

SAIA honours for Durban architecture group

DURBAN-BASED Design-workshop:SA Architects won two awards at the 2013/14 Corobrik South African Institute for Architects (SAIA) event on Friday night.

The Dunkirk All Suites Hotel, designed by the firm, received an excellence award, while Dunkirk Beach Club House in Salt Rock, also designed by the firm, received a merit award.

The awards represent South Africa's highest accolade that can be awarded to a building in the country. The event was held at Durban International Conference Centre (ICC).

"The majority of the projects submitted by our members were of an exceptionally high standard," said SAIA president Sindile Ngonyama.

He said several office-bearers from the International Union of Architects, who were in Durban for their world congress, attended the awards evening and it was apparent they supported the adjudicating panel's view that the winning projects were on a par with outstanding architectural design globally.

The Corobrik-SAIA Award for Excellence, the highest tribute, recognises exceptional contributions to the field of architecture. There were eight winners in this category. They are presented every two years.



Dunkirk Beach Club House in Salt Rock, designed by Designworkshop: SA Architects, won a Corobrik-SAIA Award of Merit on Friday night in Durban.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED



South African Institute for Architects President Sindile Ngonyama

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The Awards of Merit, introduced in 1999, acknowledge good design or a significant architectural achievement.

The 14 winning projects ranged from residential units and public buildings to the restoration of heritage sites and an academic research project.

"This year's successful submissions talked not only to materiality, programmatic requirements, employment of resources and the application of socio-cultural debates, but also engaged and articulated the day-to-day intellectual and top-

ical discourse of our ever-changing biophysical environment," Ngonyama said.

The adjudicating panel, headed by Ngonyama, founding director of Ngonyama Okpanum and Associates in East London, included Peter Kidger of Corobrik in Durban, Malcolm Campbell ACG Architects & Development Planners in Cape Town, Professor Paul Kotze of Wits University and Annemarie Meintjes, *VISI* magazine deputy editor, in Johannesburg.

— Business Editor