

# Architect receives award for sustainable design

Architect Jhono Bennet, who graduated with distinction from the University of Pretoria with a professional master's degree in architecture in 2011, was the national winner of the fifth annual Cement and Concrete Institute Sustainable Design Competition. He received the award at AZA 2012, the biennial festival of the South African Institute of Architects, in partnership with the Cape Town Institute for Architecture and Architecture ZA.NOW.

Since the world's population is increasingly moving towards urban environments, it is necessary for design to focus on imagining better African cities and urban systems. The theme of the Cement and Concrete Institute's competition for 2012 was therefore *Future African City*. The adjudicators were looking specifically for a design intervention using concrete or cementitious products that provide insight and solutions to real-world challenges.

Bennet's entry was based on the project that formed part of his postgraduate studies, *Platforms of engagement: A process of critical engagement with a developing context*. His point of departure was that the South African population has been experiencing an unprecedented rate of urbanisation that has left government bodies struggling to meet the qualitative and infrastructural demands of the emergent sector in undeveloped areas.

His entry focused on the intensive networks found in these developing areas of vulnerability, which display



→ Jhono Bennet, winner of the Cement and Concrete Institute Sustainable Design Competition for 2012.

strong cohesion due to activities surrounding the production process. He presented the premise that in order to intervene architecturally, designers should critically engage these networks through participative processes of research, design and ideally construction. ➔

The 21st century will not be dominated by America or China, Brazil or India, but by the city. In an age that appears increasingly unmanageable, cities, rather than states, are becoming the islands of governance on which the future world order will be built.

## Joint first place for two UP teams

The annual Murray & Roberts Des Baker Architecture Student Design Competition is a highlight on the calendar of the Department of Architecture. This year, its students' hard work was rewarded when the judges awarded three joint first prizes, two of which went to teams from the University of Pretoria. The first team comprised Christopher MacClements and Johann Wiese, while the second team comprised Alex Becker, Justin Coetzee and Rikus de Kock. These students are all third-year BSc (Architecture) students at the University of Pretoria.