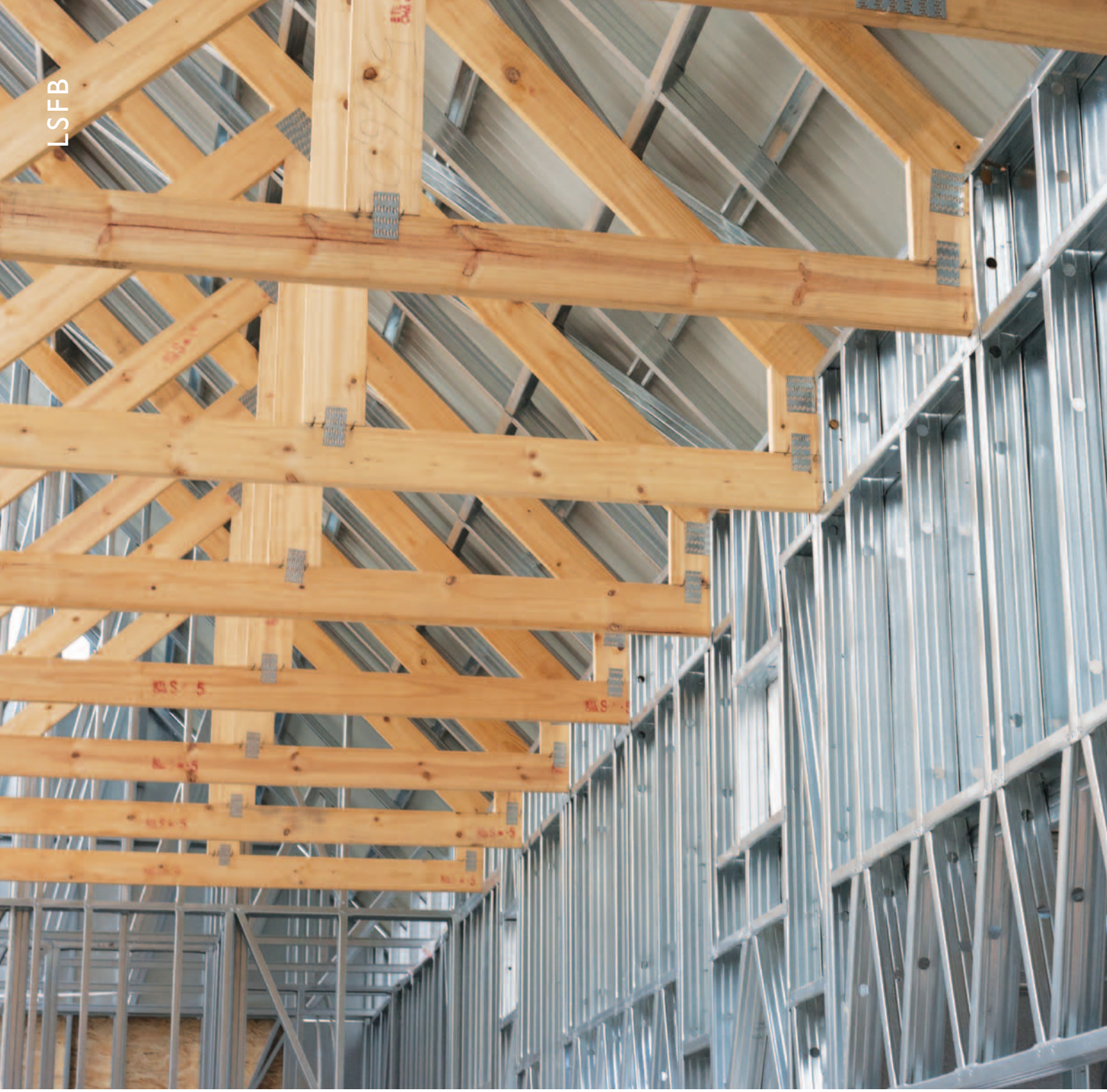

ArcelorMittal South Africa supports an innovative building solution

What started out as a vision to establish an alternative building system in light steel frame construction has now grown into an innovative building solution. If curiosity gets the upper hand the question that comes to mind is: Where did it all begin and where is it going? Undoubtedly the following will provide an interesting journey into some of the steel related developments made.

Light steel frame construction is an exact building method that requires considerably fewer building resources on site. The key features of the galvanised steel applied in light steel frame construction revolve around two important aspects, namely corrosion protection, which ensures the longevity of the structure, and the mechanical properties, which provide the structural strength.

This building solution offers both a modern and fresh approach to creating space for living and working with the benefit of contributing towards a sustainable environment. It lends itself to a more comfortable environment by maintaining ambient indoor temperatures for longer. The option to expand your existing home with light steel frame construction is infinitely possible – all this, while exact pre-calculations make it possible to minimise construction waste.

Internationally, light steel frame construction is well established while in South Africa it all started with founder members, of which ArcelorMittal South Africa is one such member, assisting in establishing the Southern African Light Steel Frame Building Association (SASFA). When the association was founded a very apt phrase 'the new frame of mind' was introduced. The idea behind this approach has been to grow the materials, technology and construction methods applied in light steel frame construction.

ArcelorMittal South Africa, under the auspices of SASFA, provides on-going galvanised steel support according to the SANS 517 light steel frame construction standard introduced by SASFA. Apart from the fact that is a lot quicker to erect, light steel frame (LSF) construction is the most recognised and fastest growing innovative building solution in South Africa.

What better way to see this than in the recent 2013 Ekostyl project where galvanised steel produced by ArcelorMittal South Africa was supplied to a light steel roll-former who then integrated the light steel frame construction approach into an existing residential building with amazing results in a short space of time.

To further complement the Ekostyl project, the use of galvanised steel lends itself to a category of construction materials that is recyclable. What can be seen at the completion of the Ekostyl project are numerous features translating into tangible light steel frame construction benefits, most notably:

- Speed and ease of construction
- Structural integrity
- Thermal insulation
- Dimensional accuracy
- High quality finishes

Whilst keeping one eye on the present and the other firmly on the future the opportunity to unlock further avenues sees light steel frame potentially expanding into multi-storey as well as non-residential constructions such as schools and hospitals. Traditionally the galvanised steel applied to light steel frame construction has been used in single-storey applications, most notably up-market residential properties.

In support of light steel frame multi-storey construction, ArcelorMittal South Africa has expanded the galvanised steel product range. In addition to the existing galvanised steel product range, a uniquely developed structural grade denoted as EN10346 S550GD produced in 1.0mm and 1.2mm thicknesses, with a Z275 zinc coating. A unique benefit offered by ArcelorMittal South Africa is a 50 year warranty on the use of its galvanised steel products specifically for light steel frame building.

The galvanised steel used in the light steel frame industry, supplied by ArcelorMittal South Africa, is proudly inspired by the pioneering spirit of an innovative building technology that forms part of the sustainable building footprint in South Africa.

For more on ArcelorMittal South Africa, visit www.arcelormittal.com/southafrica and for more on SASFA, visit www.sasfa.co.za.

ArcelorMittal