

# SUSTAINABLE BUILDING *Best Practice Award*

**WINNER**

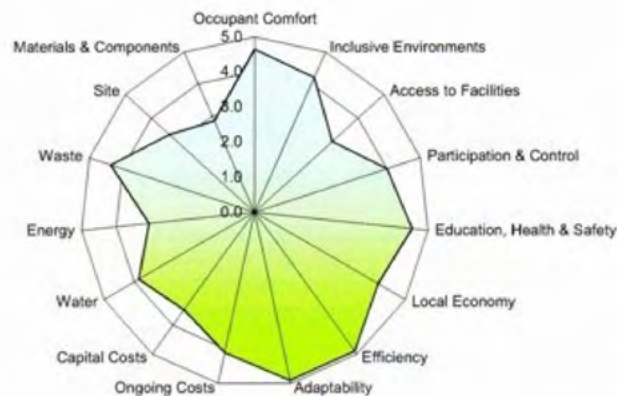
**Africa Region  
2004**

for projects that are  
noteworthy examples of sustainable building  
in Africa

**NEW FACILITIES FOR THE AFRICA CENTRE  
FOR HEALTH & POPULATION STUDIES  
MUTUBATUBA, KWAZULU NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA**

in the category

## **Commercial Projects**



**Social** 4.1

**Economic** 4.3

**Environmental** 3.5

**Overall** 4.0

President, Africa Union of Architects

President, SA Institute of Architects



# SUSTAINABLE BUILDING *Best Practice Award*

## CITATION

The Sustainable Building Best Practice Award (Africa region) 2004 is presented to the **NEW FACILITIES FOR THE AFRICA CENTRE FOR HEALTH AND POPULATION STUDIES, Mtubatuba, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa** in the category **Commercial Projects**.

The project is a medical research initiative, comprising both office and field based research into health and population issues, including HIV. The building is located in a 13ha rural setting close to the community being studied.

The adjudicators noted that the building, comprising four discrete office research “pods” displays a distinctive “African architecture” style and uses local skills. The 15m high water tower/solar chimney is central in contributing to the energy efficiency of the building and also makes a strong visual statement.

A strong aspect of the Africa Centre is the involvement of the community during design and construction and community projects around it such as murals, basket weaving and landscaping.

A feature of the project is solar control through the use of reed screens on the east and west elevation windows and courtyard planting with deciduous trees and creepers for summer shade and winter sun.

The adjudicators considered that there was a need for more information on how the ventilation tower operates and the environmental controls, bearing in mind the use of the building for health issues.

Overall, this is a well-presented project and a noteworthy example of sustainable building in the African context, deserving of a Best Practice Award.