

# DESIGNERS WHO PROVED THEIR METTLE

The *Collins Essential English Dictionary* describes the word 'mettle' as "...the courage to carry on ... attesting to spirit, nerve, spunk, heart, bravery". During the past year there were South African designers across the board who proved their mettle and came out on top of their game, locally and internationally.

To celebrate the spirit of excellence, innovation and tenacity, *DESIGN>* compiled a broad overview of those designers who have won awards, received accolades from media and clients alike and showed that design is thriving in South Africa.



INDEX: AWARD exhibition 2007, Copenhagen, Denmark. Photo by Jessica Haye & Clark Hsiao

## Design to improve life > INDEX: AWARD

The INDEX: AWARD, the largest monetary design award in the world, is dedicated to change global mindsets by showing and exploring how design can improve life. INDEX: does not categorise design according to traditional labels – communication, industrial, interior and fashion design – since these do not fully reflect the interdisciplinary approach employed by most leading designers and design thinkers. INDEX: rather categorises and evaluates nominations according to aspects that impact on human life; Body, Home, Work, Play and Community.

A record 714 projects have been nominated for the INDEX: AWARD 2009. Of these, 36 are from South Africa. Nominations are scrutinised in a two-tiered adjudication process starting in February and concluding in June. The winners of the INDEX: AWARD 2009 will be announced in August.

The South African nominations are:

- > **Body:** Eyeborn; The Freeplay Fetal Heart Rate Monitor; WITS Paediatric HIV Clinics corporate Identity (REX); Kiddo Safety-Finger Toothbrush; Lodox Statscan; 4 Secs Condom Applicator.
- > **Home:** Butte Torch Tongs; Nested Bunk Beds; Michaella Janse van Vuuren utility artwork; Handle Hands; Zodiac G4; The Zulu Mama; Heath Nash; Andile Dyalvane Clay Ceramics; Stone Fruit Floors; EZWaste; Cadac Carri Chef Grill; Avoova ostrich eggshell mosaics; African Allsorts; Arivi paraffin stove; Design Indaba 10x10 house/MMA Single Family Home.
- > **Work:** TwisterTrac vertical shaft impact crusher; Shosholoza Heavy Duty Mining Gumboot; Wiremate Wizard; Hot Platinum ICON3CS; Cattellevator; Body Glove Blue Sport; Orga8 and Orga15 Modular Filing System.
- > **Play:** JS 1 Revelation sailplane; FX Pedal self-assembly toy car.
- > **Community:** Greenside Design Center Community Development Programme; Amnesty International's 'Make Some Noise' commercial by Tennant Mckay; The Modular Traffic Light System; Streetwires; and Woolworths Making the Difference Through Design project.

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