

How does your cultural footprint look?



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The annual Ministerial Arts and Culture, Language, Museum, Heritage, Libraries and Archive Awards

Ceremony is a gala event for the winners in various categories in the arts and culture landscape throughout the Western Cape.

As discussed in a previous article by the assistant director of general services of the Provincial Library Service in the Western Cape, Neville Adonis (CL, Jan/Feb 2010, pg 45), a decision was made this year to provide young and upcoming artists and designers with an opportunity to create a trophy for each category for the 2010 awards. The visual arts genre developer of the department thus saw this as an opportunity to collaborate with the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) Design Institute's students. The brief was in keeping with the overall theme of the 2010

awards ceremony, *Rather a cultural than a carbon footprint: keep it green and organic.*

Students could choose from any of the 28 categories to design trophies according to their own interpretations. They then had to present the final product, and share with the team members on the MEC Awards Project their motivation and intellectual thoughts around their individual designs. (This project formed part of the 2009 second year students' curriculum and they were marked on the results).

The visual language and the interpretation of the brief resulted in products of excellence in design and aesthetics. Organic and recycled material was used according to each individual category, and the quality and standard of the designs and craftsmanship of the students is a feather in CPUT's hat. The collaboration between the department and CPUT has the potential to be continued for future design students of the university which in turn could lead to job opportunities, as students can add this assignment to their CVs.

The collaboration with the tertiary institution gave students the opportunity to showcase their work and talent whilst providing the department with access to a source of limitless designs that can be utilised, not only for the awards project, but also in other genres, for example, craft.

Below we feature a selection of the categories and trophy designs together with the reasoning behind each design.

Arts and Culture

Visual arts

The design is inspired by the circular logo of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport. It incorporates a similar colour combination, red and yellow, in the design by using indigenous yellowwood with red copper mesh. Considering our diverse cultural heritage, the yellowwood



piece represents the 'award' or 'trophy' that a Khoisan would proudly bring back as proof of an achievement in the hunting field.

The spiral shape of the trophy also symbolises the Cape Dutch architecture found in the Western Cape. The visual arts is an extensive field and therefore the red copper mesh symbolises the richness of our culture and diversity of visual arts interwoven as a whole.



Dance

When designing the dance trophy the goal was to maintain a South African feel and to capture the elegance and skill involved in dancing.

A figure in elegant stance depicts ability and

posture. It is an organically shaped figure that stirs one's imagination and is hand carved. African rosewood was chosen for its unique red colour and grain.

The figure is complimented with a brass shadow-shaped plate that shows the reflection of the dancing figure. This brass plate is mounted on a base made from beechwood, used for its light colour to emphasise the rosewood figure.

The trophy is eco-friendly in the sense that it is created from natural materials.



Drama

The classic drama symbol forms the foundation of this trophy. Expressing the fundamental reasoning behind the design, it adds to the contemporary feel of the piece. The award modernises the classic ideals of drama, symbolising new ideas and

the pioneers in performance. The vertical expanse of the two masks characterises the grandeur of the field while also hinting at African-styled masks and shields. The natural materials of wood and ceramics articulate the intuitiveness of drama as well as highlighting society's need to adopt green resources.



Craft

The design was inspired by the concept of craft, drawing thumb-nails and 1:1 scale sketches just looking at abstract and fabricated shapes.

The trophy has to portray the feeling of craft but not being craft itself. It is made from alu-

minium tubing and silver wiring which rest on a strong, aromatic hardwood base. The silver wire frame symbolises the wirework of craftsmen one would find in and around the Western Cape. The hammered-out finish at the top-back of the trophy symbolises the character of hand-made crafts.



Literary arts

This trophy represents the structure and formality of language combined with a free-flowing creative side. The symmetry along one axis and the defined lines lend structure to the piece while curves create the free-flowing side of literature. The design was inspired by

the shape of a pen touching paper and a figure reading a book. The wooden pieces were made out of solid beechwood which contrasts with the polished stainless steel.

Museums

Best museum

The inspiration behind the trophy was to produce something which resembles an old monolith or planted stone similar to stones found all around the world planted by ancient people. This trophy was



carved out of marble and is simply a manipulation of one of the most primitive mediums, namely stone. In carving stone we acknowledge man's age-old need to manipulate nature and to create symbols of achievement. This trophy portrays the simple manipulation of nature to commemorate the achievements of

one or more individuals.

Best new museum project

This trophy is designed to have substance and meaning, exploring the meaning behind museums and its importance in our society. The use of sectional pieces of a wild olivewood tree is intended to lend

connotations of time, age, heritage and wisdom to the trophy. Its shape is representative of a spinning globe, which ties into the ideas of sustainability, humanity and the natural world.



Museum volunteer of the year

The three curved figures symbolise the representation of humans in all sizes coming together to achieve a goal in an altruistic manner for the good of a community. The goal is represented by the ball supported

in the centre of the three figures. This award celebrates the person who is most giving in selfless work towards a museum and how he/she has helped to achieve a certain goal.

Language



Promotion of multilingualism through the official languages

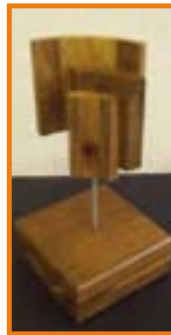
The glass fins represent unity in the spiral by bringing together all 11 languages, and sign language as the 12th official language. It has a central stylised figurine representing the bond between unity and multilingualism through the communication of our official languages.

from the ground resembles archaeology and palaeontology, digging from the earth. The Khoi and San drawings represent the meteorite category. The interconnection of the two elements represents the link between the past and the future.



Contribution to the promotion of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) resources in the Western Cape.

The natural wood symbolises the intangible heritage of the province, which, through the different levels of the design, presents the heritage. The various thicknesses, heights and colour indicate the different types of resources.



Archives

Best performing municipality/private firm in records management practices

The one right-sided beam evolved from the concept of a shield; a shield being a symbol of protection. This is fitting as the archives repository is a custodian of our national history. The left side takes the shape of a wound microfilm or recording tape, chosen because any documents stored will be 20 years or older; and during this time digital storage media were in its infancy. The glass piece is sandblasted with an image of the entrance of the Western Cape Archiving Repository.



reflection and emotion, it gives a sensation of celebration.



Outstanding achievement of a person challenged with a disability

The inner strength of a person challenged with disability is represented by the inner core of the award, which is made of a spiralling tower that is also a representation of the heights that have been and will be achieved by people challenged with

disabilities. The core of the award is surrounded by two glass figures that represent the outer fragility that is perceived by the surrounding world.

National and international award

The glass sphere with a swirl represents the world and the international society - global and connected. The national society is represented by the spring. The national and international society cannot exist without each other - the one supports the other.



Life achievement award

The vertical movement depicted by the wood resembles goals that need to be reached or have already been accomplished. The beechwood represents the need for openness and acceptance in the world. The wood starts off as one piece and moves apart rapidly, showing the different choices and consequences made in a lifetime.



The different choices and consequences made in a lifetime.

MEC's special award

The main inspiration for this shape of silver spires is the urban landscape. This design is unique, which congratulates the receiver on his/her dedication, success and hard work. It recognises and reflects the effort that has been put in.



Heritage



Contribution to the built environment and cultural landscape of the Western Cape

The Western Cape cultural landscape has been built, changed, and is still evolving and changing from day to day. The three trees symbolise the growing of the built environment of the province.

Contribution to archaeological, paleontological or meteorite research (including rock art and management)

The starting point for this award was the Afrikaans language monument, which is part of our heritage and also symbolises the 'coming together' of different cultures. The inspiration was drawn from the shape of the base of the monument as well as stone tools and spear tips from the Khoi and San people. The marble arch protruding

Additional categories

Outstanding achievement of women in the arts and culture field

The design shows femininity as well as strength, power, patience, but still as delicate as a flower. If success shows growth,

