

**TIMBER FRAME BUILDERS CELEBRATES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR /Timber frame housing is the only answer to the mass housing crises**

“Timber frame housing is the only answer to the mass housing crises in South Africa, and indeed Africa”, is the message that was delivered at the Timber Frame Builders Association (TFBA) AGM by well known building conservationist and architect Robert Brusse.

The AGM and building awards took place at a black tie evening event at the historic Kelvin Grove Club, Rondebosch in Cape Town on the 20<sup>th</sup> March. Kelvin Grove is right next door to Newlands Cricket Stadium, so guests got caught up in fever of the test match which turned out to be an historic win for South Africa.

Before the formalities started, guests had the opportunity to browse through the portfolios of the 21 entries for the 2008/9 building awards, which showcased the crème-de-la crème of what the timber frame industry had to offer.

The formalities included the presentation of the financials for the previous year, which indicated sound financial management and an improvement on previous years, and the budget for 2009/2010 which allowed for an impressive increase in marketing spend for the regional chapters of the TFBA in order to grow membership. Jim Bunyan, TFBA stalwart and outgoing President provided an animated speech referring to the highlights of the previous year, and thanked Jenny de Waal, TFBA Office Administrator for her sterling work.

Looking forward, the TFBA Executive for 2009/10 was announced. The regional chairmen are Stuart Meiklejohn (Cape Peninsula), Werner Slabbert (Gauteng), Ken Haldane (Southern Cape), André Serfontein (Mpumalanga), Peter Bissett (KZN). Keith Rudd heads up the Technical and Training Portfolio and Gerard Busse the Marketing Portfolio. And finally, long serving Treasurer Leon Bekker was announced as the new National President for the next 2 years.

With the formalities over, special guest Robert Brusse presented a delightful and informative presentation on Wood and Iron Buildings – looking to the past to see what the future holds. Robert is founding member of the Seaview Conservation Group, which has committed itself to the conservation of the veritable treasure trove of wood and iron buildings in the southern suburbs of Durban. Many of these corrugated iron and timber buildings date back to the 1850's, and despite numerous owners and “modernization” over the years are still standing. A testimony to the longevity of the timber buildings. For their endeavours, Robert and his colleagues recently received the AMAFA Heritage KZN award for Contribution to the Conservation of the Local Heritage and Built Environment. One of the highlights of Robert's presentation was old brochures

from 1903/4 with various kit form homes, outbuildings and even churches that could be bought. A great marketing concept that could be used now more than a 100 years later.

“According to Robert, surely the solution to our housing crises would be to take a page out of history, and revisit timber and corrugated iron buildings, or at the very least cost effective timber frame units. Wouldn't you rather see one of these timber type units, than 1000's of unsightly looking concrete boxes dotted sprawled along the countryside, he asked.

It was then time for the highly anticipated section of the evening - the 2009 TFBA Building Awards, which were presented by Robert Brusse. He expressed a bit of disappointment at the number of entries considering the number of TFBA builder members. Architects in South Africa could do a lot more to promote the use of timber frame, and hence his desire to be more involved with the TFBA. This year two new categories were introduced: Category 5 – Structures larger than 220m<sup>2</sup>, and Category 6 - Commercial Buildings. Three levels of awards are awarded across all 6 categories, namely Gold, Silver and Bronze. Herewith the Gold Awards.

Category 1 – Decks & Boardwalk: Two gold awards were awarded. Recipients were Deck King and Town & Country Projects. Architects were Hannes Bouwer Architects and Cecelia Frazer respectively.



**Figure 1: Town & Country Projects - winners of a gold awards for deck built for House Obrey, Paternoster. From left to right: Johnny Rampslile and Grier Fisher , Robert Brusse and Jenny de Waal.**



**Figure 2: Deck King - winner of a gold award for a project in Noordhoek, Cape Town**

Category 2 – Alterations & Additions: A gold awarded to MBP Construction for Wilderness Heights Project and the architects Farrenkothen Architects

Category 3 – Structures smaller than 120m<sup>2</sup>: One gold awarded to Logo Homes for a house in Betty's Bay, and architect Alan Paine Designs.



**Figure 3: Gold Winner - Structures smaller than 120m<sup>2</sup> awarded to Logo Homes**

Category 4- Structures larger than 120m<sup>2</sup>: The only gold awards awarded to Timber Frame Technology for the Evergreen Adventure Estate, Swaziland. Architect Gitta Trading



**Figure 4: Gold award for structures larger than 120m<sup>2</sup>: unit at Evergreen Adventure Estate, Swaziland, built by Timber Frame Technology**

Category 5 – Structures larger than 220m<sup>2</sup>: One Gold Award for Logo Homes and the architect Alan Paine Designs for House McFarland, Somerset West.



**Figure 5- Gold Award to Logo Homes for Structures above 220m2. Winner is Logo Homes. Left to right: Ben Paine from Logo Homes, Jenny de Waal (TFBA), Robert Brusse and architect Alan Paine**



**Figure 6: House McFarlane - winner of gold award for structures above 220m2**

Category 6 – Commercial Buildings: This is a brand new category, and there was only one entry. In years to come more entries will be sure to be forthcoming. However, there was no doubt in the judges' minds that the entry was deserving of the gold award. It was awarded Keith Rudd Timber Homes for Tintswalo Atlantic Boutique Hotel, Hout Bay. The architect was Neil Hayes-Hill from Durban.



**Figure 7: Winner of gold award for Commercial Buildings – Tintswalo Atlantic Boutique Hotels, Hout Bay, built by Keith Rudd Timber Homes. Picture taken from the dining room, overlooking the main deck**

In closing, Timber Frame Builders were encouraged to involve their clients and project architects more and to invite them to next year's awards, because after all any building project is a team effort between the three parties. And if your building happens to be a winner – why not share the accolades with your partners in the project.

Contributed by:

Gerard Busse, Timber Frame Builders Association, Contact details:

Tel: 039 682 6019    fax: 039 682 6022    e-mail: [info@tfba.co.za](mailto:info@tfba.co.za)    website:  
[www.tfba.co.za](http://www.tfba.co.za)