

## Betterect - Krugersdorp, Johannesburg, South Africa Better Than Ever



L to R: Martin Zechner (Founder/Managing Director), Nicollette Zechner (Sales and Marketing Manager), and David Jordan (Production Manager) of Betterect - Krugersdorp, Johannesburg, South Africa

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**CUSTOMER NAME:** Betterect

**INDUSTRY:** Steel Fabrication Company - Industrial Process Equipment, Steel Structures, Plant Assemblies, Chutes, Tanks, Material Handling Equipment, Etc.

**LOCATION:** Krugersdorp, Johannesburg, South Africa

**MACHINES:** Advantage 2 drill line, DG-1250 band saw, Revolution Anglemaster, Peddiblast blast cleaning system

**CHALLENGE:** Automate to increase efficiency and accuracy

**SOLUTION:** Replace manual processes with automation - Peddinghaus machinery

### Better Than Ever

In a place where industrialization sweeps the continent, African industry thrives from the resource rich land it occupies. Oil, copper, gold, and silver mines are in abundance thus driving demand for industrial steel fabrication. In 1974 an Austrian immigrant named Martin Zechner applied his expertise and enthusiasm for the industry when he founded Betterect – a full service fabrication and erection firm located just outside of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Since their humble beginnings, Betterect has evolved into a true “one stop shop” for African industry. Insisting that there is no project too bold or complex, Betterect manufactures all types of industrial process equipment, steel structures, plant assemblies, chutes, tanks, material handling equipment, and more for installation throughout the continent.

Betterect’s reputation became well known throughout the industry, and as a result so too did the demand for their products and services. Production demanded 350 metric tons (385 inch tons) of assorted fabrications each month, ranging from stainless steel to precision machined components. As other realms within the business began to be automated, the task perceived to be the most simple – structural fabrication – remained relatively unchanged since the company’s inception. Martin Zechner, CEO and Founder stated, “the decision to

Industrial projects throughout the continent of Africa similar to the images below are typical for the team at Betterect



The Advantage 2 drill line in tandem with the DG-1250 band saw are the backbone of production in Betterect.

purchase the machinery was simple as it was the next logical step in evolving with the times and in line with our ethos to always meet and exceed customers' expectations".

Facing the very same challenges as many other fabricators, Betterect found themselves searching for ways to enhance quality, reduce process time, and minimize their reliance on difficult to locate skilled labor. This required a leap of faith from traditional manual methods to automated processes.

### The Beginning of a True Partnership

The ascent into automation was comprehensive, and no shortcut was taken. Betterect embarked on a complete expansion project designed to evolve the structural side of the business completely from manual methods to modern day machinery. The addition of a 3,666m<sup>2</sup> (40,000 sq. ft.) facility was planned, ground was broken, and the team at Betterect worked closely with Peddinghaus representatives to usher a new era in Betterect business. "From the start of the process, we were highly impressed with Peddinghaus' cutting edge technology, commitment to innovation and capabilities of the equipment." stated Martin, "The Peddinghaus team is friendly, reliable and always willing to go the extra mile."

## Before and After - Better Production Using Better Processes

Almost immediately upon the commissioning of the system, the Betterect team started to see results:

### DRILLING STRUCTURAL SECTIONS



Before: Teams of manual layout and drilling workers were dispatched to process structural sections.



After: A single operator oversees drilling and sawing production using the Advantage 2 drill line and DG-1250 band saw.

### ANGLE AND FLAT BAR PRODUCTION



Before: Pairs of manual layout and punching workers were strictly dedicated to the production of angle bracing, or clip angle components.



After: The Revolution Anglemaster provides CNC automated punching and shearing of angle and flat bar components.

### BLAST CLEANING



Before: 14 manual blast cleaning staffers were dedicated to processing sections.



After: A single Peddiblast blast cleaning center with one operator is employed for all structural sections and plate components.



Peddinghaus Corp Bradley, IL

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Peddinghaus Corporation visit:  
[www.peddinghaus.com](http://www.peddinghaus.com)

## PRODUCT LIST:

- Beam Drill Lines
- Angle Masters
- Plate Processing
- Coping Machines
- Thermal Cutting
- Automated Layout Marking
- Structural Band Saws
- Ironworkers
- Material Handling