

Alexander Forbes scoops top honours

The Alexander Forbes headquarters in Sandton, Johannesburg, designed by Paragon Architects and Paragon Interface, took top honours in the built work category at the 2014 AfriSam-South African Institute of Architects Award for Sustainable Architecture, announced on October 9 at Johannesburg City Library.

Commendations in this category went to a further four projects; Unisa Phase 2 in Parow, Cape Town, designed by Michele Sandilands Architects; the Seed Library in Alexandra Township, Johannesburg, designed by Architects of Justice; Monaghan Farm near Lanseria, Gauteng, submitted by Claude Bailey Architecture & Design on behalf of Clewer Development Trust; and House Jones in Hurlingham,

Johannesburg, designed by Era Architects.

Employing a total of 2 500 people, the Alexander Forbes headquarters, occupied for two years, has already been confirmed as a Four-Star Rated Green Building. Reduced power consumption, re-use of water and recycling initiatives have contributed to lower water consumption by 70%, waste generation by 50% and energy consumption by 40%. The role of louvres, skylights, glazing and scallops assists with light while reducing the effect of heat and, at street level, the building edge is softened with xeriscaping, indigenous trees and plants.

"In acknowledging this building as the recipient of the AfriSam-SAIA Award for Sustain-



Andrew Bell/Paragon

Alexander Forbes won the recent AfriSam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture.

able Architecture for 2014 in the built category, it is hoped that the Alexander Forbes headquarters will provide a beacon of inspiration, not only as a place to

work, but also as a worthwhile contribution to the urban fabric of Johannesburg and human experience in the area," said Stephan Olivier, AfriSam's CEO.