

Mark Gold JEWELS



LEFT: DEAN GORRIE, OWNER OF MARK GOLD JEWELS, SAYS DURBAN HAS A UNIQUE FLAVOUR AND INSPIRATION.

student going to what was then called 'Indian Town' to get the grassroots feel of the city," says Gorrie. "It is a feel and flavour that has stayed with me ever since."

He is also convinced that the inspiration for their iconic flower rings comes from being situated across the road from both Mitchell and Jameson Parks.

"You can't patent a flower design," laughs Gorrie, "but we've certainly captured a market with our Flowers range of diamond and semi-precious stone rings."

They have, however, patented their celebrated diamond Puzzle Ring which combines innovation, intricate workmanship and visionary design. "We've made well over 6 500, which for the South African market is quite something."

Gorrie also prides himself on the fact that 90% of Mark Gold jewellery is made in Durban with South African gold and diamonds.

"For me it's about personally creating something that is going to make someone happy, not because of the size of the diamond."

He says it's about building trust and relationships with your current and future clients, which is why their unique mix of studio and coffee shop has become such an iconic landmark.

"We've been working this space since 1999 and it has taken time and commitment, but we've built an energy that is proudly and uniquely Durban." *

Princess Charlene of Monaco wore their bespoke ring and earrings when she celebrated her marriage to Prince Albert at The Oyster Box in Durban, and singer Celine Dion covets her sparkling flower ring.

Mark Gold Jewels is indisputably one of Durban's most well-known and respected brands, loved both locally, nationally and abroad. While its signature and iconic designs have made a global impact, the essence of their beauty is intrinsically linked to the city where they are conceived and created.

Owner Dean Gorrie says the Mark Gold signature is inspired by the city's uniqueness, its weather, food, colours, architecture, spices, sea, sugar cane and its melting pot of cultures.

"I remember as a young Durban University of Technology jewellery design