



→ *The Mining Industry Study Centre was developed to provide additional teaching and research facilities to engineering students. It forms part of a strategy to address the shortage of engineering skills in South Africa.*

Mining Industry Study Centre receives excellence award

The University of Pretoria once again showcased its excellent property development initiatives in the Innovative Excellence in Property Development Awards Competition 2014, presented by the South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA).

On 11 June 2014, SAPOA announced that the University's Mining Industry Study Centre had been nominated in the Refurbishments Category. The No. 1 Silo at the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront in Cape Town was crowned the overall winner.

This is not the first award to be presented to the University in this competition. In 2013, the Aula and Engineering 3 precinct won the Mixed-use Category.

Entries for these awards have rocketed by 65% in the past two years, demonstrating the value the industry attaches to these accolades. A multidisciplinary expert panel of judges, comprising leaders in their fields, decided on the award winners.

Among other things, the property developments are judged according to their economic and financial considerations, design concept and environmentally sustainable design. The panel evaluates all submissions in a first-round elimination process to select finalists in each category. SAPOA hosts an exhibition for the finalists, and announces the category winners at a convention. The winning projects in each category are presented in an electronic visual format, which are screened during the convention. All the finalists are also featured in an issue of *SA Property Review*.

"The winners highlight excellence in design and innovation. They meet today's challenges and tomorrow's needs and reflect the cutting edge of design in South Africa and globally," says Neil Gopal, CEO of SAPOA. ➔