing analysis and trend evaluation.





News from the Wood Student Foundation Cape Town

George Kuratle and Elke Zwicker present the projects implemented by the Wood Student Foundation in 2023. At this point they would like to express their sincere thanks to all those who generously supported them and contributed to the realization of the following three projects.



1. The Bright Student Learning Centre

We have been supporting the two schools in Wynberg and Bellville for five years now. They were founded with the aim of providing young people, especially from Zimbabwe but also from other African nations, with a school education leading to a Cambridge English degree in Cape Town. With such a diploma, the world opens up to the students and they can apply for jobs in many places. In recent years, thanks to the financial support of the Wood Student Foundation, students from poorer family backgrounds have also been able to attend classes.

Every year, half of the required school fees are paid for 30 students. This contribution means a great relief for the parents, as the Bright Student Learning Centre is a private organization that does not receive any support from the state. Parents must therefore have to pay for their children's entire school fees.

This year, the Wood Student Foundation received another request to pay the examination fees for eight students for the Cambridge degree.

The fees per subject are extremely high and therefore prevent some students from accessing to the exams.

We must also mention an unfortunate incident. At the beginning of June, the school in Wynberg was attacked by unknown perpetrators and the entire daily school fees were stolen. Most foreigners do not have a bank account in South Africa, which requires them to pay their school fees in cash at the beginning of the quarter. The police believe this to have been an inside tip. This is a loss and setback for the school.

Shortly before the end of the year, director Sam therefore approached the Wood Student Foundation once again requesting support with the bonus payments for the for the 33 members of staff at the two schools.



2. Nourish Educare in Vrygrond

Four years ago, principal Pretty approached the Wood Student Foundation with a request to help her with her salary payments. Since then, she has regularly reported on the number of children and monthly expenses. Pretty has concluded her own further training over the last four years, encouraged her teachers to complete Level 4 training and improved her kindergarten to such an extent that she was able to apply for state accreditation. She proudly and happily received the long-awaited certificate. She immediately completed the necessary paperwork and has now received the promise of state financial support at the end of 2023. We would like to congratulate Pretty and her staff on this achievement. We always assumed that Pretty would be able to receive state support after recognition and thus become independent of the Wood Student Foundation. She has now achieved this feat.

Nourish Educare is now independent and will no longer require any further financial support as of 2024. True-North has the patronage of 29 such small kindergartens and is working towards all of them eventually becoming less independent. They have already enquired whether we would accompany another kindergarten to independence.





Donations account:

Bank:
 First National Bank
 Acc No:
 62577146246
 Branch Name:
 GARDENS Branch
 Code: 201511
 Swift Code:
 FIRZAJJXXX



As Pretty desperately wishes for a canopy on the playground of her kindergarten, the Wood Student Foundation is once again stepping in to provide funding.



Elke Zwicker and George Kuratle.

3. Nadine Solomons – Student

For four years, the Wood Student Foundation has been paying the college fees for Nadine Solomons, an exceptionally hard-working and talented law student. She graduated at the end of 2023, has already completed a three-month internship and will start her new job as a qualified lawyer in a law firm in 2024.

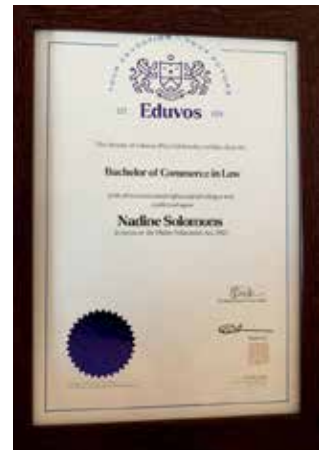
We are looking back with gratitude on the past year, in which we were once again able to provide financial support for our three projects and thus ensure continuity.

- The Bright Student Learning Centre can continue to count on help from the Wood Student Foundation.
- We intend to accompany another kindergarten from True-North through to state registration, which can take up to four years.
- At Little Lambs, the new aftercare centre is ready. We would like to increase our involvement here and, for example, take on the furnishing of the five classrooms and the office, as well as possibly the expenses for the urgently needed alarm system.
- We are also keeping our eye on the project "Mother & Child Home" project, which was presented at the last Wood Conference by the two architects Helen and Hard from Stavanger, Norway, and a team of architects from Cape Town. Unfortunately, important permits from the local authorities are still missing, which is preventing the release of the property in Hout Bay.

In a world where suffering, extreme poverty, crime and hopelessness prevail, we want to set an example, bring joy, warmth, smiling faces and confidence. With a donation to the Wood Student Foundation, you support our mission and allow many children a better education, healthy food and a safe place to be taken care. Thank you for your continued support. Many thanks on behalf of all the children and students.

Elke Zwicker & George Kuratle

Source: Letter of thanks from Elke Zwicker / George Kuratle



Wood Student Foundation (WSF)

THE WSF was founded in February 2012 at the 2nd Wood Conference with the aim of supporting University students on the topic and research related to the promotion of Wood. Since then, the WSF have assisted other educational institutes. The aim of the foundation is to allow students to work intensively on a topic related to the promotion of wood in a master's or bachelor's thesis.

Elke Zwicker Member of the "SEEDS Trust" foundation and board member of "Little Lambs". She is committed to helping children on a voluntary basis in Cape Town, South Africa.

True-North was founded in 2007 as a non-profit organization to help underprivileged groups in South Africa, especially in the development education, research and technology. The organization works in the townships and the so-called illegal settlements of Vrygrond and Overcome Heights. More specifically, this involves a total of 44,000 people, including 1,700 children.

Board of Trustees of the Wood Student Foundation (WSF)

George Kuratle	Director
Elke Zwicker	Project Manager
Zaida Davids	Chief Administrator
Corinne Kuratle	Director
Katharina Liedtke	Director

Save the Date:
14th WOOD
Conference:
25th February 2025



Organization



Presenting Partners



Your contact person for 12 years:
Zaida Davids

HWZ International SA (Pty) Ltd.
4 Sedgemoor Rd, Camps Bay 8005 Cape Town
Tel: +27 76 401 91 20 **Email:** zaida.davids@hwzi.ch