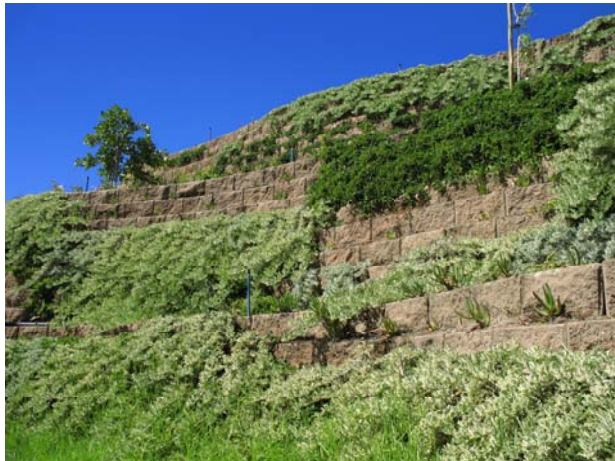




The installation nearing completion



Plant growth has established quickly

## Century City / Oasis Retirement Centre

This new development within Century City complex is located next to busy Ratanga Road, connecting the N1 highway with Montagu Gardens Industrial estate. In order to protect the future residents from excessive noise and prying eyes, a 5 to 6 m high earth berm was created with the surplus material on site.

To reduce the footprint of this 500 m. long structure and also to improve the noise absorption capability it was decided to design a steep Terraforce embankment with 3 terraces on the road facing side.

The installation proceeded with L12 rock face blocks in an earthen colour with a concrete foundation for each terrace. A subsoil drainage system is located behind the bottom row of blocks while the earth backfill is reinforced with Polytex 115 geofabric every third row of blocks. The three meandering terrace walls were built to a maximum height of 1.8m each so as to create terraces of varying width.

These were later used by the landscaping team to good effect by creating almost instant hanging gardens with mostly water wise indigenous planting. These hardy plants are fast growers and adapted to dry spells and high winds that can occur in this part of South Africa.

They will also be very effective in preventing wind erosion on the gently sloping embankments, facing the buildings. Some of the water wise planting that was established is reflected in the list to the right and the photos clearly show the spectacular results achieved within a few short months.

**Engineer for the main contract:** De Villiers Sheard.  
**Wall contractor:** Decorton CC.  
**Engineer for the wall:** ICOS Engineers.  
**Landscape Architect:** Planning Partnership.  
**Landscape Contractor:** Real Landscapes.



### Plant list

#### Trees:

Acacia xanthoplaea.  
Cunonia capensis.  
Ficus natalensis.  
Rhus pendulina.  
Syzigium cordatum.  
Halleria lucida.

#### Shrubs and Groundcovers:

Agapanthus praecox.  
Arctotis acaulis.  
Bauhinia galpini.  
Baleria obtusa.  
Buddleja salvifolia.  
Carpobrotus aciniformis.  
Dietes bicolor & grandiflora.  
Felicia amelloides.  
Gazania rigens.  
Pelargonium cucullatum.  
Plumbago auriculata.  
Rhus crenata & lancea.  
Salvia africana-lutea.  
Strelizia alba.  
Tecoma capensis.  
Thunbergia alata.

