



→ Heidi van Eeden with the model of her winning entry.

Alumna is Corobrik's Architectural Student of the Year

Heidi van Eeden (above), a UP alumna, has taken first place in Corobrik's 27th annual Architectural Student of the Year Award. This award is presented to the top master's degree graduate of the 2013 studio. It recognises the creative and technical talent of South Africa's top architecture students and serves to promote the advancement of design excellence nationally.

Heidi's master's dissertation was entitled "Machinarium: Architecture as a living machine, a 21st-century textile mill". It presents new ways of architectural place-making in a fast-changing world. The project explores the potential of the industry as urban catalyst with which to revive urban environments and reintegrate fragmented socio-ecological systems.

In an attempt to redefine the modern concepts of waste and combat the flood of pollution stemming from 20th-century industrialisation, the investigation is focused on restructuring the textile industry and is based in an "urban wasteland" – the Daspoort Wastewater and Sewage Treatment Works.

According to Heidi's dissertation, the site is reprogrammed as part

of a new industrial ecology, an architectural system that reuses wastewater and other untapped resources on site to produce textiles and algae-based dyes. By integrating local urban communities and natural ecosystems with this industrial space, a 21st-century textile mill is designed as a holistic environment that blurs distinctions between social, productive and natural space, and proves that there is productive value in the resources that are discarded as waste.

Edna Perez, one of Heidi's supervisors, pointed out that, in a world where architecture's ability to navigate an uncertain future is being questioned, Heidi explored one of the biggest challenges of our time – how to transform wasted sites, wasted structures and wasted land into places where life can flourish and evolve. 🌱