



## Absa-lutely fabulous

Cape Town's landmark Absa Centre will boost urban regeneration with its brand-new look. Extensive plans were shown to property brokers in February by owners The Patrick Partnership and property managers Rennie Property. Work on the building is underway and the retail area is almost complete. Tenants will take occupation in the next four to six weeks.

In the revamp, the base of the building is being redesigned to boast the latest in contemporary shop fronts, with frameless glass and innovative lighting creating a floating effect for the display windows. This retail area links to the buzzing pedestrian mall, office and hotel, creating a 24-hour retail hub in the financial, legal and publishing district. The building's Riebeeck Street entrance will pay homage to its heritage and the award-winning Seagram Building in New York that inspired it. A series of black-and-white photographs and sketches will be on show in the foyer. These will illustrate the two buildings' history and the Seagram Building's reputation as the benchmark for this international style of architecture. The building will also feature the largest windows in Cape Town – three quarters of the façade is glass – giving tenants spectacular views of Table Mountain and Table Bay. Also on the cards is an upgrade of the hotel in the skyscraper. **Absa Centre**, [www.absacentre.co.za](http://www.absacentre.co.za); **Rennie Property Management**, +27 (0)21 418 1550, [www.rennieproperty.co.za](http://www.rennieproperty.co.za).