



PRESS RELEASE

Rewarding comfortable and sustainable architecture

April 19 2018
Johannesburg

The Saint-Gobain MultiComfort House Students Contest has been hosted by Saint-Gobain for the past 14 years. It is an international competition dedicated to architecture and engineering students to encourage the design of comfortable and sustainable living spaces. The national stage for the contest will be held in Saint-Gobain offices in Johannesburg on April 20. Seven shortlisted architectural projects selected from the University of Johannesburg and the University of Kwazulu-Natal in Durban will compete for the chance to attend the finals in Dubai (United Arab Emirates). A panel of industry experts will select the national winning team.

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The first part of the Saint-Gobain MultiComfort House Students Contest comprises of a national stage in 28 different countries and of an online entry stage for students from countries that do not have a local competition.

The international stage will be held in Dubai from 12-15 May 2018. The winning teams from various countries and the online entry winner will battle it out in the finals.

This year, participants have to design a vision for a transcultural vibrant community development located in the perimeter of the cultural village of Dubai. The design should propose a combination of residential and public spaces to maximize energy-efficiency and wellbeing. The approach has to incorporate the Saint-Gobain Multi-Comfort vision based on thermal, acoustic and visual comfort, as well as air quality and modularity.

The winning team will represent South Africa in Dubai.

National stage: towards selecting the South African winning team

Saint-Gobain in South Africa first entered the competition in 2016.





In 2018, seven shortlisted architectural projects selected from the University of Johannesburg and the University of Kwazulu-Natal in Durban will compete for the chance to take part in the finals in Dubai.

“The national stage has been preceded by an intense eight weeks where students had to create a sustainable architectural design integrated into the urban space, while adhering to Saint-Gobain Multi-Comfort criteria and taking into account the climatic conditions and regional context of the local site and in Dubai. The amount of research, coupled with online training offered by Saint-Gobain on acoustics, thermal and indoor air quality, has been a steep learning exercise for the students. This investment in young professionals will reap rewards in the future with benefits for the built environment,” explains Sibusiso Mthembu, Saint-Gobain Coordinator for the South Africa Stage of the contest.

The South Africa stage winning team will be chosen by adjudicators comprising of a panel of industry experts, including:

- Marloes Reinink : Solid Green Consulting
- Cliff Gouws: Boogertman and Partners Architects
- Ayanda Masuku : City of Johannesburg
- James Russwurm: One of the 2016 Contest Winners
- Lauren Kruger: Saint-Gobain
- Sathia Govender: Saint-Gobain

The South Africa stage for the Saint-Gobain MultiComfort House Students Contest will be held in Saint-Gobain offices in Johannesburg on April 20 from 9:30 AM to 12:30.

ABOUT SAINT-GOBAIN: Saint-Gobain designs, manufactures and distributes materials and solutions which are key ingredients in the wellbeing of each of us and the future of all. They can be found everywhere in our living places and our daily life: in buildings, transportation, infrastructure and in many industrial applications. They provide comfort, performance and safety while addressing the challenges of sustainable construction, resource efficiency and climate change.

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