



## THE WALL, EXPLORING THE LEGACY OF TECTONICS

The focus of the Des Baker Architectural Student Competition for 2006 was on the legacy of tectonics in architecture. The brief required students to explore tectonics as a constructional craft and the realisation of "architecture as a catalyst for the needs and aspirations of a South African community through the use of locally available resources."



The winning project was announced at the awards presentation event of the Architectural Students' Congress 2006, held at the Voortrekker Monument and hosted by the Tshwane University of Technology. *The Wall* was designed by Lizelle Cloete, Mathew Bosch, Marco Freeks and Donavan Gottsman.

The wall project challenges the idea of a wall as a barrier and rather addresses it as a connector and as a possible place for a range of functions. This design accommodates children's play equipment, seating areas and planters. It will also be used to portray clay tiles that have been produced by architecture students in collaboration with children from a local school. It is to be positioned on an easily visible site on a main road and will become an important feature and gathering place in the neighbourhood.

This project is to be implemented as part of an ongoing research project funded by the University of Pretoria. The

research project is entitled *Cultural and technological transfer in partnership with small-scale, local construction industries in Nellmapius and Mamelodi*. The students will be implementing the project through the University of Pretoria's Unit for Development Support.

The intention is to build this multi-functional wall in collaboration with community members, volunteers and employed labourers. Students will build the project in collaboration with the local community and Batho Ba Kgoro, a non-governmental organisation that operates in the area and has a lease on the land which has been designated for a community centre.

They will, as far as possible, use locally sourced material and skills. The project will act as a showcase for alternative ways of using local materials and technologies. The students are attempting to keep the project alive as an ongoing process and as a catalyst for future developments in the area. 📍

