

Architectural awards of excellence

The biennial South African Institute of Architects Awards of Merit will be made this month. *Leading Architecture & Design* takes a look at a few of the entries competing for honours

Thirty-three diverse buildings are competing for the biennial South African Institute of Architects Awards of Merit which were announced in September in Bloemfontein.

"We received a record number of entries from the regional adjudication panels, and the work is of a very diverse nature. Entries come from all parts of South Africa, and this year the South African Embassy in Berlin is among those being considered," says Trish Emmett, President of the Institute. Projects range from the Cape Town Convention Centre, through to university faculties, churches, schools and even a toll plaza.

Awards for fine buildings and outstanding contributions in the field of architecture are one of the most effective means of creating public awareness of architecture. The Award for Excellence was introduced in 1990, and is run over two years and in two stages. During the first year the regional awards are adjudicated by regional panels of adjudicators and the regional awards were announced towards the end of 2005. At the same time, the regional adjudicators also

Cape Town ICC – Foreshore Architects



Photographs: Van der Merwe Miszewski Architects

Leading awards

selected projects from the awards made by the regions, which in their opinion should also be considered for the national awards, and the entries were put forward last year.

"The national entries are adjudicated by a national panel who visit the projects for an in loco inspection. Any number of these projects may receive a national award, the SAIA Award of Merit. From the projects that received the SAIA Award of Merit, any number may be awarded the Corobrik SAIA Award for Excellence," explains Emmett. "The Awards are not made in different categories. It is simply the overall standard of the project that is evaluated by a single panel of adjudicators."

Projects that were completed during the period between January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004 were eligible for entry and consideration in the current programme. The adjudication panel consisted of the SAIA President, Trish Emmett (convenor), Peter du Trevou (representing Corobrik, the sponsor), Professor Roger Fisher (an academic), Dave Jack (a prominent architect) and Lucas Chauke (an eminent person). Chauke is a quantity surveyor by profession, a past President of the Association of SA Quantity Surveyors and a past Council Member of the SA Council for the Architectural Profession. For more information, call 011-782-1315, email admin@saia.org.za or visit www.saia.org.za

House Millar – Mathews & Associates Architects



Photographs: Dook courtesy VISI

Law Faculty, University of Pretoria – KrugerRoos Architects and Urban Designers



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