

## Europe's largest architectural firm announces BBBEE deal

Nightingale Associates, a leading UK architectural practice and the largest in Europe specialising in healthcare, science and education, announced the establishment of a fully BBBEE compliant architectural practice in South Africa, to be known as Nightingale Architects.

South Africa's burning need for improved public sector infrastructure, together with a review of the business's long-term business strategy for South Africa, led to this unanimous decision by the Nightingale Associates' Board in the United Kingdom.

In addition, the firm believes it will also inspire other European construction, design and property development firms, with interests in South Africa, to support the country's policy of

eradicating injustices from the past, while positively contributing to black economic empowerment (BEE).

Nightingale Associates has begun mapping out a route of highly focused approaches to employment equity, skills development, enterprise development and socio-economic development for its employees' previously disadvantaged communities. It is anticipated that Nightingale Architects will immediately achieve a level four BEE rating through an initial target of 26% black ownership, and 50% black management, while the overarching goal is to steer the company towards significant black ownership in the future.

**Nightingale Associates in Cape Town is lead by Matt Audinwood (principal), Wallace Manyara (new business development manager) and Alex van Den Berg (director).**

## dhk wins international award for library in Timbuktu

South African architectural firm dhk has been awarded for the Ahmed Baba Centre for Higher Learning and Islamic Research in Timbuktu, Mali. The R62-million library complex has been bestowed a Projects Award by Architecture SA, the official journal of the South African Institute of Architects.

The South Africa-Mali Manuscripts Trust elected to build a new library to preserve more than 200 000 documents dating back to the 13th century, which had previously been stored in 24 private libraries. The project is the first official cultural one of the New Partnership for African Development (Nepad). Dhk was contracted to create a site-sensitive space to protect these literary and cultural artefacts.

Special attention was also paid to the chief structural materials: traditional sun-baked bricks were used to echo the 'old city', while off-shutter concrete is reminiscent of the 'new city', with sheets of glass architectonically separating the two. "We are thrilled to be recognised for what we feel is important work. The complexity of the design is made even more challenging by building in an emerging country with a developing construction industry. But that's what makes the Ahmed Baba Centre so stimulating to be a part of," acknowledges Derick Henstra, executive chairman of dhk. The Ahmed Baba Centre for Higher Learning and Islamic Research is scheduled to open to the public towards the end of 2008.



## CMA invites entries for 12th Awards for Excellence

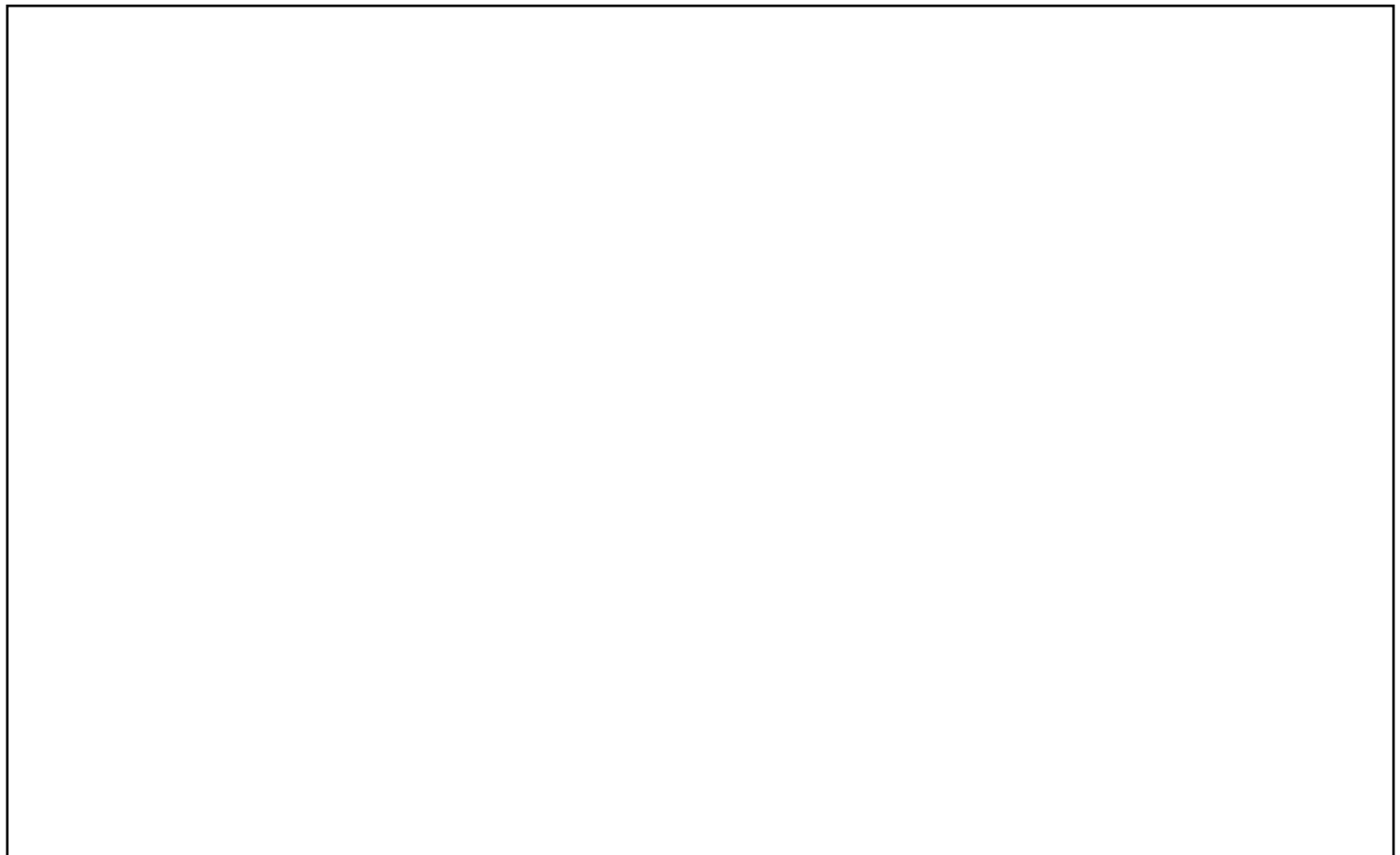
The Concrete Manufacturers Association (CMA) will be staging its 12th Awards for Excellence competition during 2008. Held biennially, the competition is open to all designers, developers, manufacturers or users of precast concrete products, and entries may be submitted by individuals, partnerships or companies in the following divisions:

- Concrete Block Paving
- Concrete Roof Tiles
- Concrete Masonry
- Concrete Retaining Block Walls
- Suspended Concrete Floor Slabs
- Infrastructural Products
- Community Upliftment

These divisions contain several sub-categories, which are broken down in the entry form. The first four categories listed above include a Vintage sub-category for projects completed 10 or

more years ago. Apart from the Vintage entries, only projects which have been completed since January 1, 2006 qualify for entry.

Awards are made on a regional and national basis which include KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Inland. Coastal-based regional awards will be made to winning sub-category entries at regional ceremonies held in Durban, Port Alfred and Cape Town. National awards are made to the winning entry of each sub-category.



Entry forms are available from the CMA website, [www.cma.org.za](http://www.cma.org.za) and the closing date for entry submissions is May 31. For more information, contact Pam Zukor on 011-805-6742 or email [cma@mweb.co.za](mailto:cma@mweb.co.za)

### Soul-filled Cape Sun gets a facelift

The urban and contemporary Cape Town city centre hotel, the Cape Sun, has merged the old with the new in a recent renovation of the hotel's restaurant, kitchen and lounge area. The design team from Louis Karol was briefed by Southern Sun to completely clear and re-plan the restaurant and kitchen area. The new design was to be light, fresh and contemporary in style, while still strongly retaining the Cape Dutch and Malay



traditional influence.

Interior designer, Jessica White, who, together with Sarah Schulman, created the magnificent interior, says in stark contrast to the original restaurant, the new planning has dramatically opened up the area. "The ceiling heights were lifted to their maximum, with curved bulkheads, linking spaces together and creating interesting lighting effects. Although it still is a rather deep space, the shopfront windows have been opened up, providing maximum natural light, and drawing interest from passers-by. We have blended the traditional with the contemporary, introducing elements of comfort and chic, so guests enjoy a unique culinary experience in a modern Cape Dutch restaurant," she says.

Inspired by London's No 1 Aldwych speciality bar, the hotel's new bar counter

was designed to give a visual cohesion to the original space with its dark-stained timber, mirror panels and brass detailing. The original coffered ceilings demarcate the area by using light boxes to create a different ambience with colour.

### Announcement of theme for Metal 2008

Ever searching for fresh new design talent across South Africa, Carrol Boyes Functional Art (CBFA) has announced the theme for the Metal 2008 New Designer Search: Frame. Boyes invites entrants to design a frame – a structure that can contain or border any article of beauty such as a mirror, an artwork, an image, an item of jewellery or the like, fusing three key elements: functionality, manufacturing potential and aesthetics. "A frame may hold a special memory, reflect a shared moment in time or simply contain a gift from someone close. I would like to encourage entrants to be inspired by these moments when designing and creating their prototypes so that these may reflect their uniqueness," says Boyes. Entries officially opened on March 1, 2008. Entry forms are available at <http://metal.carrolboyes.co.za>

### Winners of industrial design competition

'Changing the Design of Tomorrow's Workspace' is the title of the CN Business Furniture competition that saw a pool of 50 students from the University of



Design competition judge, Brain Steinhobel (left), with first-place winner Altus van Zijl (middle) and Group MD of CN Business Furniture, Robbie Bergh (right).

Johannesburg and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology competing for first

prize in this student design competition. But it was the Western Cape that walked away with all the prizes, with first, second and third place being awarded to Cape Peninsula University of Technology students.

Announced at a CN gala event, the winner, Altus van Zijl, was presented with his passport to an all expenses paid trip to the Milan Furniture Fair in 2008. The two runners up, Theron Burger and Grattan Coetzer, received R10 000 and R5 000 respectively for their entries.

With modern workspace evolving at a rapid rate, working environments play

a pivotal role in the ability to function at an optimal level. N Business Furniture therefore challenged the industrial design students at the two tertiary institutions, to conceptualise a workstation that encapsulates the ever-changing office of the future. For more information, visit [www.cnonline.co.za](http://www.cnonline.co.za)

## Creating a legend

"Africa – the mysterious and enigmatic continent, source and origin of a myriad of legends pertaining to its people, its

wealth and its history". Taking this into account, the theme for the Legend Golf and Safari Resort situated in Entabeni was developed. GdbS (Global Design and Build Solutions) won the contract, for the largest and most ambitious project in the Legend stable, with a total contract value of US\$1,2 billion.

CEO of GdbS, Lourens Badenhorst says the collective experience of their directors, coupled with the expertise gained from international projects, worked in their favour. "Despite only being in operation for 18 months, we can draw on a wealth of knowledge, with an average 20-plus years in the construction industry."

The 22 000 hectare Legend Golf and Safari Resort is situated within the Entabeni Safari Conservancy in the malaria-free Waterberg region of Limpopo, set against the Hangklip Mountains.

Badenhorst explains how this resort will epitomise the unique lifestyle of the bushveld with an exceptional residential estate, comprising privately owned bush lodges. "This will be complemented by an 18-hole PGA championship golf course, with each hole endorsed by the signature of one of the world's top professional golfers."

Other features will include an internationally branded five-star hotel with a health spa and a wellness centre, as well as conference and recreational facilities for up to 2 500 delegates, botanical gardens, a special field of dreams and a sports centre.

## Residential market to set the tone for 2008

"The aftermath of the implementation of the National Credit Act and high interest rates are set to continue to dampen developer and consumer investment decisions in both new residential projects and alterations and additions through the second half of 2007 and into 2008," says Peter du Trevou Managing Director of Corobrik, the leading brick manufacturer in Africa.

"While the reduced activity in the residential segments has slowed brick demand since June, indications from the commercial and public sectors remain positive and activity in these segments can be expected to partially offset the lower demand from the residential segments. All things being equal, Corobrik would expect overall brick demand through 2008 to track current levels and to be rejuvenated towards the second half of 2008 when interest rates are expected to ease," he said.

"It must be remembered that activity is declining off the high levels experienced in 2006. These are certainly not times of boom or bust as characterised the 1970s. We see 2007 rather as a period for industry consolidation, with the longer term prognosis for the building industry remaining very positive. The capacity expansions Corobrik has undertaken over the past four years will stand us in very good stead when investment in the residential segments surges once again," concluded du Trevou.

## Seventh annual Stainless Steel Awards kick off

The countdown to the highlight of the stainless steel industry's programme has begun. The Stainless Steel Awards are now open for entries from local as well as international individuals and companies involved in the production, conversion, distribution, use or recommendation of stainless steel.

Held every second year since 1998, the awards recognise and applaud exceptional achievements in the stainless steel industry. "The awards also aim to promote excellence, innovation and entrepreneurial development in the stainless steel industry, principally in South Africa," says Michael Campbell, the managing director of Sassda, "It is an opportunity for the industry to profile innovative thinking and their successes."

A number of award categories already exist – 'Best Stainless Steel Project', 'Best Stainless Steel Product' and 'Best Stainless Steel Services'. The 2008 Awards will introduce three new categories; the 'Innovation Award', which will reward creativity, originality and advancement; the 'Achievement Award', which will recognise service in the industry; and the 'Student Award' which will give kudos to young achievers. An overall winner, who has done the most for the industry, will also be selected to receive The Stainless Steel Award.

Closing date for entries is July 31, 2008, and winners will be announced

at a gala awards evening to be held on October 16, 2008. Information and entry forms are available online at [www.sassda.co.za](http://www.sassda.co.za)

## **Nedbank buys into potential R5 billion development in Irene**

Nedbank Corporate Property Finance recently announced that its Gauteng division has acquired a 49% equity stake in Odyssey Developments. Odyssey Developments holds a 66,5%

stake in Irene Land Corporation, and intends to develop the 147 hectares of land in Irene owned by the corporation.

The land is earmarked for the construction of between 500 000m<sup>2</sup> and 800 000m<sup>2</sup> of mixed-use developments over the next five to 10 years, at an estimated value of between R2,5- and R5-billion. Development will include commercial, residential, light industrial and retail properties.

The land, situated in the southern

Tshwane Metropolitan area around the Nellmapius Road interchange on the R21 freeway, is flanked by the Route 21 Corporate Park to the north-east, Irene Farm Villages to the west and Irene Shopping Mall to the north-west.

The land has exceptional accessibility from regional and local roads, with OR Tambo Airport approximately 20 minutes away on the R21. It is also 2km from the proposed Gautrain Johannesburg/Pretoria rail line. For more information, call 011-294-1649. 

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