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Upgrading our city brick by brick

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Johannesburg Property Company shows just how far they come with development in Joburg. [Open Article](#)

Johannesburg Property Company (JPC) hosted a group of journalists to experience Joburg from their perspective on 26 February on a tour to all the buildings they helped facilitate. This also included their pride and joy, the Council Chambers.

The sites included Jabulani Theatre, Newtown Junction, Council Chambers and City Lodge Newtown. The day was opened by JPC CEO, Helen Botes as she welcomed guests to the tour and explained that Council Chambers is still under construction and that the construction would be completed by July. This upgrade would ensure not only better facilities but also have ample space for the media and about 400 seats in the gallery for the public. With the grand opening set to be either in August or September, there is much anticipation for it. The construction is valued R15 billion and has created at least 100 000 jobs.

The tour was accompanied by manager of property development, Alan Dinnie who further explained why each location was special in the upgrade of the city. He noted how all these upgrades are set to capitalise on redevelopment. He went on to further divulge that the shape of the chambers is built to mimic the shape of a drum. This is to be reminiscent of the African culture of when one is called by the beating of the drum. Also, the chambers will be made of glass to symbolise transparency.

The JPC also facilitated in the construction of 27Boxes which is a building made of shipping containers. The center is quoted by JPC as being innovative as it says that the retail centre aims to deliver alternative retail space geared for the needs of small entrepreneurs, artists, creative people and food lovers.

Newtown Junction is another development that JPC helped facilitate. "Property Development is changing and moving more towards embracing a holistic vision by creating convenient spaces where people can work, stay and play," said Botes. "The Newtown Junction has that and, moreover will revitalise Joburg's history and heritage and connect the past, present and future."