



*Above from top: General Manager Steve Thobela runs up  
The Mandela Rhodes Foundation flag at a ceremony with  
Trustees in Cape Town in February 2005  
Mandela House, Johannesburg; Rhodes House, Oxford  
Right: The Mandela Rhodes Building, Cape Town*

## *The Mandela Rhodes Building*

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One of the most important breakthroughs in rendering The Mandela Rhodes Foundation operational, was the decision by De Beers Chairman Mr Nicky Oppenheimer and his colleagues to donate the historic Rhodes Building to the new Foundation. The Rhodes Building was built for De Beers at the behest of Cecil John Rhodes and was completed in 1902, shortly before his death. It was designed by Sir Herbert Baker and is a landmark office building standing on the corner of St. George's Mall and Wale Street, with commanding views of Table Mountain, Parliament, and St. George's Cathedral.

The donation in perpetuity of the building – which the Patron described as an extraordinary gesture of generosity by Mr Oppenheimer – gave to The Mandela Rhodes Foundation not only a magnificent headquarters, but also ensured that the Foundation would not need to expend funds on accommodation, as it is able to rent parts of the building to like-minded organisations. In 2005 there were five tenant organisations, and by the time the building was renamed The Mandela Rhodes Building in early 2005, it was fully occupied. The building is self-managed by the Foundation. An apartment at the top of the building has been refurbished for use by guests of and visitors to The Mandela Rhodes Foundation, and has been named The Julian Ogilvie Thompson Suite in recognition of the exceptional contribution by Trustee Mr Ogilvie Thompson to the successful establishment of the Foundation.

The Mandela Rhodes Foundation maintains courtesy office facilities for the Rhodes Trust and the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Cape Town, and enjoys the reciprocal privilege free of charge at Rhodes House in Oxford, and at Mandela House in Johannesburg.



*Mr Mandela with Archbishop Tutu, in The Mandela Rhodes Building at the handover ceremony in 2003*