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Cement & Concrete

AFRISAM-SAIA AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE

This follows an intensive inspection process on site and 22 projects have been identified by the adjudication panel, out of a record 47 entries.

The successful projects span the four award categories: Sustainable Architecture; Research in Sustainability; Sustainable Products and Technology; and Sustainable Social Programmes.

These reflect a growing national engagement with design, innovation and sustainability, with representation from many different regions of South and southern Africa.

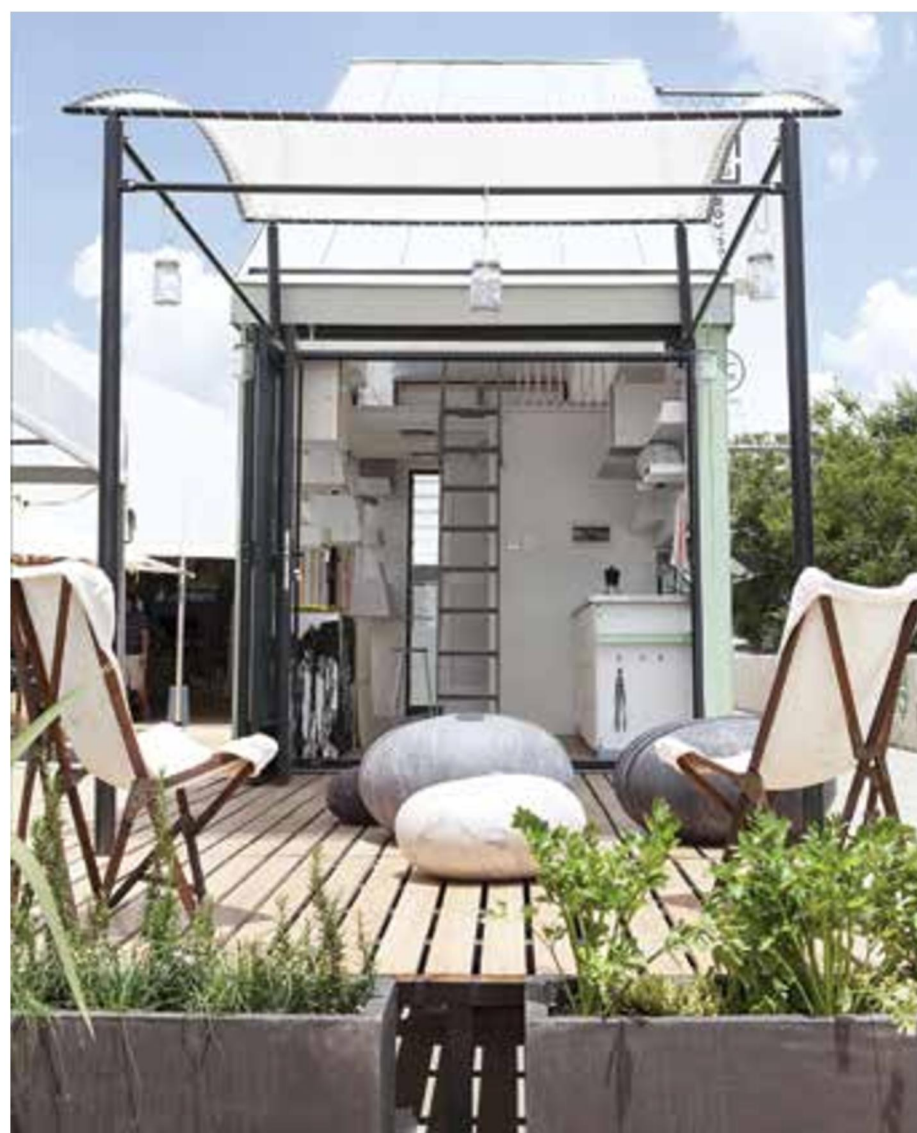
Urban planner and adjudication team member, Richard Stretton, says, “The award assessed by the project responds to the criteria of Harmonisation, People Upliftment, Evolutionary Paradigm and Place-making Performance. Successful projects not only respond to these criteria but also use the criteria as design generating tools. Unsuccessful projects make token gestures to sustainability without demonstrating the understanding that the criteria of sustainability is as important as user function and aesthetic beauty. The building must have a clear function and be in use.”

Stretton, a previous winner and eminent architect and furniture designer, conducted the site visits with other members of the six-person adjudicating team - Kevin Bingham (Vice President of SAIA), Daniel Iru-rah (sustainable architecture academic), Llewellyn van Wyk (Principal Researcher at Building Science and Technology), Sebastia Badenhorst (AfriSam representative) and Eric Noir (Africa region director of the International Union of Architects’ work programme, Architecture for a Sustainable Future).

AfriSam’s Sebastia Badenhorst says, “The qualifying entries really show a track record of being designed for the humans and communities who will inhabit and use them. It has also been particularly gratifying to observe the drive to target net-zero energy and water use and to limit sanitation outflow, emissions and to protect biodiversity.”

“Awarded projects combine all the criteria through the design process into a harmonised solution that clearly demonstrates how the principals of

The prestigious bi-annual AfriSam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture + Innovation recently announced the final qualifying entries for 2015/2016.



sustainability are represented in the design. This solution goes beyond the basic function and aesthetic resolution of the architecture to provide greater service to people and the environment,” concludes Stretton.

The bi-annual AfriSam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture + Innovation is South Africa’s leading award dedicated to acknowledging best practice and innovation in sustainable architecture. Its aim is to promote and increase learning and understanding of sustainability within the context of the human built environment. Some of the worthy sustainable, innovative entries include: POD

IDLADLA – Collaborate000 module; a Solar Turtle – Ugesi Gold; and BridgingMzamba – buildCollectiveNPO with Carinthia University of Applied Science (Eastern Cape).

POD IDLADLA

The POD module, and its incremental capacity, answers the mobility of people in a fast-evolving economy and the flexibility of the core family-unit or shared-living groups in our society. A good and compact design proves how liberating a small living space can be – spend less time cleaning, have more time to enjoy life, more

ARCHITECTURE + INNOVATION



time free to go out or away on holiday, meeting fellow human beings.

Property is the best-performing investment. The land-lease system common in developments between public-private institutions, if applied to individuals, is another way of making housing affordable by removing the cost of land ownership from the initial house price, affording a best-performance house skin from the start. Opening up a new synergy between a house-owner and a land-owner, it also addresses sustainability through modular increments and adaptability of use.

The POD attempts to bridge a



divide within the market and would increase home ownership, it would also formalise the economic system of backyard shack dwelling or cottage rental, into best-living conditions. ■

BRIDGINGMZAMBA

The community driven project 'bridgingMzamba' originated in the urgent need for a safe crossing of the Mzamba River that was requested by surrounding inhabitants.

It included design and implementation of a 140 m long suspension bridge in a collaborative manner.

Through an intensive collective approach with users, students and experts, the production of knowledge, cultural exchange, skills development and responsibility is achieved for all participants.

Design and technology was guided by the reduction of environmental impact, available resources, the implementation with laypersons and the hardly accessible construction site.

The Mzamba Bridge now connects residents of a catchment area of 30 km to necessary infrastructures such as educational facilities, health care, jobs and general food supply.

Further, it serves as a landmark and potential tourist attraction in the area, encouraging the stimulation of socio-economic development. ■

SOLAR TURTLE

The Solar Turtle is an innovative community solar power plant and energy spaza shop in a box. The scale of the Solar Turtle allows the usually expensive solar panels to be stacked and stored within the container that it arrives in, keeping the plant and panels secure during the times they are not being utilised.

The Solar Turtle promotes the empowerment of women to generate and sell clean power in rural communities where the need is most dire. These 'plug and play' container-based solar spaza shops are assembled off site and deployed on site by unfolding the panels towards the sun, making it ideal for any application.

The Solar Turtle's unique design not only addresses the problem of cumbersome community installations in remote areas but also the vandalism that's a harsh reality of many off-grid communities. The business model is the enterprise development option captured by the motto, 'We do not just give power: We empower!' Community engagement ensures that the product is protected by locals – the true beneficiaries of the Solar Turtle.

The AfriSam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture final awards event will take place in October this year. ■

July 2016

HOUSING
in Southern Africa