

The entire spectrum

2009's *Construction World* Best Projects attracted entries from the entire spectrum of projects. This bears testimony to a vibrant construction industry.

This year's prestigious Best Projects event, now in its eighth year, was held on 18 November at the Johannesburg Country Club in Auckland Park. Winners and highly commended awards were given to deserving projects that this year covered the entire spectrum: from a soccer stadium to a site celebrating South Africa's past. The event saw a gathering of the leaders in the South African construction industry.

Construction World's Best Projects were started to celebrate all aspects of construction pertaining to a particular project: design, engineering, building, innovation, social investment, health and safety, time, cost and risk management.

The categories and criteria

The judges slightly altered the categories this year: an additional category was added and the judging criteria per category were changed as the judges last year felt that projects have to be appraised based on its own merits. The categories for this year were:

- Category A: Civil Engineering and Building Contractors (for projects within South Africa's borders)
- Category A1: Civil Engineering and Building Contractors (for projects outside South Africa but executed by a South African contractor)
- Category B: Specialist Subcontractors, Suppliers and Professional Services
- Category C: Public Private Partnerships
- Category D: The AfriSam Innovation Award for Sustainable Development

The judges were required to score entries based on the criteria for each specific category and these scores were adjusted on a weighted average basis to ensure equitability across all the entries. Categories A, A1, C and D shared the same criteria, which were:

- Construction innovation technology
- Corporate social investment
- Design innovation
- Environmental impact consideration
- Health and safety
- Quantifiable time, cost and quality
- Risk management
- Motivating facts about the project (to accommodate the uniqueness of each project)

Category B had the following criteria:

- Construction technology innovation

- Corporate social investment
- Environmental impact consideration
- Health and safety
- Motivating facts about the project (to accommodate the uniqueness of each project)

The best projects

The judges identified a winner in each category while highly commended awards were made to deserving projects.

As with last year, the disparateness of the projects was very apparent: from multi-billion rand projects to smaller projects and this year the criteria were such that projects could be judged according to their own merits.

In category A the winner was the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium while two highly commended awards were made: Doornfontein Station and Durban Harbour.

In category A1, a new category, only a winner was identified: Iduapriem Gold Mine.

In category B, Specialist Subcontractors, Suppliers and Professional Services, the judges felt that this category had to be split into (a) Specialist Subcontractors and Suppliers and (b) Professional Services. A winner was identified for each of these. The specialist subcontractors and suppliers winning award was shared between the modular buildings at Kusile and Gauteng Freeway Improvement Project (Work Package 1 on the N12 highway between the N3 Gilloolys and R21 interchange) while the Central Terminal Building at O.R. Tambo International won the Professional Services award.

In category C, Public Private Partnerships, the new Department of International Relations building in Tshwane won the Best Project award.

The AfriSam Innovation Award for Sustainable Construction was awarded to Freedom Park in Tshwane.

In each of the categories the judges were in consensus about the winners and highly commended awards. The following pages of *Construction World* is testament to a vibrant South African construction industry and pays tribute to the excellence in project management, civil and all related engineering while it also celebrates specialist professional disciplines.

A word thanks

The three judges were: Trueman Goba, executive chairman of Goba (chief judge); Rob Newberry, managing director of Newberry Development and new judge, Colin de Cock, executive director of the Gauteng Master Builders Association. *Construction World* is grateful that they sacrificed their time for the judging while offering their expertise.

Construction World also extends a word of thanks to Prof Ian Jandrell, head of the Wits School of Electrical & Information Engineering, who was not only the MC of the event, but also attended the judging.

The event was again sponsored by AfriSam - *Construction World* extends its gratitude to them for supporting this event and also for being the name sponsor for category D: the AfriSam Innovation Award for Sustainable Construction.

We also wish to thank the sponsors of the prizes for the lucky draw: Bosch (electronic range finder), C&CI (Johnnie Walker Green), Chryso (R2 000 cash), Cosira (wine bottle opener set and leather folder), Makita (cordless drill and torch set).

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