



EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

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Design excellence applauded at Corobrik-SAIA Awards

Winners of the SAIA Award for Excellence.

One hundred and eighty architects and built environment professionals gathered in Pretoria for the prestigious Corobrik-SAIA Awards 2018 evening. Through this event, top architectural projects of recent times were recognised.

"The Corobrik-South African Institute of Architects (SAIA) Awards programme is run nationally every two years and this year, as president of SAIA and convener of the awards programme, I had the privilege of being part of this prestigious awards programme," says Maryke Cronje.

"SAIA's mission is to pursue excellence and responsible design. It is also to uphold the dignity of the architectural profession and contribute meaningfully to the enhancement of society and the environment. These awards ratify SAIA's mission by recognising and promoting excellence in architecture. We are delighted to have received a more varied cross-section of projects than in previous years. This is also a tribute to the impressively high standard of entries at regional level."

Cronje adds, "In travelling to the sites of all shortlisted entries, we have seen that sustainability and care for the environment have been prominent, with architects emphasising the nurturing of the environment. There is a great use of natural and sustainable materials, as well as consideration for the landscape.

"While some materials used were imported, local tradespeople were used so that when a project was complete, the tradespeople walked off the site with a set of skills that could be applied elsewhere. This is good for our country," says Cronje.

Bryan Wallis, acting CEO of SAIA, supports Cronje's sentiments by saying, "The standard of projects submitted seems to improve exponentially at each of the national awards, and this year is no exception, with the quality higher than ever before. We are delighted that the members of SAIA are constantly advancing in technicality and design and this year's entries can be benchmarked against global standards."

"Awarded projects are manifestations of how architects successfully interpret their clients' aspirations in the buildings produced," says Wallis.

Sixty-one regional winners were entered in the national awards. Each region submits their winning projects to go

through to the national Corobrik-SAIA Awards. The judges assessed all 61 entries and prepared a shortlist. These shortlisted projects were visited, and winners selected.

Five projects received commendations — these projects met many of the criteria worthy of further discussion and debate. A further 24 were presented with awards of merit. Six projects received awards for excellence, the highest distinction that SAIA can confer on a project in South Africa.

The six recipients of the SAIA Award for Excellence are:

- New Residence, 151 Main Road, Constantia, designed by Malan Vorster Architecture
- The Delville Wood Memorial, submitted by The Creative Axis Architects in association with Mayat Hart Architects
- The Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre by Lewis Levin Architects
- Sasol Place, entered by Paragon Architects
- Lake House, designed by KOOP Design
- NZASM Footsteps Along the Tracks, written by Nicholas J Clarke and Roger C Fisher.

A group of eminent personalities representing the architectural field made up the adjudication panel. Convened by Cronje, it comprised Professor Paul Kotze, academic; Musa Shangase, sponsor representative; Sumien Brink, eminent layperson; and Luyanda Mpahlwa, eminent architect.

“We have had a longstanding relationship with SAIA and architects around the country, and it is our pleasure to sponsor the awards that pay tribute to members of SAIA showcasing the architectural profession. We are proud to pay tribute to the architects whose work has been recognised for their quality, distinction, and splendour,” says Shangase, who is also Corobrik’s commercial director.

“These awards offer the opportunity to recognise South Africa’s foremost architects. The architectural profession has reason to celebrate when we see designs of the calibre of the entries we have received this year — many of which are world-class,” Cronje says.

“The awards adjudication process is an immense responsibility. This the adjudicators took to heart and made sure that transparency and consistency were adhered to during the process,” Cronje says and adds, “The adjudication panel has viewed some exceptional projects of various scales and complexities. A client that is passionate about his project/brief and who values the role of the architect, was a common denominator throughout the projects, which was an immense contribution to the success of these projects.

“The adjudicators acknowledge that despite the current economic state of our industry in South Africa, architecture of a high standard is still produced in our country.

“In looking forward, the adjudicators trust that more projects of a social and developmental nature will be submitted in future,” concludes Cronje. **PA**