



# COMPANY PROFILE:

Water Dimensions International forms part of the WDI Group of companies, based in South Africa. With more than 35 years combined experience in the general water treatment industry, they operate nationally and internationally, providing turnkey solutions for both small and large scale modular/package and custom build projects.

WDI was established in 2015 after the founding members, Adam Kriel and Herman van der Mast found that there was a great need for this service and decided to create a niche company able to deal with the complexities of commercial swimming pools and aqua parks as well as for the production of effective water-treatment plants. Adam and Herman each still have other business interests that are aligned with WDI and their knowledge and sharing of skills enables them to take on challenging and complicated projects. Pro Landscaper profiles Water Dimensions International in this edition, to find out all about the company's offerings to our industry and to take a look at some of their iconic projects!

**Q:** How many companies fall under Water Dimensions International and what do they each do?

**A:** There are three major companies that fall under this title and they are:

Water Dimensions International, a company of water-treatment & filtration experts specializing in the design, manufacturing and installation of water-treatment, filtration and sanitisation plants for potable water, water to water, process to water and of course dealing with Commercial swimming pools and Aqua Parks.

BD Pool Services, founded in 2001 - essentially dealing with the civils and building aspects of the swimming pools with over 30-years experience in the industry.

Container Creations, established in 2017, where we do in-house conversion of shipping containers for use as plant-rooms for our water-treatment plants and converted for use as school toilets for rural schools. Water Dimensions Zimbabwe, founded most recently, offering the same service



as WDI but within Zimbabwe. This means we have partners in Zimbabwe with whom we operate.

**Q:** Would you describe your work as a turnkey service?

**A:** We are totally turnkey! From a full design service with CAD drawings and integration with the architectural and engineering design of the facility, to the specification of the correct equipment, the sourcing of specialised finishes and the build and installation as necessary. We do it all.

**Q:** What is the main market you service?

**A:** While we operate in both the water purification sector as well as that of pools, we have had great success – off the back of our existing client base – in the commercial swimming pool market.

**Q:** How many members are there in your team and what are the various roles these team members take on in the company?

**A:** The company, as a group, employs a team of 50 fulltime staff and we have specialised teams that attend to very specific aspects of each project



such as piping and filtration installation, manufacturing of the packaged-treatment plants, electrical, waterproofing, plaster, tiling and PVC-Membrane linings for example. We have a Contracts Manager who oversees site-based projects and a SHEQ Manager that always ensures we stay compliant with the OSH Act etc.

**Q:** As a part of our sports and play issue, what are some interesting projects you've worked on that relate to play parks and watersports?

**A:** There are so many and we have been very fortunate to be involved in several prestigious projects. Some include:

**Adil Water World in Maputo**, where we did all of the pools and the lazy river.

**St David's Marist College**, where we did their FINA Spec Water polo pool.

**St Mary's School for Girls**, where we rebuilt and did the PVC-Membrane lining of their olympic pool.

**Central Square**, Sandown was a great project as the pool sits on the 20th floor of the building.

**River Lodge, Zambia**, where the lodge pool is cantilevered over the Zambezi river with one end-wall of the pool being a ±5m x 1,5m Acrylic panel.

**De La Salle College** - The pools for the Gavan Ryan Aquatic Centre (25 x 25m main pool and a learn-to-swim pool).

**Kings School West Rand** – where we did the pools for their swimming pool complex (25 x 16.5m Main pool plus a learn-to-swim pool).

**St Andrew's School for Girls** – where we constructed an indoor gala pool.

**Houghton Hotel**- and all the pools for this 6 Star Hotel development as well as the Spa.

**Steyn City Aquatic Centre**, where we were involved in all of the finishings (plaster and tiling) of this indoor aquatic centre King Edward VII School (KES), an on-the-go project comprising two indoor pools being a 28 x 25m water polo pool and a 25 x 15m warm-up pool.

**Q:** What makes a good pool in your opinion?

**A:** Critical to a well-made and executed pool is good planning and attention to detail, especially with regards to engineering principals. This offers a sound structure and effective, correctly designed and specified filtration and water-treatment to ensure bather comfort and cost-effective maintenance. A commercial pool is not-as we have heard said- just simply a lot of domestic pools lumped together.



**Q: What are some of your favourite developments that you have been involved in over the past 5 years and why?**

**A:** Like most companies, it's always those challenging projects that strike us as the most interesting and rewarding. The Houghton Hotel, as published in last month's Pro Landscaper was a great project because we had to find ways to make the architect's vision a reality.

The vision in a drawing can be deceiving, as it is often perceived to be easier than in practise, at the end of the day, there is always a solution however and when you find it, it is very rewarding! This will always be one of our favourite projects.

As far as schools go – they are all favourites as the joy we see when the pool is handed over and 300 plus kids get to swim, is awesome.

**Q: How is a project realised?**

**A:** The first question to ask is why? Why a pool? Then, what is the primary use? This may sound a silly question but the design of the pool is dependent on the answer. There is a big difference between a pool designed just for swimming galas, or recreational use and one that is designed for water polo or a multi-purpose pool. And then the question as to whether the pool needs to be FINA Compliant or not?

The second factor is the placing of the pool within the school grounds or premises, this is normally an architectural requirement after careful spatial planning.

Following on, this is the structural and hydraulic design leading to the plantroom design, layout-drawings and detailed specifications. The selection of the contract type and the carefully selected contractor is the next factor, and then, to ensure a well-executed and completed project, the oversight and project management needs to be done.

Developers and Schools must ensure that they have someone with knowledge of commercial pools overseeing the project to avoid the inevitable issues that may come with lack of experience.

**Q: Is it true that all of the Magic happens in the pump room?**

**A:** A pool with a poorly designed hydraulic and filtration system will be a problem-pool, point-blank. It is essential that the water is filtered and treated correctly within the DIN Standards / parameters required for a commercial swimming pool. This point cannot be emphasised enough as poor design here will lead to higher operating cost and a lot of downtime of the pool when the water quality goes downhill – and it will.

If designed and installed correctly the operator will have to spend less time in the pump room than he will actually cleaning the pool itself.

**Q: What are most of your pools made from?**

**A:** Guniting is a method of pneumatically applying a sand & cement, usually seen in a residential setting! For a commercial pool however, it is preferable to build an off-shutter concrete structure with the necessary waterproofing additives in the concrete-mix. All pools, no matter the type of finish,

which could be 'marblite' (marble pool plaster), fibreglass, tiles or PVC-Membrane lining, it must have a sound structure to start with. We offer and apply 'marblite, fibreglass, a fully tiled pool or one that is PVC-Membrane lined, all depending on the use of the pool and of course the client's requirement.

**Q: Who generally would commission WDI onto a project?**

**A:** We generally do quite a bit of work with the architect's, landscape architect, structural engineer, wet-services engineer or the project manager. However, we have had schools that have commissioned us at the outset to be the design consultant and then, after seeing our workmanship, elected to negotiate for the design & supply.

**Q: Future Plans for the WDI Team?**

**A:** We are expanding our footprint into Africa with some projects under discussion in Botswana, Zambia and Angola at the moment which is so very exciting! We have partnered with several suppliers to use specialised equipment and we constantly strive to improve our offering and service levels. Adam and Herman are both Members of the Institute of Swimming Pool Engineers based in the UK and we, and our staff, undergo regular product training to stay current. WDI is also a registered electrical contractor so we are able to do all our own internal electrical work and issue the requisite Certificate of Compliance. There are many exciting things on the go, and we look forward to the challenges that lie ahead.



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