



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

THE OFFICE OF THE JUDICIARY

Entrance and Foyer

This area is reached via the sweeping staircase and pedestrian ramps. The public entrance to the Supreme Court comprises a triple-volume space with large glass surfaces partly shielded from the sun by means of a detached 'brise-soleil' which still allows a view of the city.

The two staircases and a small glass-fronted lift takes the visitor to the spacious public foyer-cum-waiting area on the next level. It is here where the general public and press will have to wait before and after court hearings. From here the Memorial Garden described is visible and can be reached.

A secondary staircase on either side of the foyer provides access to the raised public galleries of the respective Court rooms. Somewhat less conspicuous are the entrances to the advocates rooms which serve as semi-private ante-rooms to the Courts.

Public Galleries and Court Rooms

The public and press gallery of each Court is raised from the level of the Court to enable the utilisation of the space underneath as witness and advocate robing rooms as well as the secondary entrance to the Court Room. Each gallery can accommodate up to 36 persons.

Each Court room consists of a substantially raised bench for judges with entry from the Judiciary behind. Also slightly raised from the level of the Court is the Registrar's bench, while the rest of the open Court is taken up by the usual configuration of benches for the advocates, attorneys and defendants.



Memorial Garden

Incorporated in the open Courtyard in the centre of the building is a garden in memory of the late Chief Justice Honourable H.J. Berker and the late Chief Justice Honourable I. Mohamed. The garden comprises of a water fountain, plants and seating. It is also home to the memorial busts of the late honourable chief justices of the Republic. It forms the heart of the Supreme Court complex as it allows for light and air to filter into and throughout the building.



Visitor's Guide to the Supreme Court

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIARY

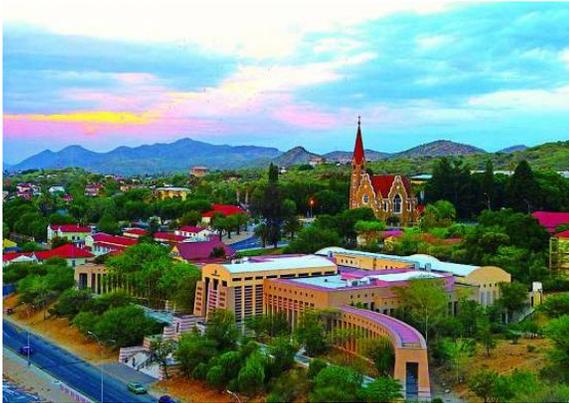
Judicial Excellence – My Reality

Welcome to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Namibia

The Supreme Court of Namibia is a Final Appeal Court and the highest tribunal in the Land of the Brave. The Court stands as the final arbiter of the law and guardian of constitutional liberties.

The Superior Court reflects dignity, tradition and prestigious qualities embraced within its walls. Therein contained is the final, ultimate Appeal and Constitutional Court of Namibia from which no further appeal lies.

The building is an important landmark in the City of Windhoek by virtue of its function and status as the Third Arm of Government.



The Supreme Court faces due West, overlooking the Capital City. This unlikely orientation is demanded by the topography of the site and follows the pattern set by Windhoek's important civil buildings and other historic landmarks in the indifference with which they bear the brunt of Namibia's blazing afternoon sun.

Design Approach

The event of Namibia's independence heralded the beginning of a very exciting period in the development of Windhoek as a result of its new role as the country's administrative, legislative and judicial centre.

"This Appeal and Constitutional Court can be said to symbolize the integrity and incorruptibility thereof as the cornerstone and guardian of Namibia's democracy."

Building Finishes

The Supreme Court is constructed out of local building material and the principal finishes of the building was underplayed in order to provide the contrast needed to accentuate selective items of importance. The elegance of the Karirib marble architrave used around the entrance doors to the court rooms, for example, is enhanced by the simplicity of the bagged and painted finish of the interior walls.



On the outside of the building this general restraint is used to good effect; in showing off the lavish treatment of the plinth with its cladding in alternate horizontal bands of polished and dressed Spitzkoppe granite. Strips of Spitzkoppe granite were also employed to frame the panels of tinted grano used for most of the floors. Other interesting material choices included the use of saw Dolf Wood slats for ceilings. The colour scheme of the building was inspired by the great many colours which make up Spitzkoppe granite, contrasted with the green of the verdigris finish of the balustrading and front door.

Supreme Court Library

The Library is situated above the Judiciary on first floor level. Although its chief function is to serve the Judiciary, from time to time it is used by Windhoek's legal practitioners and law students from University of Namibia. However, permission to use the Library must be obtained from the Registry.

