

winning sa entries at 3rd international holcim awards

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SOUTH AFRICANS SHINE AT HOLCIM AWARDS

Two South African projects attained Acknowledgement Awards at the 3rd International Holcim Regional Awards Ceremony held in Casablanca, Morocco in September this year.

Justin Cooke and Jessica Cohen were recognised for their Oudebos Mountain Camp project and Calayde Davey for her Vertical Agriculture at the Old Pretoria West Power Station. Participants submitted proposals for sustainable construction projects that shape better communities.

Cooke and Cohen designed a flagship project for sustainable public eco-tourism in the Kogelberg biosphere, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Natural materials were used and the facility, consisting of five self-catering cabins and a small conference building, was designed to blend into the environment. The project included sustainable use of a mountain stream, composting toilets, low-flow showers, indigenous plants and mulch basins to minimise water consumption. Low-energy systems including solar water heating, a closed combustion fire, gas cooking and LED lighting were also installed.

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Davey developed an architectural model for vertical hydroponic agriculture for Pretoria on the existing industrial heritage site of the Old Pretoria West Power Station. The project aims to promote “urban agriculture” using low cost materials to adapt old industrial constructions for agricultural produce. Biogas production and rainwater harvesting provide resource-efficient energy renewal and the existing water system is reused for agricultural production. In addition to food, the building produces compost, clean water and gas and the biomass will produce electricity via methane digesters.

The winning projects are an exciting demonstration of the “return to nature” as it were, integrating the environment into modern daily activities and ensuring long-term sustainability within a healthy, human dimension.

CAPTION PIC 01: Presenting the ‘Next Generation’ 1st prize to ‘Adaptive reuse of industrial site for urban agriculture, Pretoria, South Africa’, Stephan Olivier (left), CEO of AfriSam, South Africa. The prize is accepted by Ronald Davey on behalf of Calayde Aenis Davey, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

CAPTION PIC 02: Representatives of the Holcim Awards Acknowledgement prize 2011 Africa Middle East winner ‘Sustainable public eco-tourism facility, Cape Town, South Africa’. From left to right: Jessica Tami Cohen, Andrew Justin Cooke and Sheeraj Ismail, Architecture co-op, South Africa.

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CAPTION PIC 03: Prize winners in the Holcim Awards 2011 Africa Middle East at the prize ceremony in Casablanca where a total of USD 300,000 was presented to ten outstanding projects that illustrate the broad scope of applying sustainable approaches in construction including school infrastructure, community renewal, urban redevelopment, and energy-efficient design.

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FROM : CORALYNNE & ASSOCIATES
TEL : +27 011 422 1949
EMAIL : coralyn@onwe.co.za

FOR : VICTOR BOUGUENON
AFRISAM
TEL : +27 011 670 5520
www.afrisam.com