

**AFRISAM**

**SAIA**

**SUSTAINABLE  
DESIGN  
AWARD**



# **CRITERIA & CATEGORIES FOR 2019-2020**



# SHAPING OUR COMMUNITIES FOR LIVABLE SUSTAINABILITY

## Preamble

Building for the future will require smart solutions and a transformation of existing construction practices. Leaders in the built environment have an important role to play in creating new spaces that have the power to elevate, dignify, and provide a better quality of life. This duty includes putting out real examples for the public to see, to make a case for sustainable architecture and why it is valuable and culturally appropriate for the African context.

We all need to respond to the needs of our world by pursuing new methods of building that are economical and environmentally conscious. By working right across the built environment we can improve material efficiency, design and the re-use of buildings, as well as revisiting ancient best practices and knowledge systems that will set us on a new trajectory towards sustainability.

We call on all practitioners who share our vision to enter the AfriSam-SAIA Sustainable Design Award - and contribute to a better future for all.

### Entries are accepted in four categories:

Sustainable Architecture;  
Research in Sustainability;  
Sustainable Products and Technology; and  
Sustainable Social Programmes.

Apart from recognising excellence in Sustainable Architecture and Research in Sustainability, we also invite entries that make innovative contributions to the fields of Sustainable Products and Technology and Sustainable Social Programmes. We encourage

architects in Africa to look into their own history and heritage to produce architecture that is reflective of the regions in which buildings exist. Sustainability is not only about technology, but also about an integrated design approach – of relating to one’s self, other people and the environment. It is as basic as understanding traditional building techniques and rebooting them to build spaces that respect the identity, climate and cultural history of our communities.

We know that a more sustainable world is possible through multidisciplinary collaboration across all industries. By taking an integrated design approach to communities, planning, research, architecture, building practice, natural systems and technology we can create a world that benefits a more inclusive and sustainable society.

The South African Institute for Architects recognises the importance of “green” building and encourages their members to incorporate sustainability in building design at an early stage. As a leading producer of construction materials in southern Africa, AfriSam is committed to sustaining the environment through responsible manufacturing processes. The brand considers it an honour to be associated with the South African Institute of Architects in recognising outstanding achievements in sustainable architecture. This award supports a learning journey towards regenerative design. We believe that a sustainable world is possible through innovation, transformation and multidisciplinary efforts within the built environment.



## **OUR MISSION**

**The AfriSam-SAIA Sustainable Design Award recognises contributions that bring sustainable innovation to both urban and rural living environments through an integrated approach to communities, planning, research, architecture, building practice, natural systems and technology. In particular, we advocate for design projects that are responsive to our social complexities, growth requirements and needs of marginalised communities in South Africa and throughout the African diaspora.**

**We believe that in order to achieve sustainable goals across the African continent transformation needs to be focussed in integrated design approaches, teaching, thinking and practice.**



# CRITERIA

To mark a decade of the awards programme, all architects are invited to enter projects that respond to innovative architectural and design thinking in the field of sustainability.

Project entries should demonstrate how they embody sound sustainable practices, that bear the hallmarks of great architectural or social design and innovative thinking in the field of sustainability, to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

Apart from recognising excellence in Sustainable Architecture and Research in Sustainability, we will also consider entries that make innovative contributions to the fields of Sustainable Products and Technology and Sustainable Social Programmes. The following five criteria will be the basis upon which each project will be judged:



## 1. HARMONISATION

The design and related processes should harmonise the use of resources with the conservation and strengthening of ecosystems (natural, social, human, infrastructure). Does the design maximise socio-economic benefits during the lifecycle of the project whilst acknowledging financial viability during and after the implementation process. Lastly, the design must demonstrate durability in the long term without having any negative impact.



## 2. PEOPLE UPLIFTMENT

The design and related processes should address the dignity of people through the creation of a socio-economic environment that is inclusionary, humane and self-sustaining. Social participatory engagements and community participation will be a distinguishing feature of a sustainable design processes.

‘People look after what they create.’



## 3. NEW WAYS OF THINKING

The design and related processes should contribute towards and develop an ongoing regenerative future. Designs should be change-embracing, adaptable and multi-use in their functionality whilst transforming the ethos and values of the broader community.



## 4. PLACEMAKING PERFORMANCE

The design and related processes should enhance the rural or urban built environment in creating better social environment that respect all cultures. Designs should address challenges, including those related to inequality, climate, environments, prosperity, and social cohesion.



## 5. LEADERSHIP

Does the individual or collective who worked on the project display a sense of leadership and contribute to the creation of a new status quo in development? This criteria acknowledges individuals and collectives that are making sure that ideas around sustainability in design are embedded in future thinking and result in significant behavioural changes.

**With energy efficiency legislation waiting in the wings, sustainable architecture has become an inevitable necessity.**

## **HOW TO ENTER**

**To celebrate a decade of outstanding sustainable design projects we welcome all architects and non architects to submit their designs.**

- 1. 2019/2020 entries can only be submitted on our online entry system. If you are experiencing any difficulty in entering online please mail [hello@sustainabledesign.co.za](mailto:hello@sustainabledesign.co.za)**
- 2. More than one project may be submitted. A separate entry must be completed for each submission.**
- 3. Eligibility and entry requirements are unique to each respective category. Entrants should acquaint themselves with the specifications of each category.**
- 4. There is no entry fee.**

## **ELIGIBILITY**

**Entries for the AfriSam-SAIA Sustainable Design Award must be submitted for consideration by 31 July 2020 by 12:00 midnight (GMT+2), via the online submission platform. No late entries will be accepted.**

Projects completed and beneficially occupied by 3 July 2019 are eligible for entry in the AfriSam-SAIA Sustainable Design Award 2019/2020. Research, social programmes as well as technology and products of social importance, which fall in an area under the description of sustainable architecture and design can also be entered. All registered architects residing in South Africa are eligible for submission in Category A: Sustainable Architecture. All project entries requiring an in loco

inspection must have been undertaken in South Africa.

Projects outside South Africa, which do not require in loco inspection, may be submitted in Categories B: Research in sustainability; C: Sustainable product/technology; and D: Sustainable social programmes. Please note that the awards are conferred on the building/s or work, not on the author/s, professional team, client, or contractor – although the names of the architectural practice and client will appear on the award certificates.



CATEGORY A:

# SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

**A new building or group of buildings; the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation or refurbishment of existing buildings, historic precincts or areas.**

There is no restriction on the building typology, use or scale. It is also intended for small-scale alterations, if they are of exceptional quality and contribute to the current discourse on sustainable architecture, to enter. Although the project may not meet all the sustainability criteria identified, it should be easily identified as having specific attributes within sustainable architecture, worthy of recognition. Only architectural projects completed and beneficially occupied by 3 July 2019 are eligible.

## CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY

**All architects may submit work. More than one project may be submitted.**

1. A separate entry must be completed for each submission. The following information must be supplied in full:
2. Confirmation of date: beneficially occupied by 3 July 2019.
3. A full list of all the professionals/consultants and contractor/s involved in the project.
4. Contact details for user/manager must be provided.
5. A brief description of the project, project constraints, social context and process used to arrive at the resultant design not exceeding 1000 words.
6. For each of the five criteria (Harmonisation, People Upliftment, New Ways of Thinking, Placemaking Performance and Leadership), elaborate in no more than 350-400 words per criterion how the project addresses the criteria in its implementation.
7. Consent from the client to inspect the project.
8. A locality map with clear instructions and GPS coordinates on how to reach the site, together with names and contact numbers that may be required to gain access to the project.
9. Scaled design drawings and photographs to illustrate the project and its context adequately in high-quality jpg or pdf format. Any audio-visual material should please be in one of the following formats: Mp4, avi, mov or wmv. The adjudicators may request additional documentation.



CATEGORY B:

# RESEARCH IN SUSTAINABILITY

**Practice-based/action research work; project or report of social importance; technical impact or research in the field of sustainability in the built environment are eligible for submission. Information submitted should be empirical in nature.**

## CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY

**More than one project may be submitted.**

**A separate entry must be completed for each submission. Entries should clearly:**

1. Identify how it meets the requirements for consideration for the AfriSam-SAIA Sustainable Design Award. The following information must be supplied in full:
2. A brief summary of the entry of approximately 1000 words by the author. The empirical nature of the report submission must be able to be established.
3. A full research report in pdf format.
4. For each of the five criteria (Harmonisation, People Upliftment, New Ways of Thinking, Placemaking Performance and Leadership), elaborate in no more than 500 words per criterion, detail how the project addresses the criteria in its implementation.
5. A full list of all professionals and contributors involved in the research undertaking.
6. Where applicable, please provide publication links and details.
7. Supporting documents, such as photographs or visual material to illustrate the research and its context, may be submitted in high-quality jpg or pdf format. Any audiovisual material should be in one of the following formats: Mp4, avi, mov or wmv.



CATEGORY C:

# SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT / TECHNOLOGY

**A product or technology of social impact and technical significance in the field of sustainability and the living environment with an objective of changing lives.**

## CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY

**More than one project may be submitted. A separate entry must be completed for each submission.**

**Entries should clearly identify how it meets the requirements for consideration for the AfriSam-SAIA Sustainable Design Award. The following information must be supplied in full:**

1. A brief description of the entry of approximately 300 words by the author.
2. For each of the five criteria (Harmonisation, People Upliftment, Evolutionary Paradigm, Placemaking Performance and Leadership), elaborate in no more than 200 words per criterion, detail how the project addresses the criteria in its implementation.
3. A brief comment on the entry from client or stakeholder where relevant - not exceeding 300 words.
4. A copy of the full documentation of the product / technology developed/designed. The adjudicators may request additional documentation.
5. Photographs or visual material to illustrate the product design must be submitted in high-quality jpg or pdf format. Any audio-visual material should please be in one of the following formats: Mp4, avi, mov or wmv.





CATEGORY D:

# SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL PROGRAMMES

**A project of social impact the field of sustainability and the living environment.**

## CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY

**More than one project may be submitted. A separate entry must be completed for each submission.**

**Entries should clearly identify how it meets the requirements for consideration for the AfriSam-SAIA Sustainable Design Award.**

**The following information must be supplied in full:**

1. A brief description of the entry of approximately 300 words by the author.
2. For each of the five criteria (Harmonisation, People Upliftment, Evolutionary Paradigm, Placemaking Performance and Leadership), elaborate in no more than 200 words per criterion, detail how

the project or programme addresses the criterion in its implementation.

3. A brief comment on the entry from client or stakeholder where relevant - not exceeding 300 words.
4. A copy of the full documentation. The adjudicators may request additional documentation.
5. Photographs or visual material to illustrate the project or programme and its context must be submitted in high-quality jpg or pdf format. Any audio-visual material should please be in one of the following formats: Mp4, avi, mov or wmv.