

Students compete for top honours

Innovation and an appreciation of South Africa's cultural diversity stand out in the 29th Corobrik Architectural Student of the Year regional awards.



» Jaco Jonker receives his award as the University of Johannesburg regional winner of the Corobrik Architectural Student of the Year from Musa Shangase, Corobrik Commercial Director.

Innovation, while incorporating ever-improving technology, is a standout quality that differentiates design resolutions and helps define architecture as special among one's peers.

The incorporation of advancements in technology, which has greatly assisted architects, increases the efficiency of building designs and revisions, allowing them to meet the growing structural demands. South African architecture continues to take positive strides in this area, while demonstrating an extra creative dimension unique in a country where the shaping of the urban landscape requires an appreciation of the complexities of creating an inclusive built environment. Through innovative

designs and ever-developing architectural technology, the country is receiving remarkable designs that benefit the increasing urban population, as per government requirements.

This was said by Dirk Meyer, managing director of Corobrik, ahead of the 29th Corobrik Architectural Student of the Year Awards, which are held annually to acknowledge and reward outstanding talent in South Africa.

The theme of this year's entries includes environmental and revitalisation projects showing the concern of architectural professionals.

The competition involves the country's eight major universities where the best architectural students are identified based on their final theses and presented with awards at regional events. The winners of each of the regional competitions then go on to compete for the national title at the 29th Corobrik Student Architect of the Year Awards in Johannesburg on the 11th May 2016.

All the winners have shown a close affinity with their subjects and their designs both enhanced and integrated with the communities in which they were sited.

Meyer said, "the winners in the Corobrik Architectural Student of the Year Awards had shown outstanding maturity, innovation and technical skill in their designs which were a credit to the profession in both local and global terms." **diy**

The regional winners and finalists for the national title are:

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth: Leon van der Westhuizen.
Thesis title: Re-generating the Boet Erasmus Stadium in Port Elizabeth.

Tshwane University of Technology:
Ulrich Pieterse

Thesis Title: The design of an institute for the documentation of fossil heritage in Nieu Bethesda, Karoo

University of Cape Town: Matthew Mills.
Thesis title: Transurbance: a walk about the river.

University of Johannesburg: Jaco Jonker
Thesis title: The Plug-In Plantation – Reforestation and industrialization of the Nasrec precinct through the implementation of a new timber mill industry.

University of KwaZulu-Natal: Najeeba Hassim
Thesis title: Defining an architectural typology: Inner City Green Centres within South Africa.

University of Pretoria: Gillian van der Klashorst
Thesis title: Urban Observatory – Re-introducing Observation and Measurement to reveal the invisible city.

University of the Free State: Nilene van Niekerk
Thesis title: Freedom of Expression Forum.

University of Witwatersrand: Vedhant Maharaj
Thesis title: YANTRA. Infrastructures of the Sacred and Profane