

## When size makes a difference

As promised, ON THE TERRACE continues to focus on implementing more natural elements into our direct environments, creating a seamless green space, and complementing live and work areas as our delightful summer temperatures (and temperamental windy storms) settle in.

Making use of pots, planters and containers where possible, is a smart way of bringing our green companions inside, where they improve not only the quality of the air but also reduce stress and create a feeling of well being. As we tend to spend most of our day indoors, we need more and more green here and there and even a neat little cactus zen garden on your desk corner will do the job.

Although, moving on to bigger spaces like shopping malls, atriums, pedestrian “café” squares, arcades or even open driveway or parking areas – you may need slightly “bigger” pots to do greater justice to the scene.

But just like everything else you touch or see or use, even pots were just an idea, before they were designed and produced by someone, before they became a reality. And as with everything else, the designs are influenced by trends and fashion at the time. Someone reminded me that Meryl Streep indicated how the colour blue led to job opportunities in the movie “The Devil wears Prada”. Really?

Materials used in the manufacture of containers are closely linked to technology available, with colour and motif options evolving constantly to match trends in die building, decor and green industry.

Coming from just knee-high heavy cement pots 20 years ago, to the point of being utilised as focal points and features in the garden and home in all possible sizes and shapes, stylish containers have certainly come a long way, offering us so much to choose from today that it can be confusing at times.

When Adri Neuper started The Pot Place in 1998, she distinctly remembers the practical issues when the demand for tall / big containers, led to multiple breakages due to the material not being



able to withstand the pressure of the soil and water. Innovative design came to the rescue and today you can confidently buy tall and big pots from most local nurseries. But this comes at a cost, either in weight or the price, or both.

Being an industry professional, Adri realised during a site meeting, when an architect complained about the small trees being used in small pots in a huge indoor atrium, that there was a need for bigger plant containers that were affordable and lightweight.

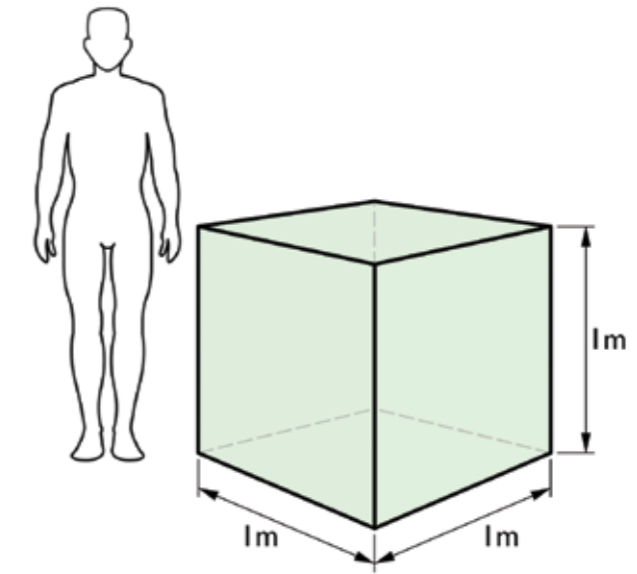
She went back to the drawing board, consulting with various architects, landscapers, interior designers and other industry specialists on various aspects of design and production. In 2015, Adri

started “In Eeden Design Concepts” and the “A1 CUBE” was born.

Due to the lightweight fibre cement technology utilised and the simple design structure, the A1 CUBE alleviates various practical planter problems – outdoors, as well as indoors.

### Benefits include

- Much quicker installation time as the panels are separate and can be assembled on site or before.
- Site delivery possible without a crane.
- Lower transport cost to installation site due to weight reduction.
- Options to plant bigger trees inside buildings.



- Complementary to the modern architectural “ambiance”.
- Ideal for corporate set-ups avoiding messy ground level gardens with very low maintenance.
- Can be utilised as retaining planter / walls or raised bed options.
- The size and straight lines of the design

contribute a lean masculine presence to any environment.

- Using the latest technology available, it has been tested successfully for cracking under soil volume pressure.
- The 1m x 1m x 1m dimensions are a statement on their own and cannot be missed, driven over or easily pinched.

Unprecedented performance levels

## CHRYSO® Alpha range

The range for dry-cast concrete uses the latest-generation molecules to achieve unprecedented performance levels in terms of:

- Concrete compaction,
- Mechanical strength, and
- Aesthetic quality

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**Optional extras include**

Customized finishes eg. textures and company logo branding; Customized colour eg. terracotta etc. other than off shutter;

Auto watering system; Drip trays; Customized sizing - accommodating clients requirements to up- or downsize with same proven container technology.

[www.ineeden.co.za](http://www.ineeden.co.za)

## CHRYSO demoulding oils enhance final concrete finish

Raising the quality of concrete finishes as well as extending the life of formwork are among the many benefits of using demoulding oils when casting concrete.

According to CHRYSO Southern Africa general manager of marketing, Hannes Engelbrecht, the most important function of release agents or demoulding oils is to permit easy removal of formwork.

“Choosing the appropriate release agent may be critical to the success of a project, as it affects both the quality and colour of the surface finish,” says Engelbrecht.

He highlights that suction or adhesion forces between a precast element and its mould can, for instance, make it difficult to remove without damaging either the concrete or the mould itself. High temperature steam curing is a particular challenge during production in the precast industry.

He says the high quality release agents in the CHRYSO® Dem Range provide greater versatility, are easy to use and facilitate consistent quality.

“These release agents deliver the desired surface finish for the precast concrete element,” he notes. “In the case of timber shuttering or formwork, it also reduces the loss of water from the concrete, due to absorption by the shuttering or formwork.”



*Demoulding oils, if used when casting concrete, will raise the quality of finishes and extend the life of formwork*

The aesthetic impact is enhanced, as the likelihood of imperfections and surface blemishes such as blow holes is reduced, while staining and colour changes are eliminated when applied correctly.

“The cost of a release agent is low in proportion to the mould itself, so simply choosing the cheapest release agent available on the market is false economy,” he emphasises.

The CHRYSO® Dem Range, locally manufactured according to strict pre-

scribed standards, includes a vegetable-based, environmentally-friendly release agent.

This product – CHRYSO® Dem Bio 10 – has low odour and is non-toxic, making it safe to use in confined spaces such as mining, tunneling and any poorly ventilated area, as well as making it environmentally friendly due to its biodegradability.

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*The CHRYSO Dem Range of release agents delivers the desired surface finish for precast concrete elements.*



*Demoulding oils (release agents) permit easy removal of formwork*