

Ajuga project included in design programme

An initiative that was launched earlier this year by the Cipla Foundation that sees fire-resistant structures and crèches installed in informal settlements to combat the shack fire crisis, has been selected as an official, recognised project for inclusion in the World Design Capital 2014 Programme.



Following on the World Design Capital title awarded to Cape Town in 2012, the Ajuga project has been recognised in the Bridging the Divide category, which acknowledges projects that use design to bridge the historical divide between communities. Ajuga has been selected to take part in the World Design Capital 2014 Programme. As part of the selection, the project will not only gain recognition and acknowledgement for its design, but also gain access to the programme's worldwide network of creative stakeholders and role players.

Unique and effective

"Ajuga aims to build relationships with communities and corporate South Africa. We work with non-profit organisations and community leaders in informal settlements to identify vulnerable crèches that are in need of being replaced. We are exceptionally proud that this project is being recognised for its innovation and sustainable design," says Paul Miller, CEO at Cipla Medpro.

Designed by Cipla Foundation's managing trustee, David Grier, Ajuga is one of the most unique and effective fire-resistant structures available, as it is made from patented steel and fire retardant panels, which have been fire-tested to 1,000 degrees.

"The house takes one day to assemble, is fitted with standard windows with a fire resistant door and services such as water and electricity can be installed. On average nine people die in shack fires every month in the informal settlements of Cape Town. Cipla Foundation felt the need to get involved with this serious crisis that claims so many lives," says Grier.