



The Dalton Private Reserve is the winner.

## Boost for sustainable architecture

Who are the South Africans who are able to create buildings that shift paradigms, rejuvenate the planet and uplift people? The Afrisam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture was created to find this out.

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE** of Architects (SAIA) has partnered with Afrisam to launch the first Afrisam-SAIA Award for Sustainable Architecture, a biennial initiative aimed at recognising outstanding achievement in sustainable architecture.

There are two categories – one for buildings and one for works of social importance, including research in which 11 compliant submissions were received. The award recipients were announced at Architecture ZA 2010 which took place in Johannesburg's Newtown precinct from September 21 to 27 2010. AZA 2010 is set to become Africa's premier urban culture festival as it brought together leading-edge thinkers and multi-disciplinary practitioners from around the globe and is the first time an event of this scope was held in South Africa.

These were the award candidates:

### Forum Homini

A boutique hotel in a game and residential estate in the Cradle of Humankind in Gauteng. The team was inspired and constrained by the landscape of a World Heritage Site. Existing timber structures were reused by the community, endemic landscape was reintroduced, a water treatment plant built and a natural wetland accommodated.

### Alexandra Renewal Project

This is a joint urban regeneration project between government, the private sector, NGOs and community-based organisations situated on the eastern side of Alexandra Township. It targets people in the low end of the housing market and aims to build a sustainable housing market, offering single room accommodation with shared facilities, including a crèche and a community hall. Spaces between clusters are arranged for urban agriculture and the project provides free hot water via a solar heat exchange system as well as rain water harvesting.

### The Dalton Private Reserve

The Dalton Compound is an integrated component of its environment, a 3 000-hectare reserve in rural KZN. It is the operational centre of the reserve with buildings that are flexible to various utilitarian needs yet offer exclusivity to guests staying at the compound's luxury accommodation. The project removed alien vegetation, recycling it for use. It created a vegetable garden for staff and employed and trained local villagers for its construction.

### Brickfields Social Housing (Precinct D+E) and Phumulani Social Housing Joint Venture Architects (Savage + Dodd, Fee & Challis, Makhene and Associates)

The Brickfields Social Housing Precinct is located in the inner city of Johannesburg, close to the Mandela Bridge and the historic brickfields that date back to the 1890s. The overall development consists of three separate precincts and offers a model for economically and socially sustainable housing provision. It is a mixed use development that in addition to residential units provides retail units, live-work units and community facilities.

COMMENDED

### The eKhaya Neighbourhood Improvement Programme

In the Hillbrow community along Pietersen Street, the eKhaya Project took decayed, mismanaged buildings and recycled them to create healthy, economically and socially sustainable ones. eKhaya was the first of its kind to envisage forming a residential neighbourhood community. It developed through discussions concerning common interests between property owners and the community and it now covers 16 city blocks.

WINNER

The Lifestyle Garden Centre.



**COMMENDED**

**The Lifestyle Garden Centre**

The goal was to double the overall size of the Lifestyle Centre's Garden Centre without utilising any additional power. The team utilised solar shading devices, natural light and ventilation, solar powered heating, evaporative coolers, alternate chilled water production systems, rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling. They describe it as a true journey of discovery into the world of sustainability.

**The Wolwekloof Youth Centre**

This learning academy and residential facility for unemployed youths was born from an unused public facility in the mountains outside Ceres in the Western Cape. The project transforms a fragmented complex into an eco friendly settlement through working with old buildings, creating new buildings and integrating the space to create unique experiential qualities. Simple construction methods were used to introduce ecological building concepts to trainees.

**New Residence, Bishops Court**

In Bishops Court, Cape Town, on a site entirely surrounded by trees, this family residence combines the concerns of contemporary and of sustainable architecture into a building which is firmly modernist but is integrated with its natural surroundings. The formal composition of the house is drawn from the image of a group of tree canopies and tree-houses floating over the ground plane.

**COMMENDED**

**New Residence, Linden**

The vision was to create a live-work environment that would explore a multiplicity of living options on a sub-urban plot. The aim was also to create a habitat that would respond to its environment with as light a footprint as possible and to allow the occupants of the house to reduce their collective footprint.

**Tsoga ARG Design, Anna Cowen Architects, Vernon Collis & Associates**

The design and construction of an Environmental Education Centre for Tsoga in Samora Machel, a marginalised apartheid township on the Cape Flats, is conceived to address degraded apartheid township conditions through engaging with environmental issues experienced by residents. The building was designed to support the activities of 200 participants already involved in urban food gardens, environmental education and recycling.



**Green address**

In line with its increasing emphasis on sustainability, the Cement & Concrete Institute (C&CI) invited well-known TV personality, Simon Gear, to be guest speaker at its recent annual general meeting in Midrand.

Gear, senior broadcasting meteorologist with the SABC, is a presenter of the popular environmental TV programme 50/50 and a weather forecast presenter on radio and TV. He is the author of the book, *Going Green*, and runs an environmental consultancy, SDG Consulting.

He was pictured after his address on 'Environmental Awareness in the Corporate Sector' with Bryan Perrie, MD of C&CI (left), and Hanlie Turner, C&CI marketing manager.

**The Lynedoch Community Centre**

**COMMENDED**

An educational facility that is an ecovillage, was conceived for the relocation of the Spier Wine Estate farm workers school in the Western Cape. The team recycled materials and also a building. A school was reworked from an existing farm shed. The site has food gardens, recycles water, generates wind and solar energy and contains a constructed wetland, restoring indigenous landscape features.