

UCT's Mpho Sephelane named national winner of the 35th Corobrik Student Architecture Awards

Mpho Sephelane from the School of Architecture at the University of Cape Town was announced the winner of the 2021 Corobrik Student Architecture Awards at a special event in Johannesburg on Wednesday, 8 June. The awards ceremony hosted all seven regional winners and the heads of school from their respective universities, together with leaders from the architectural fraternity, in person for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic.



National winner Mpho Sephelane and Corobrik chairman Peter du Trevou

Sephelane received a R70,000 cash prize for her winning thesis entitled 'Re[covering] Place: African ways of seeing, thinking and making as a call to rethink and remake places in cities'. The judges' citation stated that Sephelane "shifted our mindsets to trust our heritage to guide us and to be truly authentic. She narrated the use of the Basotho blanket as a transformative and imaginative symbol of identity and relevance".

Said Sephelane: "The opportunity afforded to me has validated a lot of what my fellow students, especially people who connect with their culture, have been struggling with, and that is the issue of translating who they are and what their culture entails and the values they bring to their everyday lives and professions.

"The journey is really a beginning for me as I am excited to continue to collaborate and learn from other cultures about such ideas of translation and preservation."



Burkina Faso's award-winning architect returns home a hero

Thiam Ndiaga and Anne Mmault 6 Jun 2022



The seven regional winners presented their theses to an esteemed panel of judges in a Johannesburg studio during May, from where the final winner was selected. The judges were Ludwig Hansen from Ludwig Hansen Architects + Urban Designers, Rahdia Parker from Archi Cape Town, and Adwoa Agyei, director: physical development services at the City of Tshwane.

A special prize for the best use of clay face brick in a project was awarded to Wian Jordaan from the Department of Architecture at the University of Pretoria.

Click [here](#) to view the winning projects.