

Africa's challenge

The International Academy for Design and Health announces a major competition to design a 'Health Promoting Lifestyle Center' in South Africa. Apply for pre-qualification before 10 June; winners will be announced in Cape Town in October

Half of all deaths of children under the age of five occur in Africa, where only a few countries are able to spend the \$34-\$40 per person per year that WHO identifies as the minimum necessary to meet a population's basic healthcare needs. Over the next decade, it is estimated by the International Finance Corporation that \$25-\$30 billion of new investment will be needed in healthcare assets, including hospitals and clinics, to meet the growing demands of the healthcare market in sub-Saharan Africa.

The continuous improvement of the quality of life and wellbeing of all African citizens will be founded on the recognition that a healthy population is the foundation for social development and economic growth. It requires new perspectives that consider wellness factors to encourage innovative design for a healthy environment.

Design objectives for enhancing human health must facilitate an active lifestyle, enable the successful management of physical, psychological and emotional stress, and support mental and cognitive processing of information by stimuli in a variety of designed environments. Central to this is the development of a scientific research base that explores the application of a 'salutogenic' approach to health infrastructure – preventative care that moves the focus away from risk factors and the treatment of disease towards a holistic understanding of a healthy society in the African context.

A preventative vision for primary healthcare

A recent meeting between Dr Alan Dilani from the international Academy for Design and Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, health minister of South Africa and Dr Massoud Shaker, senior adviser to the health minister, resulted in an encapsulation of a vision for primary healthcare in South Africa – 'Health Promoting Lifestyle Centers' (HPLCs). These community HPLCs will focus mainly on primary healthcare, with a strong focus on health promotion, wellness, preventative care and early intervention – a salutogenic, rather than a curative, approach.

The HPLC should be friendly and welcoming, empowering the community towards self-care. It should clearly indicate a paradigm shift in healthcare facility design, showing a greater understanding of 'salutogenic' health and how the physical environment can be a valuable tool for preventative medicine and as a means of promoting and supporting health processes. Environmentally supportive and innovative design principles shall be at its forefront. It should therefore feature the following:

- health promotion/educational facilities, to introduce the examination of patients' lifestyles
- an outpatient area and other support facilities e.g. waiting areas, waste disposal and storage
- recreational infrastructure to support an active and healthy lifestyle
- mother and child facilities (pre-natal, delivery and post-natal)
- dental care facilities
- HIV and AIDS counselling facilities
- adolescent-friendly counselling areas for teens on issues of teen pregnancies, substance abuse, alcohol, self care etc
- environmentally friendly and well landscaped external

- features, including children's play areas, designed with a local cultural approach
- parking areas.

The designer should endeavour to create optimal and sustainable physical environments using indigenous architecture and local materials as much as possible, within stringent financial constraints and overall reduced operational and maintenance costs.

Qualification for applicants

The applicant shall demonstrate relevant in-depth experience and adequate skill in infrastructure design in the healthcare arena. A proven track record of successful, innovative healthcare facility design and planning is required. In addition:

- the consulting firm should indicate the qualifications and experience of at least two key staff to be responsible for the design proposal, including professional registration with relevant professional bodies
- key staff members need at least five years' post-graduate experience
- relevant research done on previous similar projects should be indicated
- the consulting firm should indicate the key staff members'/experts' knowledge of issues the client considers pertinent to the realisation of the HPLC
- any other supporting documentation for any claims for preference/consideration is also welcome.

How to submit an entry

The Statement of Qualification (SOQ) submittal shall consist of the following, in order:

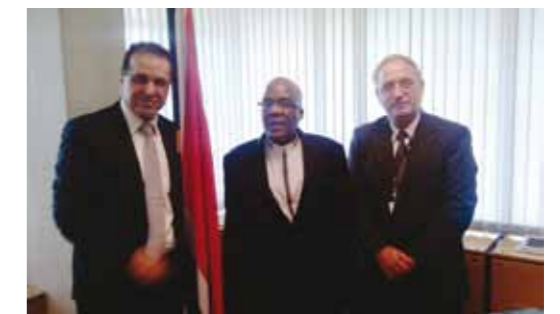
1. a letter of introduction and contact details
2. past performance information
3. qualifications and experience submission and any other relevant supplementary information
4. the approach paper/methodology.

Please submit SOQs by email to info@designandhealth.com, no later than 24 June 2011. Late or facsimiled submittals will not be considered.

We offer an equal opportunity to all able and competent consulting entities. Involvement of African-based consulting companies is encouraged to ensure local identities. Applicants who do not have operational offices in Africa are encouraged to participate, and will be required to indicate in their approach paper how the implementation phase of this project can be achieved should their proposal emerge as the winner of this competition. Joint-venture partnerships at project implementation stage with consultants with operational offices in Africa are required.

Pre-submission enquiries, and announcement of winners

Submit enquiries, questions, or comments to Prof. Alan Dilani, director general of the International Academy for Design & Health, at dilani@designandhealth.com. All requests for information or clarification must be submitted by 10 June 2011. Responses to questions or comments will be emailed to the individual applicants. No hard copy reply will be issued. A number of consultants shall be approved to participate in this competition and a reasonable fee will be paid for those participants. The winner will be announced by South Africa's health minister at the International Symposium on Design and Health, taking place from 25-26 October 2011 at Cape Town International Convention Center.



Above, l-r: IADH's Alan Dilani, South African health minister Aaron Motsoaledi and senior adviser Massoud Shaker (right). Top: Cape Town's Guga S'Thebe arts centre has a perfect sense of place

2011 deadlines

Deadline for pre-proposal enquiries	10 June
Deadline for submission of pre-qualification	24 June
Call for design proposals for HPLC by chosen consultants	10 July
Deadline for submission of design	15 September
Final evaluation by client representative	15 October
Announcement of competition winners at the Academy's Cape Town symposium	26 October



Top: South Africa's Health Promoting Lifestyle Centers (HPLCs) will focus mainly on primary healthcare. Above: Mexico's award-winning Centro de Rehabilitación de Infantil, a model of supportive design that could be replicated in Africa