

Shortlisted AfriSam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture + Innovation projects announced

The 2017/18 shortlisted projects for the AfriSam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture + Innovation have been revealed, all of which highlight how reducing the environmental impact of building is pivotal for good architecture and social design.



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The projects provide a host of new insights into how great architecture or social design can be produced without compromising sustainability.

Evolution of entries

“We live in a very rapidly transforming world, and this has become evident through the evolution of entries received in the AfriSam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture + Innovation over the past decade. In 2009, when the award programme was conceived, sustainability still seemed like an architectural style. Today, no development can happen without it,” said Maryke Cronje, 2018 president of the South African Institute of Architecture (SAIA) and convenor of the 2017/18 Award.

Cronje is joined on the adjudicator panel by Dr Sechaba Maape (sustainability architecture academic and architect), Philippa Tumubweinee (academic and cofounder of IZUBA INafrica Architects), Niraksha Singh (AfriSam raw materials and sustainability manager), Dr Emmanuel Nkambule (academic with particular interest in the social environment) and Richard Stretton (founder of architecture and furniture design studio Koop Design).

Entry assessment

The 14 shortlisted projects across four categories - Sustainable Architecture, Research in Sustainability, Sustainable Products and Technology, and Sustainable Social Programmes - were selected following a rigorous screening process which included assessments and on-site inspections by a six-member adjudication panel.

Entries were required to demonstrate sound sustainable practices that respond to innovative architectural and design thinking in the field of sustainability, that complied to the criteria of harmonisation, people upliftment, evolutionary paradigm and placemaking performance.

AfriSam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture + Innovation for 2017/18 shortlist:

Category A – Sustainable Architecture

- Northcliff House by Architecture for a Change (A4aC),
- Khayelitsha Shared Services Office Building by ACG Architects and Development Planners/ Ngonyama Okpanum Associates,
- House Burnett Prinsloo by Robert de Jager, Architect,
- Fulham Heights by Local Studio (Pty) Ltd,
- House Gardiner by Simply Sustainable,
- RBDIZ Entrance Gate by Jeremy Steere Architect, and
- Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre by Lewis Levin Architect

Category B – Research in Sustainability

- A framework for a green infrastructure planning approach in the Gauteng City-Region by Gauteng City-Region Observatory

Category C - Sustainable Products & Technology

- Rambrick by Use It Waste Beneficiation (RF) NPC, and
- hearScreen by hearX Group

Category D – Sustainable Social Programmes:

- Malawi Church by A4aC Architects,
- Silindokuhle Preschool by Collectif saga,
- The Wilds – revitalising a forgotten public space by James Delaney, and
- Table House by noero architects cc/ rainer hehl

“Sustainability is not only about technology, but also about a whole new way of life – of relating to one’s self, other people and the environment. The shortlisted projects show how a more thoughtful and integrated approach to design can make the world a better place,” said one of the adjudicators, Dr Maape, in summing up the high quality of the entries.

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