



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AFRICA ARCHITECTURE AWARDS 2017: DEADLINE EXTENSION

After a flood of entries, the Africa Architecture Awards has extended its entry deadline, allowing more architects from across the continent the opportunity to showcase their talents.

Over 360 registered entries for the inaugural Africa Architecture Awards have been received ahead of the competition's original closing date. Any project that pertains to Africa may be entered. Entrants hail from more than 27 African countries, including the surrounding islands and the diaspora, and many are still completing the entry process. New registrations are being received daily. The organizers have thus extended the deadline for entries from 30 June 2017 to **14 July 2017**.

This also presents an opportunity for those who haven't yet registered for the competition, to do so, as new entries will still be permitted. There are two steps to enter: the first is to register, and the second is to submit documents, images and a film of the entered project. The deadline extension to 14 July 2017 is final and no late entries will be accepted after this date. The amended deadline applies to all categories except the **People's Choice Award**, where public voting continues until 18 August 2017.

"As the founders of the Africa Architecture Awards, we are naturally pleased to see that the first-ever iteration has been so well received by architects," says Saint-Gobain representative Evan Lockhart-Barker, the Managing Director of the Saint-Gobain Retail Business Development Initiative. "But we would like to encourage as many entries as possible because we are aware of the vast number of significant projects from across Africa and how much they deserve to be highlighted. This



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AFRICA ARCHITECTURE AWARDS STEERING PANEL 2017: Chair: Prof Lesley Lokko (Ghana) | Doreen Adengo (Uganda) | Issa Diabaté (Côte d'Ivoire) | Thomas Chapman (South Africa) | Mphethi Morojele (South Africa) | Urko Sanchez (Kenya) | Luis Urbano (Portugal)
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extends from built projects to speculative works, to student projects and critical discourse.”

The inaugural **Africa Architecture Awards** is noteworthy as the first dedicated Pan-African awards programme of its kind. Launched by founder Saint-Gobain, the awards aim to recognise and reward worthy projects from across the African continent, with one overall winner garnering a **\$10 000 grand prize**.

The 2017 Africa Architecture Awards seek to acknowledge standout architectural projects that have been conceived of and/or built on the African continent, and invite entries and nominations from the industry. Anyone in the world meeting the entry criteria can enter, or be entered into the awards, as long as the project pertains to Africa.

“**Saint-Gobain** very simply wants to be the catalyst that brings African architecture and its diaspora into the global conversation, in response to the clear need for such dialogue,” explains Lockhart-Barker. “The Africa Architecture Awards,” he continues, “have been established to highlight the continent’s innovative and collaborative style of solving problems - architectural or otherwise. Saint-Gobain has engaged with some of the best minds in the field to establish this programme, so that the awards are relevant, contextual and progressive. We look forward to seeing the future stars and collaborative efforts this initiative will reveal!”

To this end, the awards programme has key collaborators like global heavyweight Sir David Adjaye OBE of Adjaye Associates as the official **Patron**, a stellar **Steering Panel** and **Advisory** team comprising noteworthy academics and architects, and a formidable **Master Jury** of award-winning practitioners drawn from across Africa and the diaspora.

The Master Jury will identify a shortlist of 20 projects, four trophy winners and one Grand Prix. The official awards ceremony is set to take on **28 September 2017** at



Cape Town's much-anticipated Zeitz MOCAA, designed by significant British architect Thomas Heatherwick, which opens to the public that very same week.

The Grand Prix winner will receive a \$10 000 cash prize at the awards ceremony – that's in addition to the recognition and prestige of being named as the overall winner from across the continent. A Lifetime Achiever's Award is given at the discretion of the Master Jury. It is awarded to an architect or architects who have made a significant contribution to the professions of architecture and/or urban design over a substantial period of time.

The seven members of the Master Jury are: Anna Abengowe (Nigeria); Patti Anahory (Cape Verde); Guillaume Koffi (Cote d'Ivoire); Phill Mashabane (South Africa); Professor Mark Olweny (Uganda); Professor Edgar Pieterse (South Africa); and, Tanzeem Razak (South Africa).

Rather than adopt the more conventional categories of other global awards programmes, the Master Jury will approach the Africa Architecture Awards through a values-based system around the following three criteria:

- **Innovation** – of design, materials, approach, practice, new forms of public space;
- **Identity** – projects that deal sensitively and innovatively with heritage and tradition; that embody cultural sensitivity and contextual interpretation; that consider appropriation and repurposing of use; and that attempt to translate traditional ways of building/occupying space into modern and contemporary contexts;
- **Implementation** – the energy and inventiveness required in Africa to create and implement projects in markets with varying levels and scales of economic government support and infrastructure.

“The intention of the awards is to create a broader awareness of the issues and opportunities inherent in the built environment in Africa through dialogue, analysis



and critique. The awards will celebrate design excellence and promote an increased awareness of the role and importance of sound architectural theory and practice across Africa and the diaspora. The intention is to honour established architects and encourage emerging and future voices,” says Lockhart-Barker.

According to Professor Lesley Lokko, who chairs the Africa Architecture Awards Steering Panel and is head of the Graduate School of Architecture at the University of Johannesburg: “These awards present an opportunity to be an integral part of building an architectural culture that is Pan-African in its scope and ambition, but one that looks firmly towards the future. Finding new means to tell an innovative, responsive and responsible narrative about what it means to be African, modern, forward-looking, inventive but also proud of our past, of our multiple heritages, cultures and contexts, and how these things coming together, are shaping a new Africa!”

As a discipline, architecture has immense potential to shape, solve and innovate in Africa, in the 21st Century. With 54 countries all varied in culture, geography, climate and societal structure, this diversity enables prospects that can and will shape Africa’s built environments - and in so doing, will provide points of inspiration for the rest of the globe. The aim of the first ever Africa Architecture Awards is to identify and honour projects that are doing precisely that!

Please email admin@africaarchitectureawards.com for queries or visit www.africaarchitectureawards.com for more information.

About Saint-Gobain:

The founder of the Africa Architecture Awards, Saint-Gobain, is proud to be bringing an awards programme with criteria that are in line with its DNA. For 350 years, the Group has consistently pushed the boundaries of technology and solutions in the construction markets. In sub-Saharan Africa, Saint-Gobain provides a range of solutions and services tailored to



local demand. The Group aims to drive local development through the services and solutions it delivers to improve living comfort for the greatest possible number of people. It aims to achieve this by forming industrial partnerships, creating local employment, providing professional training and taking action to support the development of local communities.

For more information on Saint-Gobain visit www.saint-gobain-africa.com.

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High-resolution images are available on request.



