



Record entries received for AfriSam SAIA awards

A RECORD 47 entries were received in the four award categories for the AfriSam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture + Innovation.

The entries are now closed and the adjudication panel will assess the list of entries, decide on a qualifying shortlist of projects which will then be visited and assessed *in loco* before the final results are announced at an awards event in October.

The biannual award recognises contributions that bring sustainable innovation to human living environments through an integrated approach to communities, plan-

ning, design, architecture, building practice, natural systems and technology.

One innovation to the biannual awards this year was the introduction of an easy-to-use online entry system. This made it easier for applicants to enter the competition and also cut costs by reducing the amount of print material required. It also fits perfectly with the profile of the modern architect – tech savvy and at ease with the latest technology.

"The online system may well have contributed to the record number of entries by reducing the cost and time of couriering

large quantities of printed material. Real time support from the agency offices meant that any missing documentation could be quickly and conveniently submitted in hours rather than days," says competition convener Kevin Bingham.

This award programme has further evolved to include two new categories. The two mainstay categories of Sustainable Architecture and Research in Sustainability are now joined by Sustainable Products and Technology and Sustainable Social Programmes. This means that the full spectrum of design, innovation and sustainability is now

covered by the award categories.

The award acknowledges and showcases buildings and projects that are the result of an integrated approach to architecture, natural systems and technology. They show that design and sustainability can and should be mutually reinforcing. Entries were received in all four categories.

"The awards will once again highlight that South Africa is at the forefront of sustainable and innovative design and that sustainability in particular is part of our design culture and acknowledge the companies leading this," says Bingham.