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## UKZN ARCHITECTURE STUDENT JOINT WINNER IN TREEHOUSING COMPETITION



**Master's student in Architecture, Ms Ayla Harvey.**

Masters student in Architecture, Ms Ayla Harvey, has won joint first place in the TREEHOUSING International Wood Design Competition, tying with Koura Studios and ARUP Seattle from the United States.

More than 200 projects were entered for the competition – organised by Canada-based Design and Build Research School and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) - by teams from 60 countries.

The competition challenged architects to produce innovative and sustainable designs for a growing urban population in Africa and beyond. Architects were required to use any sustainably harvested wood material or product as the primary material for their designs.

Harvey was awarded the prize for her Jungle Gym design during the World Forestry Congress in Durban. Her high rise building design was a non-linear fractal structure open to multiple kinds of engagement and allowing for non-linear movement and collaboration. It promotes organic and creative lifestyles, open-mindedness and equality.

The jury, which included architects Mr Michael Green of Canada, Mr Andrew Waugh of Britain, and Mr Richard Stretton of South Arica, said Harvey's entry captured the dynamic spirit of urban life.

The jury appreciated the solution in the way in which it reinforced both the sense of community within the building and the opportunity for adaptive use over time. They commented: 'The solution is appropriate and in scale and in climatic response. The wood superstructure is playful and imaginative capturing the dynamic spirit of urban life'.

'It is quite overwhelming to win such a competition,' said Harvey. 'It is a big deal for me as it was on an international platform. As an up-and-coming architect, it gave me a chance to network and to view architecture from different perspectives.'

She also advised other Architecture students to enter as many competitions as possible to build up a portfolio and get a reputation as a budding young architect.

Melissa Mungroo