



# Eastgate solar trees

SCULPTURAL / ARCHITECTURAL STEEL AWARD

The Eastgate shopping centre's piazza has always been a central node that connected restaurants to public areas and rooftop parking to various mall entrances. **It has a strong geometric arrangement: a circle from which everything radiates.** The piazza has recently undergone various cosmetic treatments to enhance shoppers' overall experience. The design is aesthetically pleasing and reflects a renewable energy focus.



### Development of the project

Previous attempts to rejuvenate the piazza had failed, but the addition of the solar trees has imbued a sense of identity and provided Eastgate with a 'crowning glory' rooftop public space.

This opportunity presented itself when a leaky roof slab that had to be fixed developed into a project - demonstrating Eastgate's sustainable future. The main challenge was having access to the site during the construction phase, which contributed to a complicated installation process.



### Self-sufficient solar trees

The fabrication objective of the solar trees was to ensure that they were self-sufficient and independent. With the refurbishment works of the piazza, a unique opportunity emerged to reactivate a problematic space while demonstrating eco-friendly, 'green' sustainability.

Three solar trees were designed to provide shade during the day, illuminate the space at night and harness renewable solar energy as a grid-independent power source. Featuring an elaborate display of structure and lighting, these trees have become an anchor for public circulation and gathering, as well as beacons of sustainability.



**Three solar trees were designed to provide shade during the day, illuminate the space at night and harness renewable solar energy as a grid-independent power source.**

### Project team

- Uitenhage Super Steel
- Global Roofing Solutions
- Stance Consulting Engineers
- Mondo Cane
- CMAI Architects

*Full acknowledgement and thanks go to <https://www.saisc.co.za> for the information in this editorial. WR*