

PRESS RELEASE

Almighty aluminium

Aluminium windows and doors have become a highly sought after choice for architects designing new houses, and when you look at their many benefits, it is easy to understand why. Cobus Lourens from leading aluminium and timber window and door manufacturer, Swartland, offers an overview on their main benefits.

20 July 2017, Johannesburg: Whether you are involved in a new build, or you are renovating your existing home – your choice of windows and doors is an important decision that will have a big impact in the overall final aesthetics and comfort of the building in question. Says Cobus Lourens: “Aluminium windows and doors, such as the KENZO range from Swartland for example, are becoming an incredibly popular choice for homes and commercial buildings alike. They are best known for their exceptional durability, however, they also boast modern good looks, let in plenty of light, are low-maintenance, and they won’t rot, mould, peel, fade or corrode.”

Here is an overview on why aluminium windows and doors are becoming such a popular option:

Slim profiles: Arguably, one of the main benefits of aluminium windows and doors, from an aesthetic point of view, is that they boast really slim sightlines. This means that more of the window or door can be made up of glass. Cobus explains: “Due to the inherent strength of aluminium as a material, you need less of it to securely hold the glass and hardware. For this reason, you can fit a lot less frame and include a higher proportion of glass, which in turn, affords you the best and most unhindered aspect or views to the outdoors.”

Extreme durability: As mentioned above, aluminium is an ultra-light weight, low density metal, which allows for very slimline window and doorframes that are sturdy and strong. Says Cobus: “The strength of aluminium frames means that they can be made slimmer than any other material, allowing for more space for glazing, and therefore more light to be let in, and better views to the outside.” He says that as a material, aluminium is seriously strong: “Aluminium is not likely to corrode, warp, rot or fade. It also doesn’t expand or contract when exposed to the elements and varying temperatures. This ensures that your windows and doors boast a very long lifespan and excellent long-term value for money.”

Cost effective: Aluminium windows, such as those from Swartland’s KENZO range, offer high-end windows and doors at comparatively affordable prices, notes Cobus: “It’s a common misconception that home improvements have to be costly and unaffordable. Aluminium windows and doors are comparatively well priced in the market, and really easy to install – making them a cost-effective option for a new build or renovation. They come pre-glazed, and don’t require any painting or sealing, which saves further time and money with regards to

installation. They also require virtually no maintenance after installation, which will even more savings over the lifespan of the product.”

Low maintenance: Aluminium windows and doors require exceptionally little maintenance and upkeep – they don’t need sanding, painting or sealing. They are UV- and water-resistant, and they do not contract and expand when exposed to varying temperatures. All you need to do to keep them in perfect condition is to wash them down with warm, soapy water every so often. Cobus elaborates: “Any high-end aluminium range of windows and doors will be powder coated for a sleek finish that doesn’t ever require any further painting or treatment. Swartland’s KENZO range for example, is available in the following standard powder coating finishes: Silver, Bronze, Charcoal and White.”

Glazing options: Since glazing forms such a big part of any aluminium window or door, the type of glazing you choose can have an enormous impact on the functionality of the window and door in question. Cobus explains: “With Swartland’s KENZO range, obscure glass is available on all windows, with 4mm toughened safety glass being fitted to selected windows and all doors as per the National Building Regulations.” However, he says that you can also choose from various other glazing options, some of which include:

- **Tinted glass:** Tinted glass absorbs and re-radiates solar energy, thereby reducing sun glare, heat and providing climate control. It can absorb as much as 45% of incoming solar energy.
- **Reflective glass:** Offering a greater level of solar control when compared to tinted glass, reflective glass is made by adding a metallic coating during the manufacturing process to create a highly reflective appearance. It is most commonly available in the following tones – clear, neutral, green, grey, bronze and blue.
- **Low E glass:** Low Emissivity glass, better known as Low E glass, has a microscopically thin coating of metal oxide on the glass surface that allows the sun’s heat and light to pass through the glass into the home, while at the same time, blocking heat from escaping the room. This seriously reduces heat loss. Low E glass improves insulation by reflecting the radiation, rather than absorbing it. It is available in clear, neutral, blue, green and grey. Its ability to provide improved insulation properties makes it a great insulating choice for all kinds of climates.

An environmentally-friendly choice: Aside from their exceptional levels of durability which give aluminium windows and doors an impressively low carbon footprint, they also seal exceptionally well – offering excellent air-tightness for optimum house energy efficiency. This results in warmer, less draughty homes and lower energy bills. Cobus adds: “Aluminium is also a really green building material as it is 100% recyclable, and the recycling process only requires 5% of the initial energy consumed to create it.”

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Released on behalf of Swartland (www.swartland.co.za) by The Line (www.theline.co.za).

