



Entries open for 2015/2016 AfriSam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture and Innovation

ENTRIES are now open for the 2015/2016 AfriSam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture and Innovation.

The bi-annual awards recognise contributions that bring sustainable innovation to human living environments through an integrated approach to communities, planning, design, architecture, building practice, natural systems and technology.

This year, two new award

categories have been added. Sustainable architecture and research in sustainability are now joined by sustainable products and technology and sustainable social programmes. This means that a full scope of visionaries working in the field of sustainable architecture, construction and innovation will now be recognised by the prestigious award presented bi-annually by AfriSam and the South African Institute of Architects.

"The role of architects and their project partners in ensuring SA plays its part in the global journey to sustainability is really emphasised by these awards. It is also a recognition of the fact that we are now in a new era that recognises that sustainable design has to be an integral part of the building industry from the very start of a project," says AfriSam chief executive Stephan Olivier.

"The emphasis is no longer on

just the architecture and building practice," says Kevin Bingham, Vice President of the SA Institute of Architecture (SAIA).

"It is now on the ongoing collaboration and innovation of these two key stakeholders working with communities, natural systems, technology and planning across all levels. This is the only way to bring sustainable innovation to inhabitable environments."

The broadening of the scope

of the 2015/2016 AfriSam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture and Innovation to four categories is step with important advances in SA and globally.

Both SAIA and AfriSam support this global shift: SAIA through encouraging its members to incorporate sustainability in building design at an early stage and AfriSam by its commitment to sustaining the environment through responsible manufacturing processes.

Project entries are required to demonstrate their positive impact through the embodiment of sound sustainable practices, carrying the hallmarks of great architectural or social design and demonstrating innovative thinking in the field of sustainability.

Projects should:

- Harmonise the use of resources with the conservation and strengthening of ecosystems (natural, social, human,

financial, infrastructure).

- Address the dignity of people through the creation of a socio-economic environment that is inclusionary, humane, self-sustaining, maximises the financial viability and impact, and acknowledges lifecycle cost efficiency during and post the implementation process and contributes towards and develop an ongoing regenerative future.
- Enhance the architectural

landscape and contextual urban environment.

To support this, four key criteria will be considered by the adjudicators – harmonisation, people upliftment, evolutionary paradigm and placemaking performance.

Entries close on March 31. Eligibility and entry requirements are specific to each respective category. Visit <http://www.4tmrw.co.za/> for more information.