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SAIA honours exceptional contributions to South African architecture

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The SAIA Medal and Honours Programme

Alongside its awards for individual architectural projects, the South African Institute of Architects (SAIA) maintains a distinguished programme of medals and honours recognising exceptional achievement, service and lifetime contribution to architecture in South Africa. While the project awards celebrate excellence in a particular work of architecture, the Medal and Honours Programme looks beyond individual buildings to recognise the broader legacy created over the course of a career, the life of a practice, or through sustained service to the profession.

These honours represent some of the highest forms of recognition that SAIA can bestow. They acknowledge architects and architectural practices whose influence extends beyond a single project: through a sustained body of distinguished work, leadership within the profession, architectural education and mentorship, scholarship and discourse, advocacy, service to the Institute, and a lasting contribution to South Africa's architectural culture and built environment. Historically, SAIA's honours have included the Gold Medal for Architecture, Medal of Distinction, awards for architectural writing, criticism and research, Life Membership, Honorary Membership and Honorary Fellowship.

The **Gold Medal for Architecture** is a lifetime achievement honour recognising an individual architect whose career represents an exceptional and sustained contribution to architecture. It considers not simply individual award-winning buildings, but the recipient's wider body of work and influence on architectural practice, thought and culture. Previous Gold Medal citations demonstrate the breadth of this recognition, encompassing architectural excellence together with contributions to education, mentorship, professional leadership, conservation and architectural discourse.

The inaugural **Gold Medal for Architecture (Practice)** extends this lifetime-achievement principle to architectural practice. Rather than recognising a single architect or project, it honours the collective achievement of a practice over an extended period — acknowledging a sustained body of work of exceptional quality and significance and the practice's enduring contribution to architecture and the built environment in South Africa.

The **Gold Medal of Distinction** recognises an outstanding contribution to architecture through distinguished service to the profession. Its emphasis is therefore not solely on an architectural oeuvre, but on the wider contribution an individual has made to advancing architecture and the profession through leadership, education, scholarship, advocacy, professional service or other areas of significant influence.

Patron of Architecture

Life Membership recognises exceptional and sustained service to SAIA and the architectural profession over an extended period. It honours individuals whose commitment, participation and

leadership have contributed significantly to the work, development and standing of the Institute and whose service embodies the values and objectives of SAIA.

Collectively, the Medal and Honours Programme provides SAIA with an important means of recording and celebrating the people and practices that have shaped the profession. These are awards concerned not simply with excellence at a particular moment, but with ****legacy**** — recognising careers, practices and contributions whose influence has endured and enriched architecture in South Africa.

The South African Institute of Architects (SAIA) has recognised an exceptional group of architects, practices, educators and advocates whose work has advanced architecture, urbanism, conservation, education and professional leadership in South Africa. The honours were presented on 27 August 2026.

Gold Medal for Architecture

Anya van der Merwe



Anya van der Merwe receiving the SAIA Gold Medal for Architecture, presented by past-president Janet Saaiman and FSNC President Johan Snyman

Throughout a remarkable career as an architect, educator, leader and mentor, Anya van der Merwe has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to design excellence, intellectual rigour and the advancement of the profession.

As co-founder and former director of Van der Merwe Miszewski Architects, she has contributed to a distinguished body of work spanning housing, education, commercial projects, public spaces and the broader urban realm. Her architecture is characterised by clarity of concept, disciplined execution, and a profound understanding of material, landscape, form and space — shaping a distinctive architectural language that responds intelligently to place and context, and balances innovation with restraint.

Beyond her practice, Professor van der Merwe has made a significant contribution to architectural education through teaching, academic engagement and mentorship, influencing successive generations of practitioners.

Through leadership within her practice and service to the South African Institute of Architects, including participation in regional committees and awards panels, she has contributed generously to the advancement of architectural excellence, professional standards and discourse in South Africa.

The SAIA Gold Medal for Architecture is awarded to Anya van der Merwe in recognition of an exceptional contribution to the advancement of architecture in South Africa, an outstanding body of architectural work, and distinguished leadership in both practice and education.

Gold Medal for Architecture

Ivan Schlapobersky



Ivan and Karen Schlapobersky at the 2026 SAIA honours presentation, past president Janet Saaiman and FSNC President Johan Snyman

Ivan Schlapobersky, a University of Pennsylvania graduate and principal designer of Moross and Partners, today M Architects, is known for landmark projects like the Saatchi & Abel Headquarters in Rosebank and a broad range of commissions, from carefully crafted single residential homes (one of which won the SAIA House of the Year Award in 1967) to large-scale master plans.

Among Schlapobersky's key house commissions are Houses Linz, Wallington, Veitch, and Phyllis Schlapobersky. His most influential professional contributions was, from the mid-1980s onwards, his role in introducing and advancing the concept of the nature-situated office park in South Africa. Schlapobersky's lifelong connection with nature, including an intimate knowledge of South African tree and plant species, led him to preserve established trees on sites and work around them — a deviation from standard practice, in which sites were generally scraped clean. Similarly, his office projects generally incorporate outdoor spaces at every level, in the form of balconies and terraces, giving occupants access to fresh air throughout — a principle later borne out by the ventilation demands of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Academically, Schlapobersky started the urban design programme at University of the Witwatersrand with Nicholas Patricios in the early 1970s, introducing students to concepts and practices for work with greater societal impact at a larger scale, and transferring knowledge from the life and professional experience he had acquired overseas during and after his graduate studies.

Equally significant is Schlapobersky's moral leadership within the profession during one of South Africa's most difficult periods. In the mid-1980s, he was a founding member of Architects Against Apartheid, a collective of practitioners who refused to undertake work for the apartheid government and who actively sought to align the architectural profession with principles of justice, equality and social responsibility. This stance required personal and professional courage and sacrifice and helped shift the ethical discourse within South African architecture.

Schlapobersky's lifelong commitment to education and empowerment is exemplified by his foundational role at the Alexandra Arts Centre in Alexandra Township, Johannesburg. From 1987 to 1991, as a founder, teacher and manager of the Centre, he helped establish a diploma course in architectural design and drafting, enabling many young people to gain skills and formal accreditation and creating pathways to sustainable livelihoods and professional careers that would otherwise have been inaccessible.

In addition to these civic efforts, Schlapobersky demonstrated profound personal integrity and bravery by providing refuge in his home to the Reverend Frank Chikane from February to August 1987, when the apartheid security police sought Rev. Chikane. During this period, his home became a meeting place for key anti-apartheid leaders, including Murphy Morobe, Eric Molobi and Valli Moosa, who met every other week in his house and garden with Rev. Chikane, and who later played vital roles in guiding South Africa toward a peaceful post-apartheid future.

Schlapobersky's career exemplifies architectural excellence, social conscience, mentorship and lifelong dedication to practice, matched by a personal record of ethical leadership and courage during a difficult period in South Africa's history.

The SAIA Gold Medal for Architecture is awarded to Ivan Schlapobersky in recognition of his outstanding contribution to South African architecture, and of his moral leadership and personal courage during the struggle against apartheid.

Gold Medal for Architecture

George Frederick William Elphick



George Elphick receiving the SAIA Gold Medal for Architecture.

George Elphick's architecture is recognisable at a glance: strong concepts, carefully resolved, sustained across almost four decades of individual practice. It is that personal discipline, not simply a firm's house style, that qualifies him, on his own record as a designer, teacher and mentor, for the SAIA Gold Medal for Architecture, the Institute's highest individual honour.

Born in Harrismith in 1958, Elphick studied architecture at the University of Natal, graduating in 1982 and earning both an Emma Smith and a Geoffrey le Sueur scholarship for the traditional postgraduate 'Grand Tour'. After training as an associate at Johnson Murray Architects, he struck out on his own account in 1987, entering private practice and almost immediately finding himself overwhelmed with work, a problem that led to his introduction to Nick Proome. The two founded Elphick Proome Architects (EPA) in 1989, beginning, by their own account, on 'work at risk'.

In the thirty years since, Elphick has personally carried a design authorship across large corporate offices, mixed-use developments, high-rise apartments, and numerous private residential and interior commissions in seven African countries, while remaining continuously engaged in architectural education: he has served as design critic at five South African universities over a 25-year period, passing his design discipline directly on to successive generations of students. It is a discipline he

traces to a single conviction — inscribed, fittingly, on a lintel of EPA's own Westway studio — that 'simple does not mean easy'.

That conviction is best read in the buildings Elphick designed to house his own practice, each one peer-awarded in turn: his own house and the Action Bolt factory in Westville-North in 1991; the Tollgate premises in 1993, built hard against the freeway and turning a deliberately solid face to the noise; and EPA Studio in Westville, which in 2007 and 2008 earned both a SAIA KZN Regional Award and a Corobrik SAIA Award of Merit, followed by a SAIA Award of Excellence — the Institute's highest project accolade. Elphick has extended the same conviction into a personal ethic of sustainability, positing that the cost should not be a deciding factor because, ultimately, 'we have to maintain the planet', and that sensible, intelligent design can produce sustainable buildings at no more than the cost of conventional ones.

That same design conviction underlies Elphick's most recent, and most visible, achievement: the Nelson Mandela Cruise Terminal in Durban. A major work of public infrastructure, it has become the most decorated project of his career to date, recognised, among others, with a Rethinking the Future (RTF) RTF Global Award for transportation architecture, a Steel Awards Best Regional Project, and a 2025 SCAPE Award commendation as flagship build of the decade. Those honours, arriving more than three decades after Elphick's first Award of Merit, are less a departure than a continuation: the same rigorous, self-possessed design conviction, now applied at the scale of a national gateway. Despite an international portfolio now spanning Mauritius, Kenya, Lesotho, and beyond, Elphick continues to make time for student mentorship and for service on the KwaZulu-Natal regional committee of the Institute.

The SAIA Gold Medal for Architecture is awarded to George Elphick in recognition of a personal record of design distinction sustained across four decades, carried into architectural education for 25 of those years, and now measured in a national landmark as much as in a modest studio in Westville

Gold Medal for Architecture

Nicholas Mallory Proome



Nick Proome at the 2026 SAIA honours presentation.

Nicholas (Nick) Proome has spent almost four decades building a personal reputation for design discipline, technical command, and quiet consistency, qualities substantial and long enough now to be judged for the SAIA Gold Medal for Architecture, the Institute's highest individual honour.

Born in 1959 in Choma, Zambia, Proome earned his Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Natal, graduating in 1987. He had already begun his professional training in 1981 at MLH & Hamlin, rising through the practice to become an associate by 1988, a grounding that gave him early, hands-on exposure to the coordination demands of large, complex buildings. It was this capability, in particular his skill at steering projects from inception through implementation on work requiring extensive coordination across consultants and stakeholders, that would come to define his individual contribution to practice. When George Elphick, then overwhelmed with his own work, reached out, Proome recognised that such an opportunity rarely comes twice. In 1989, the two established Elphick Proome Architects (EPA).

Proome developed particular expertise in the master planning of medical and educational institutions and in the design of hospitals and hotels, building types that demand the coordination skills he had honed early in his career, in which clinical, operational, and regulatory requirements must be resolved alongside architectural ambition. That discipline was evident from the outset: by 1991, EPA had already earned peer-acknowledged awards of merit for two buildings, a pattern of recognition that would come to characterise the practice he co-led.

The firm's growth has been symbolized by the design of its own premises, shaped under Proome's direction alongside Elphick's: the Tollgate offices in 1993, built hard against the freeway; and EPA Studio in Westville, which carries a line attributed to Le Corbusier on its lintel, 'simple does not mean easy', and which earned the SAIA Award of Excellence, in 2008.

The Investec regional headquarters in Umhlanga, co-authored by George Elphick, followed with a further SAIA Award of Excellence in 2012, proof that the standard Proome had helped establish in the practice's early years had, by then, become entirely reliable. Proome has also built a parallel career as a successful architect-developer, taking on the risk and responsibility of development alongside design — a pairing rarely found in the profession, and one that reflects the breadth of his ambition for the practice and for the city.

Among the projects Proome has designed, two stand out for the recognition they have earned in their own right: the Unilever Indonsa facility in Durban, awarded a SAIA KZN Commendation, and Oceans in Umhlanga, honoured with an African Property Award and, in 2023, a South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA) Award for Best Mixed-Use Development. The Oceans project has played a significant role as a catalyst for the rejuvenation of Umhlanga village.

That standard has since travelled well, with work built and recognised in Mauritius and across the African continent, and a body of work published not only in local journals but selected by the authors of international books and featured on ArchDaily.

The SAIA Gold Medal for Architecture is awarded to Nick Proome in recognition of a track record of personal design distinction built over almost four decades, from early technical grounding through to sustained recognition at the highest levels of the profession.

Inaugural Gold Medal of Architecture (Practice)

Stefan Antoni Olmesdahl Truen Architects [SAOTA]



SAOTA recipients at the 2026 SAIA honours presentation with past-president Janet Saaiman Inset: Phillippe Fouché

Since its establishment in Cape Town in 1986, Stefan Antoni Olmesdahl Truen Architects [SAOTA] has developed a distinguished body of work characterised by exceptional spatial quality, rigorous design intelligence and a profound sensitivity to place, landscape, climate, light and inhabitation. Its

architecture has evolved from a distinctly South African foundation into a coherent yet adaptable approach that responds meaningfully to diverse cultures and contexts across the world.

The practice's contribution extends beyond individual buildings. Through successive generations of architects, SAOTA has established a collective culture in which design excellence, critical enquiry, collaboration and mentorship are sustained and renewed. Its institutional resilience, commitment to professional development and structured succession have created a practice capable of enduring beyond its founders while retaining a clear architectural identity.

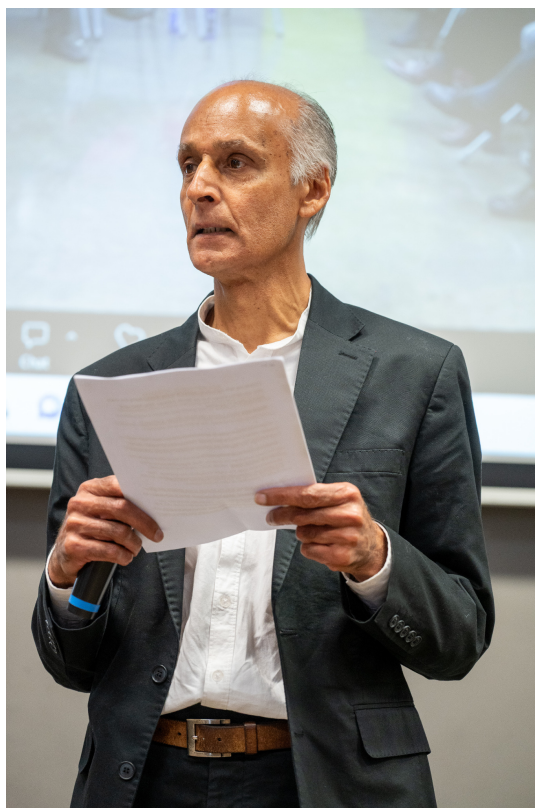
From Cape Town and across six continents, SAOTA has demonstrated that an internationally influential architectural practice can be built and sustained in South Africa. Its global work has provided South African architects with opportunities to engage internationally while remaining rooted in Cape Town, contributing to the retention and development of architectural talent within the country.

Through an extensive and diverse body of work, from private houses and hospitality projects to educational and community architecture, SAOTA has consistently demonstrated the capacity of architecture to respond with clarity, generosity and imagination to its physical and cultural context. Its pro bono work and investment in bursaries, internships and emerging professionals further reflect a commitment to the future of the profession and to widening access to architectural education and opportunity.

The SAIA Gold Medal for Architecture is awarded to Stefan Antoni Olmesdahl Truen Architects [SAOTA] in recognition of forty years of outstanding collective architectural achievement, for establishing a distinctive and internationally influential architectural practice from South Africa, and for an enduring contribution to the advancement, development and global recognition of South African architecture.

Gold Medal of Distinction

Ismail Cassimjee



Ismail Cassimjee at the 2026 SAIA honours presentation.

Ismail Cassimjee has spent a lifetime treating buildings as archaeology — reading what a place already holds, in memory, material and use, before deciding what it actually needs. Co-founder, with his brother Haroon, of Ismail Cassimjee Architects (ICA) and Urban Designers, a practice that began, by their own account, 'in their parents' garage' in 1984, Cassimjee has spent over four decades applying that instinct across Pietermaritzburg and the wider KwaZulu-Natal region, in work spanning master planning, public buildings, healthcare facilities, commercial development, and the restoration of the city's historic fabric.

That instinct showed itself early. Returning to the Church Street neighbourhood he had grown up in, Cassimjee led the restoration of a small mosque that apartheid-era development freezes had placed off-limits for repair. The work went ahead quietly, funded by two brothers from the community who gave up building their own home to save it instead, and was completed at a point when, as one contractor on site put it, prayer alone seemed to be holding the structure together. Cassimjee drew the mosque's pattern work directly from a Quranic verse on light, reading its numerology into the geometry of the screen itself — an early, unpublicised project that nonetheless set the template for everything that followed.

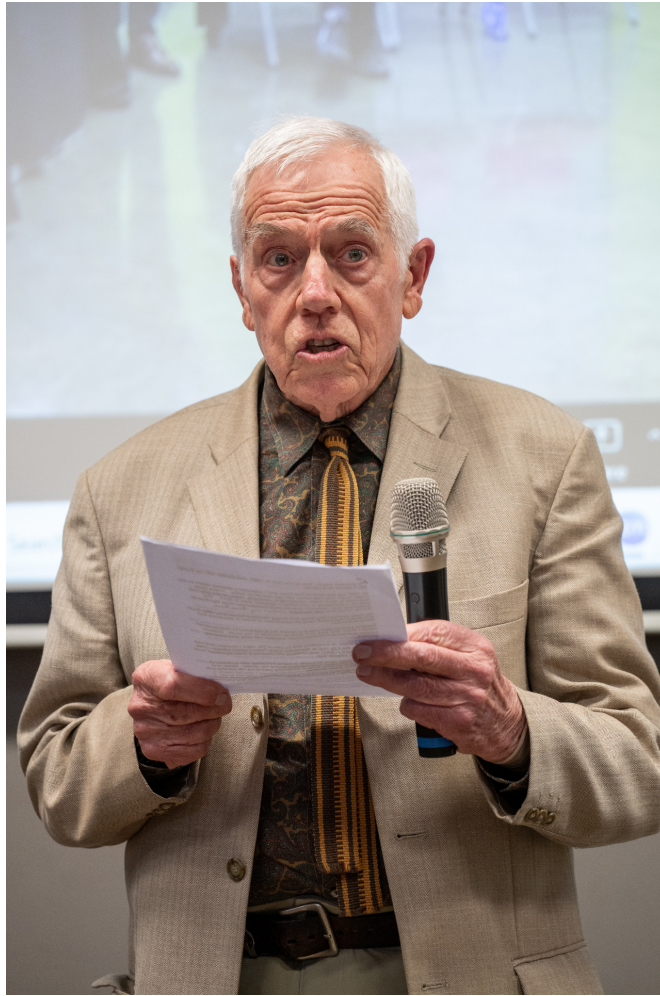
He later restored Pietermaritzburg's old Magistrate's Court, a civic building carrying the added historical weight of having held Nelson Mandela overnight following his capture, treating the building's political and architectural history as inseparable. At Villa Senusi, restored and extended for the Ingonyama Trust Board and the late King Goodwill Zwelithini, his practice again balanced heritage fabric against a demanding new institutional brief, placing ICA at the centre of one of the region's most significant cultural commissions.

Most recently, Fourways Crossing — awarded the SA KZN Special Mention Award in 2025 — distilled that same philosophy under real pressure. Faced with a family-owned property in disrepair and a shoestring post-pandemic budget, Cassimjee's team chose adaptive reuse over demolition wherever possible, salvaging brick from the buildings they could not save — bricks that had themselves originally been fired barely 600 metres away, at Pietermaritzburg's historic brickworks. He has described the ambition simply as turning a shoestring budget into a golden thread; the result is a small, lively precinct of independent tenants now genuinely woven into the neighbourhood's daily life. This conservation-led body of work has been recognised repeatedly over four decades — from the SAIA Conservation Award in 1989, through three Pietermaritzburg Heritage Society awards in a single year (2016), to the SAIA KZN Award in 2019.

The SAIA Gold Medal of Distinction is awarded to Ismail Cassimjee in recognition of a four-decade career that has treated the conservation and renewal of Pietermaritzburg's built heritage as inseparable from the practice of architecture itself, and for his lasting contribution to design excellence across KwaZulu-Natal.

Gold Medal of Distinction

John William Linsingen Rennie



John Rennie at the 2026 SAIA honours presentation.

Over more than five decades, John Rennie has been a pioneering force in the field of architectural conservation, bringing exceptional rigour, scholarship and meticulous attention to the understanding, recording and protection of South Africa's historic buildings and places.

Following postgraduate studies in Conservation at the University of York, Rennie introduced rigorous fabric-level analysis and international conservation principles to South African practice. His work has helped establish a more scholarly and authentic approach to heritage conservation, grounded in careful research, documentation and respect for the historic fabric of buildings and precincts.

His landmark 1978 Buildings of Central Cape Town survey remains an essential reference for heritage practitioners and has made a lasting contribution to the understanding and conservation of the city's architectural heritage. Through his practice, teaching and mentorship, he has further influenced generations of architects and conservation professionals.

A committed educator, scholar and professional leader, Rennie has served the architectural and heritage community through numerous professional and cultural organisations. His contribution has

been recognised through the Simon van der Stel Gold Medal and the Molteno Gold Medal, among other honours.

His enduring legacy lies not only in the buildings and precincts he has helped protect, but in the rigorous methods, knowledge and professional values he has passed on to successive generations of practitioners.

The SAIA Gold Medal of Distinction is awarded to John Rennie in recognition of an outstanding and lasting contribution to architectural conservation, heritage practice, education and the protection of South Africa's built environment.

Gold Medal for Distinction

Petrus Cornelius (Piet) Louw



Piet Louw at the 2026 SAIA honours presentation.

Over more than four decades, Petrus Cornelius (Piet) Louw has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to architectural excellence, intellectual leadership and the advancement of the profession. Rooted in the Cape modernist tradition and informed by his association with Roelof Uytenbogaardt, his work is distinguished by intellectual rigour, humility, humanism and a profound sensitivity to place, landscape and culture.

As an architect, planner and urban designer, and through more than 35 years of professional practice, Piet Louw has made significant contributions across the scales of building, neighbourhood, city and region. His longstanding collaboration with David Dewar has advanced influential approaches to human-centred urbanism, environmental stewardship, heritage and the creation of equitable and resilient settlements across Southern Africa.

His contribution extends beyond practice. Through teaching, examining, mentoring, professional leadership and participation in architectural discourse, he has influenced generations of architects, planners and urban designers, fostering intellectual curiosity, ethical practice and a deep sense of social responsibility.

Piet Louw's enduring legacy lies not only in the quality of his work, but in the generosity of his mentorship, the integrity of his professional service and his unwavering commitment to a more humane, sustainable and contextually responsive built environment.

The SAIA Gold Medal of Distinction is awarded to Piet Louw in recognition of a distinguished lifetime of service and an exceptional contribution to architecture, urban design, planning and education, and the advancement of the architectural profession across the Southern African region.

SAIA Life Membership

Aloth Usher Stratford



Al Stratford receiving SAIA Life Membership.

Al (Aloth) Stratford is a multi-skilled figure who built his understanding of architecture through practical, hands-on experience in the construction and manufacturing sectors. He registered as an architect in 2001; one of his early projects, Stratford's Guesthouse, received a SAIA Award of Merit. He went on to serve as President of the SAIA Border Kei Region and on the SAIA National Board for nine years, including a term as SAIA President, during which he initiated a turnaround strategy focused on transformation, corporate governance and harmonising the Institute's constitution with these values.

Over a career spanning fifty years, Stratford transitioned into entrepreneurship and industrial design, becoming an award-winning figure in architectural, product and furniture design. He holds several patents and won the Design Indaba 2013 Innovation Award. He is best known in South Africa for his

development of innovative building technology, in particular the award-winning WINBLOK® pre-cast concrete window system.

Stratford grew up on a farm in the Fort Jackson area near East London in the Eastern Cape, where he attended school, studied motor mechanics, and learnt technical drawing at the East London Technical College. His first employment was as a structural steel detailer, moving on to reinforced concrete structures. Studying architectural books in the municipal library in his off-duty time, he built the Ave houses in Gonubie in 1973. In 1974 he joined the multi-professional firm Zakrzewski Associates in Durban, where his interest in architecture developed further. He then moved to the Urban Foundation, focusing on low-cost housing, where he came to see architecture, in his own words, as 'a human thing: an expression of who you are'. In 1979 he returned to East London and designed a house for his family that extensively used block windows — a project that led directly to his development of the Winblok® in 1982.

Stratford continues to advocate for change within the profession. He has written a manifesto on spatial transformation, arguing that South Africa's planning deadlock stems from the exclusion of the 'right' professions from the decision-making table, and proposing that SAIA reimagine itself as an architect of a post-apartheid spatial reality — equipping the next generation of architects to improve the country's living landscapes.

Stratford's career reflects a rare combination of practical building experience, design innovation and sustained institutional service to SAIA, including nine years of service at national level.

SAIA Life Membership is awarded to Al Stratford in recognition of his contribution to architectural and industrial design, his invention of the Winblok® building system, and his sustained leadership of the Institute, including as President.

The following awards were made, although the recipients were unable to attend. Further photo opportunities will be made.

SAIA Patron of Architecture

Emeritus Professor David Dewar

Over more than five decades, Emeritus Professor David Dewar has profoundly influenced the way architects, planners and urban designers understand the relationship between people, place and the built environment. Through teaching, research, writing, professional practice and public advocacy, he has championed humane, equitable and spatially coherent cities grounded in dignity, accessibility, public space and opportunity.

His pioneering scholarship and advocacy have shaped generations of built environment professionals and contributed significantly to national thinking on housing, settlement transformation, urbanisation, mobility, spatial inequality and the public realm.

A distinguished educator, scholar, practitioner and public intellectual, Professor Dewar has consistently advanced architecture and planning as disciplines in service of the common good. His lifelong commitment to social transformation and the creation of better places has left an exceptional and lasting legacy in South Africa and beyond.

The SAIA Patron of Architecture is awarded to Emeritus Professor David Dewar in recognition of an outstanding lifetime contribution to architecture and its allied disciplines, and for advancing the role of architecture in the service of society.

Gold Medal for Architecture

François Hugo Pienaar

François Hugo Pienaar's academic foundation was itself a mark of exceptional distinction. Graduating cum laude from the University of Cape Town (UCT), he was awarded scholarships in his first and third years, the John Perry Prize for best third-year student, the class medal for best studio work, and the Helen Gardner travel prize. The Sir Robert Kotze scholarship — awarded to UCT's most distinguished graduate across all faculties — facilitated study at the University of Pennsylvania under Louis I. Kahn.

His work shows sustained commitment to civic architecture, including the Johannesburg Art Gallery extension, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government Complex and the Ekurhuleni Council Chamber, reconciling institutional dignity with architectural innovation. His contribution to urbanism is equally significant: his urban design for the Sandton CBD and subsequent design of Nelson Mandela Square established the nucleus of one of Africa's leading commercial centres, while the Leonardo Tower became both the culmination of a long client relationship and a continental landmark.

He is also known for his profound knowledge of Japanese architecture and culture, reflected in the design of his family house, which still stands as a testimony to a harmonious and sophisticated domestic architecture, strengthening the relationship between interior and exterior spaces with sculptured zen gardens and intimate, sensitively crafted interiors.

His influence has also been pedagogical: decades of mentorship within his practice inspired generations of architects at Meyer Pienaar and Co-Arc International, while invited lectures at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Cordoba carried South African architectural thought abroad.

His award-winning work has carried South African practice onto the international stage, with built and competition work in Iran, Hong Kong, Botswana, Nigeria, Ghana and Argentina, documented in more than twenty architecture books, including Sir Bannister Fletcher's *A History of Architecture*, the International Union of Architects (UIA) survey of seminal twentieth-century African projects, and Frampton and Kultermann's *World Architecture: A Critical Mosaic*.

His mentorship of younger architects, leadership of a SAIA study tour to Japan, service on competition juries and University Inspection Boards, and presentations at the Louis Kahn retrospective in Philadelphia further demonstrate his commitment to architectural education. The

enduring quality of his work is confirmed by numerous SAIA Awards of Merit, conservation awards, Gauteng Institute for Architecture (GIFA) awards and international recognition received over decades — and, more importantly, by buildings that continue serving their users while retaining relevance across changing contexts.

The SAIA Gold Medal for Architecture is awarded to François Hugo Pienaar in recognition of a distinguished body of civic, commercial and residential architecture, a sustained contribution to architectural education, and the international recognition his work has brought to South African practice.

Emeritus Professor Lucien Paul le Grange

Throughout a distinguished career spanning more than five decades, Emeritus Professor Lucien le Grange has made an enduring contribution to the understanding and advancement of South Africa's built environment. As an architect, urban designer, architectural historian, academic and author, he has brought intellectual rigour, historical insight and critical reflection to the profession.

Through his teaching at the University of Cape Town, his scholarship and publications, and his continued professional practice, Professor le Grange has influenced generations of architects and enriched the discourse surrounding South African architecture and urbanism.

His seminal research and documentation of the Mission Towns and District Six, together with his urban design work and projects including the Nelson Mandela Gateway to Robben Island and the Prestwich Street Memorial, demonstrate a remarkable ability to engage complex historical, social and spatial conditions with sensitivity and clarity.

Professor le Grange's lifelong commitment to education, research, practice and public discourse has strengthened the cultural and intellectual standing of architecture and expanded its relevance within society.

The SAIA Gold Medal of Distinction is awarded to Emeritus Professor Lucien Paul le Grange in recognition of an exceptional and sustained contribution to architectural scholarship, education, urban design and the advancement of the architectural profession in South Africa.

ENDS

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