

August 2011

Time to communicate!

ILASA has had a very busy year and hence the last newsletter was issued some time back. But in this issue we give you extensive feedback on the institute's current activities.

Spectacular 2011 Corobrik-ILASA Awards of Excellence

Over 200 guests attended the 2011 Corobrik-ILASA Awards of Excellence function in Durban on Saturday 21 May. ILASA was delighted to host many dignitaries, including CEO Bheki Zulu of the Council for the Built Environment and representatives of eThekweni Municipality's Strategic Project Unit as well as Johannesburg City Parks.

Details on the award recipients were published in *Urban Green File's* special supplement for its June edition.

For the record the award recipients were:

Presidents Award:

Moses Mabhida Stadium Precinct by *Iyer Urban Design Studio* for eThekweni Municipality

Awards for Excellence in Design – Completed Projects:

- Eye of Africa Phase 1 by *Landscape Architects Uys & White* for Medallist
- Highveld House by African Environmental Design
- Hilltop at Zimbali by *Landscape Architects Uys & White* for Elides Investments
- Life Sciences Development by *OvP Landscape Architects* for the University of the Western Cape
- Lourens River Flood Alleviation Phase 1 D by *Megan Anderson Landscape Architects* for the City of Cape Town
- Moses Mabhida Stadium Precinct by *Iyer Urban Design Studio* for eThekweni Municipality
- Sharpville Cemetery Memorial by *Green Inc* for Urban Genesis
- Southdowns Country Farm Estate by *V&L Landscape Architects* for Centurus
- Spruitview Multipurpose Park by *Outer Space Design* for Ekurhuleni Metro Parks
- Vineyard Hotel & Spa by *Ann Sutton Landscape Architects* for the Vineyard Hotel & Spa

Special awards for the promotion of landscape architecture:

- Johannesburg City Parks for three Soweto parks
 - Gerald Garner for his work as erstwhile magazine editor/publisher and current fundraiser/events driver of ILASA
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An icon of the profession honoured and already missed

Ann Sutton was honoured as the 2011 ILASA icon of the year at the recent Corobrik-ILASA Awards of Excellence function. It was indeed a privilege for so many ILASA members to meet her at this occasion. The audiovisual presentation on Ann was based on two days Gerald Garner spent with Ann in Cape Town and Franschhoek in April. He recounts the experience: "Ann was such an energetic person who gladly drove around the Western Cape to show me her work with pride. I was immensely impressed with her enthusiasm and astounding collection of projects – all achieved in spite of a hearing disability as well as having lost a leg a number of years ago."

Ann was a truly inspirational person and landscape architect and ILASA honoured her for her pioneering role in helping to establish the institute as well as the first course in landscape architecture at the University of Pretoria together with Joane Pim and others.

Ann passed away on the last weekend of July 2011 and her memorial service was held on Friday 5 August in Franschhoek.

A young landscape architect also missed

ILASA was deeply saddened to hear about the untimely death of Neil Eitzen. Having graduated in 1995 Neil worked at various landscape architecture firms – for many years as a golf course designer. Recently he did some work for Landmark Studios.

Neil was also widely known for his extensive knowledge of other fields – having studied theology, sociology and philosophy too. His memorial service was held on Tuesday 2 August. ILASA's thoughts are with his landscape architect brothers – Bruce and Garth as well as the rest of his family.

Another ILASA year sped by

ILASA's financial year ended on 31 July 2011 and the AGM to bring on stream new committees and a new year is scheduled for Friday 26 August.

ILASA wishes to thank all its loyal sponsors for another successful year. The staging of the Corobrik-ILASA Awards of Excellence was undoubtedly the highlight of the year. Another important development was the various presentations the NEC did to regional offices of the Department of Public Works all over the country.

In particular ILASA's patron sponsors of the last year need to be acknowledged for their contribution. They are: Beka, Corobrik, Johannesburg City Parks, Top Turf, Top Med, Urban Green File and the eThekweni Municipality SPU.

2012 IFLA World Congress soon in Cape Town!

Preparations for the 2012 IFLA World Congress are taking shape at the moment. ILASA feels honoured to be the host of the International Federation of Landscape Architects World Congress from 5 – 7 September 2012. The Congress website will be available online within the next fortnight. Delegates will then be able to start registering to attend the event.

Sponsorships are also streaming in. Already Corobrik has signed up to be the platinum sponsor as well as the sponsor of the official congress dinner. Corobrik and Urban Green File have also already renewed their ILASA patron sponsorships for the next two years and this includes extensive exposure at the congress.

ILASA company and suppliers sponsors that have signed up so far for the next two financial years in order to become local sponsors of the congress include: Gibbs Saintpol, Green Inc, Insite, Just Trees, Landmark Studios, Loci Environmental, Outerspace, Red, The Landscape Studio and Viridian

Call for bursaries

ILASA has recently sent out a request to companies within the field of landscape architecture and environmental planning to contribute towards bursaries for prospective new students. ILASA believes that the future of the profession depends on attracting larger numbers of students and to facilitate rapid transformation of the industry by ensuring that more black students enrol in this field.

ILASA is volunteering to administer existing bursaries on behalf of companies and organisations that offer such bursaries. It is also calling on smaller businesses that do not have the means to fund a full annual bursary to make contributions to ILASA's bursary fund which can then be used to help existing and prospective students.

Tukkies: LA degree is absolutely essential

ILASA recently hosted a workshop in which the University of Pretoria's landscape architecture lecturers participated. The viability of the university's landscape architecture course has been questioned by university management. This is because a very low number of graduates are being produced annually, especially at masters level. Many students only complete the first three-year degree and do not return for honours or masters.

A large number of people attended the workshop that was held simultaneously in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg. It was clear that professionals felt a degree at Tukkies was essential for the continuation and expansion of the professions. Discussions included the possible future introduction of degrees at other universities but for now the focus is on ensuring that more students enrol for bachelors as well as post graduate/professional degrees.

Most attendees felt that Tukkies should accept more students in the first year and not show so many away in the first place. In this regard ILASA believes that the profession as a whole should embrace the need for transformation and that a concerted effort should be made to attract and fund more students of all backgrounds, but importantly more black students.

ILASA believes that each municipality and relevant government department should employ several landscape architects in order to ensure that a better built environment is created for the benefit of all South Africans. For this reason it is necessary to produce far more graduates on an annual basis and for the mix of students to be relevant to South Africa's demographics and social challenges.

Patron sponsors





The Amazing Experience



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