

Project	-	Table Bay Hotel, V & A Waterfront, Cape Town.
Owner	-	Sun International
Architect	-	Louis Karol
Engineers	-	Louis Karol
Steel Fabricator	-	Steel Art
Main Contractor	-	Murray & Roberts
Hot-Dip Galvanising	-	Cape Galvanising
Tons of Steel	-	± 50 tons
Project inception date	-	1996
Project Completion date-		1998



The magnificent Table Bay Hotel has been built in a style with its surroundings straddling the antique breakwater in the V & A Waterfront. It is situated within 100 metres of the Atlantic Ocean and 50 metres from the water of the Cape Town harbour. All the external steelwork at the Table Bay Hotel was galvanised and painted and this was necessary for aesthetic reasons and as the site was highly corrosive. The galvanisers responsibility ended with the hot-dip galvanising which was to be unpassivated. The steel fabricator was to be responsible for applying the primer and a paint contractor was employed to apply two final coats on the site. Regrettably the paint contractor did not sufficiently clean the steelwork before applying the final coats after the steel had been lying on the site for 3 months and had become contaminated with chlorides and dust from the building. This resulted in the steel having to be re-painted.

As Cape Galvanising was called in by the main contractors, it was pointed out to them that it was much safer to apply the duplex system under a controlled environment in the separate paint shop of the galvanising factory and it was a major learning curve for the industry, that site painting requires the steel to be spotlessly clean before application.

The structural steelwork that has been duplexed at the Table Bay Hotel is all the external columns and roof steelwork at the drive in entrance and the glass & steel main entrance to the hotel. The function area which is used for business or entertainment functions is a beautiful glass and steel Victorian-style pavilion.



The Atlantic restaurant, the Conservatory and bar offer great views of Table Mountain and the harbour. The painted steel columns provide decoration and support for large glass areas allowing panoramic viewing. Rooms facing the Atlantic have painted galvanised steel balconies and the car park have galvanised and painted steel lighting poles that were duplexed by Cape Galvanising some 14 years ago. The original coating has yet to be replaced.

The Table Bay Hotel shows that duplex systems applied correctly can be used in high profile architectural areas that require long term corrosion protection. Although the original paint application was applied incorrectly it benefited all the parties concerned as it shows the difficulty of site painting in certain areas and provides the need for painting only in controlled environments.

It also shows that duplex systems are not negotiable in aggressive marine environments as all the steelwork is still in pristine condition.



