**Temple Israel**

The Art Deco-styled **Temple Israel** on the corner of Paul Nel and Claim Streets in Hillbrow, was officially opened in 1936. It was designed by the prominent architectural practice of Kallenbach, Kennedy and Furner. This was the first place of worship, or shul, to be erected to serve the newly established Progressive Reform Judaism community in South Africa. Its founding in 1936 marked the beginnings of the Progressive movement within South African Judaism. During its heyday, the Temple Israel attracted large crowds. Today, it continues to serve a congregation drawn from Hillbrow and further afield and provides premises for a pre-school for children from the surrounding neighbourhoods. The Temple has been designated for protection in terms of the South African National Heritage Resources Act (1999), in recognition of its special association with a particular spiritual, social and cultural community, and its potential to contribute information to an understanding of South Africa’s cultural heritage. [Information based on Itzkin, E. 2007. Immovable Heritage Inventory Form: Temple Israel. Department of Arts, Culture and Heritage, City of Joburg.]